

Ephesians Series

Lesson #014

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Dean Bible Ministries

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EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK
& WARFARE
OF THE BELIEVER

**Foreknowledge and Omniscience
Ephesians 1:3–5**

Praise for the blessings provided by the Father (Ephesians 1:3–6) is followed by the praise statement in vs. 6.

1 Pet. 1:2, “elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ:”

Rom. 8:29, “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

The Remonstrants Arminianism

- 1. Total depravity**
- 2. Conditional election**
- 3. Unlimited atonement**
- 4. Prevenient and resistible grace**
- 5. The possibility of losing salvation**

The Counter- Remonstrants Five Points of Calvinism

- 1. Total inability**
- 2. Unconditional election**
- 3. Limited atonement**
- 4. Irresistible grace**
- 5. Perseverance of the saints**

Hyper Calvinist is a Calvinist who believes that no one must evangelize, since God has chosen who will be saved, He will save them without our help.

High Calvinist is a Dordtian 5-point Calvinist

Moderate Calvinist is someone who is a 2-, 3-, or 4-point Calvinist

Key words for understanding Eph. 1:3–5

Choose

Predestined

His will

Foreknowledge

Key Words for Understanding Eph. 1:3–5

1. What is the meaning of “foreknowledge” (*proginosko*)?

2. Key verses:

Acts 26:5

1 Peter 1:20

2 Peter 3:17

Acts 2:23

1 Peter 1:2

Rom. 8:28–29

3. God’s Foreknowledge and Omniscience

**What the Bible Teaches
About**

Foreknowledge



Calvinist Claim (Berkhof)

“The word yada’ may simply mean ‘to know’ or ‘to take cognizance’ of someone or something, but may also be used in the more pregnant sense of ‘taking knowledge of one with loving care,’ or ‘making one the object of loving care or elective love.’ In this sense it serves the idea of election, Gen. 18:19; Amos 3:2; Hos. 13:5.

Genesis 18:19, “For I have chosen [*yada*] him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice, so that the Lord may bring to Abraham what he has promised him.” ESV

Calvinists base this meaning of elective love on 5 uses of the Hebrew *yada* out of 944 uses. Gen. 18:19; Ex. 33:12; Amos 3:2; Hos. 13:5, Jer. 1:5

“The meaning of the words *proginoskein* and *prognosis* in the New Testament is not determined by their usage in the classics, but by the special meaning of *yada*’. They do not denote simple intellectual foresight or prescience, the mere taking knowledge of something beforehand, but rather a selective knowledge which regards one with favor and makes one an object of love, and thus approaches the idea of foreordination, Acts 2:23 (comp. 4:28); Rom. 8:29; 11:2; 1 Peter 1:2.”

~L. Berkhof, *Systematic Theology*

Conclusion:

- 1. The Lexicons can provide no examples outside of the Bible where *proginosko* means anything other than prescience, to know something ahead of time or beforehand.**

Acts 26:5, “They knew [about] me [knew beforehand] from the first, if they were willing to testify, that according to the strictest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.”

Matt. 12:33, “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is **known by its fruit.”**

The character or something about the tree is known from its fruit.

No relationship, deterministic plan, or electing love is implied. Facts are the object of knowledge.

1 Pet. 1:20, “He indeed was foreordained [*proginosko*: known (about) beforehand] before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.” [NKJV] NASB has “foreknown”

Or is this “a loving, committed relationship.”

He indeed was known about beforehand [*proginosko*] before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you [revised translation]

1 Pet. 1:20, “He indeed was foreordained [known beforehand] before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.” [NKJV]

1 Pet. 1:20, “He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.” [NIV]

NASB, NET have “foreknown”

2 Pet. 3:17, “You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked;”

revised: You therefore, beloved, since you know about this beforehand, beware ...

Acts 2:23, “Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;”

**ὁρίζω *horizō* perf
mid part fem sing dat
“to determine”**

**βουλή *boulé*; “will,
purpose, intent, aim,”
based on deliberation
and reflection**

Rom. 8:28, “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Rom. 8:29, “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

Rom. 11:2, “God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew [knew about beforehand]. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying,”

Rom. 11:3, “ ‘Lord, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life’?

Rom. 11:4, “But what does the divine response say to him? ‘I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal’.”

Acts 2:23, “Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge [*and intimate loving relation; and election of; don't fit*] of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;”

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2 Thess. 2:9, “Whose coming is *kata* (“according to, on the basis or ground of”) the working of Satan;”

Omniscience
**God knows all
the knowable**

Foreknowledge
**God knows in
advance
what will happen**

Matt. 11:23, “And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.”

Thomas Edgar:

“Thus, God knows everything that will happen if He causes it, if He causes only some of it, or if He merely allows it to happen. Since He is omniscient, He knows what will happen even if He allows the universe to be completely random. He knows what will happen regardless of the cause. Whether man can philosophically explain how this works is irrelevant, since man has no ability to explain something only God possesses and about which man knows nothing apart from Scripture.”