

Discussion Questions

Lunatics (or Why You Exist and Everything is What it is)—Ephesians 1:3-14

(What's the best choice you've ever made and why?)

Paul wrote that we are “predestined...”

- In your mind what does predestination mean?

The Greek word predestine is προορίζω (*proorizo*). It means to foreordain or predetermine and it is from two words *pro*, “before” and *horizo* “establish boundaries, limits”-properly *pre-horizon*

(<http://biblehub.com/greek/4309.htm>)

- Does the idea that God predestined you for adoption as His child and for the praise of His glory excite you or bother you?
- Does it raise up the question “Are we just robots?” inside of you?

“God does not will evil, for evil is that which God does not will. And yet it seems that He wills that we would will what He does not will...or at least know what He does not will...—Peter Hiatt

- If God predestined us “in love and to love”, which Scripture says, why do you think He left space for our choices and even evil?
- When people are given freedom what are the benefits of it? Are there any negative repercussions of freedom?

He “consigned all to disobedience,” writes Paul in Romans 11. And yet Paul just wrote that God “chose us to be holy and blameless before Him in love.” He chose us and predestined us in love and to love.” —Peter Hiatt

- If God “consigned all to disobedience,” as it says in Romans 11, how is it that we make any good choices?

Do you remember what Jesus says to the sheep on His right on Judgment Day. He says, “Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. You fed me. You clothed me. You comforted me.” And they don't even remember doing it.

- Have you ever made a good choice and barely noticed?
- What do you think enabled you to make that choice?
- Have you ever tried really hard to make a good choice and found yourself coming up short and incapable of following through on it?
- What do you think made the difference between the good choice that you were working so hard at and the good choice that you barely new was happening? What emotions or responses were driving you each time?

In Philippians 2:12b-13 Paul wrote, “Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

Scripture seems to reveal that there is “work” that we are to do in order to fulfill His good purpose and there is “work” that God does in order to fulfill His good purpose.

- What role do you think God desires for you to play in the fulfilling of His purpose?
- What role do you think God plays?

**These discussion questions were prepared by Kimberly Weynen.*