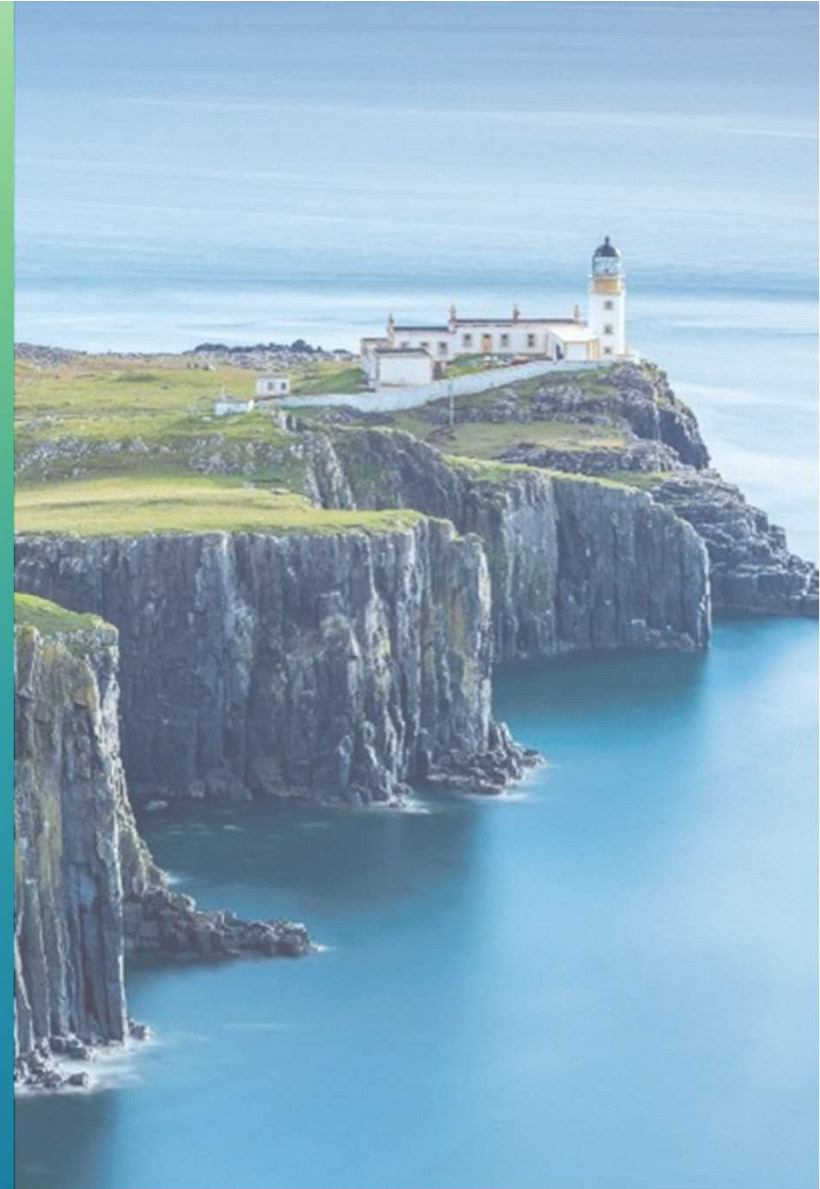


The Foreknowledge of God



Introduction

Words have meanings that are not confined to their definitions

Biblical examples:

Introduction

Words have meanings that are not confined to their definitions

Biblical examples:

Walk

Introduction

Words have meanings that are not confined to their definitions

Biblical examples:

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World

Introduction

Words have meanings that are not confined to their definitions

Biblical examples:

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Belief / Faith

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Repentance

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Know

Simple Foreknowledge

Definition

Knowledge of things or events before they exist

Simple Foreknowledge

Definition

Knowledge of things or events before they exist

Greek 'proginōskō' – To know before

Simple Foreknowledge

Meaning

In Modern Usage

Simple Foreknowledge

Meaning

In Modern Usage

In the Bible

God's knowledge of all things that will ever take place

Simple Foreknowledge

Meaning

In Modern Usage

In the Bible

God's knowledge of all things that will ever take place

Specifically prior knowledge regarding prophecy

Simple Foreknowledge

Difficulties

No different than divine omniscience

Simple Foreknowledge

Difficulties

No different than divine omniscience

Implies that God is passive regarding what He knows and how

Simple Foreknowledge

Difficulties

No different than divine omniscience

Implies that God is passive regarding what He knows and how

Ignores the Biblical usage of the term

One of the saddest mistakes ever made by students of the Bible concerns the definition of the foreknowledge of God. Men... define foreknowledge as being no more than advance knowledge. It is very low concept of God which conceives of Him as having just a larger degree of advance knowledge than that which we possess.

God's foreknowledge is God bringing to pass in me something which He has planned for me.

Donald Grey Barnhouse, *God's Heirs: Romans 8:1–39*, pp. 159-160.

Short-Sighted Foreknowledge

Definition

God knows all things

Short-Sighted Foreknowledge

Definition

God knows all things

That includes knowing who will eventually believe (I Peter 1:2)

Short-Sighted Foreknowledge

Meaning

God looks ahead into the future to see who will be saved

Short-Sighted Foreknowledge

Meaning

God looks ahead into the future to see who will be saved

He predestines those to salvation based on what He sees in the future

Short-Sighted Foreknowledge

Meaning

God looks ahead into the future to see who will be saved

He predestines those to salvation based on what He sees in the future

God puts within humanity absolute freedom to choose or reject Him

Short-Sighted Foreknowledge

Difficulties

Denies man's depravity

Short-Sighted Foreknowledge

Difficulties

Denies man's depravity

Denies God's omniscience

Short-Sighted Foreknowledge

Difficulties

Denies man's depravity

Denies God's omniscience

Denies God's sovereignty

Short-Sighted Foreknowledge

Difficulties

Denies man's depravity

Denies God's omniscience

Denies God's sovereignty

Makes the creator dependent on the actions of the creature

Short-Sighted Foreknowledge

Difficulties

Denies man's depravity

Denies God's omniscience

Denies God's sovereignty

Makes the creator dependent on the actions of the creature

Faith is turned into a work instead of a gift (Eph. 2:9)

Scriptural Foreknowledge

Definition

The absolute sovereignty of God in determining and implementing his decision to save sinful man

Scriptural Foreknowledge

Definition

The absolute sovereignty of God in determining and implementing his decision to save sinful man

God's perfectly purposed relational knowledge of everyone who is in his redemptive plan before they exist in time and space

Scriptural Foreknowledge

Meaning

God is absolutely sovereign in salvation (Eph. 2:1-9)

Ephesians 2:1-9

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, **even when we were dead** in our transgressions, **made us alive** together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

For **by grace** you have been saved **through faith**; and that **not of yourselves**, it is the **gift of God**; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Scriptural Foreknowledge

Meaning

God is absolutely sovereign in salvation (Eph. 2:1-9)

God planned to save believers through the death of Jesus (Acts 2:23)

Acts 2:23

[T]his Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.

Scriptural Foreknowledge

Meaning

God is absolutely sovereign in salvation (Eph. 2:1-9)

God planned to save believers through the death of Jesus (Acts 2:23)

God predetermined a relationship with believers (Rom. 8:28-30; Matt 7:21-23)

Romans 8:28-30

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

Matthew 7:21-23

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.

“Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’

“And then I will declare to them, ‘**I never knew you**; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’

Scriptural Foreknowledge

Meaning

God is absolutely sovereign in salvation (Eph. 2:1-9)

God planned to save believers through the death of Jesus (Acts 2:23)

God predetermined a relationship with believers (Rom. 8:28-30; Matt 7:21-23)

God's foreknowledge is active, not passive, and guarantees our salvation (John 10:11, 26-29; I Peter 1:1-2, 20-21)

John 10:11, 26-29

“I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.”

“But **you do not believe because you are not of My sheep**. My sheep hear My voice, and **I know them**, and they follow Me; and **I give eternal life to them**, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.”

I Peter 1:1-2, 20-21

...who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Exodus 33:17

The LORD said to Moses, “I will also do this thing of which you have spoken; for you have found favor in My sight and I have known you by name.

Jeremiah 1:5

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
And before you were born I consecrated you;
I have appointed you a prophet to the nations.

Conclusion – Our Response

Worship God because of His character

Conclusion – Our Response

Worship God because of His character

Rest in God because of His predetermined plan

Conclusion – Our Response

Worship God because of His character

Rest in God because of His predetermined plan

Witness boldly because Jesus knows His sheep

Questions?