

## Chosen and Foreknowledge

By Ron Thomas

The foreknowledge of God is a difficult teaching of Scripture for one to have an accurate understanding. The meaning of the word is not difficult to understand, but how can God have foreknowledge, and, at the same time, people have free will? Does not the foreknowledge of God guarantee a person a certain thing if the Lord sees him do in the future?

I appreciate the difficulty some people have with this, but I guess I never struggled with the same difficulty. In 1 Peter 1:1-2, the Lord's will makes clear those chosen to salvation are in relation to the foreknowledge of God. How does this work?

God sees as far in the future as man will have existence; He sees as far in the past as man had existence. However, God is not constrained by time; humanity measures many things by time, thus the clock on our walls and the days / weeks of the month. God is always in the present; that is why in Exodus 3 and John 8, the Lord was able to identify Himself as "I am," not "I was" or "I will be."

Foreknowledge with God is a perspective we have as we seek to understand His comprehensive knowledge with respect to all human history, behind and before us. Foreknowledge does not apply to God; with the Lord, He is already there. In the year 2525, if man is still alive, God is there now.

Even before one reads of the fall in Genesis 3, the Lord looked down through the history of man and saw how each and every person would respond to His will, including His invitation to respond to the Lord Jesus. He saw that you freely chose to obey His will when the Lord Jesus gave His invitation (as in Matthew 11:28-30). As the Lord looked and saw the choice you made, it can be properly said that He chose you for salvation

*For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.*

Romans 8:29



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

Paul Cowles, Evangelist- (607) 592-8091

June 13, 2021

### WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

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**All the churches of Christ greet you.**

Romans 16:16

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**Today's Sermon: He Fills Your Hearts with Joy**

Paul will be preaching today.

**Scripture Reading: Acts 14:11-18**

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

**[valleycitieschurchofchrist.org](http://valleycitieschurchofchrist.org)**

Find us on Facebook:

**[www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc](https://www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc)**

**Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ❖ **Sunday Morning Bible Class:** Teachings from the Psalms by Paul, with complementary songs.
- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class: June 16<sup>th</sup>, at the building, 6:30pm-** We are studying the Gospel according to Matthew. Come at 6 and eat with us before the lesson if you like.
- ❖ **Sojourners: Mike and Nadine Huddleston, Larry and Kay Little, and Doug and Sandy Zimmerman** hope to be here by this Friday or just after to start work on Monday, the 21<sup>st</sup> and will remain here until July 8<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ **Potluck: Next Sunday**, June 20<sup>th</sup>. Sojourners will be with us then.



- Our building is in need of cleaning and organizing of materials before the Sojourners arrive to help us with our church activities. Please think of ways that you would be willing to help. We got a start last Tuesday, and plan another work day this Tuesday.
- **Gail Westerhold had surgery to remove the cancer on her left kidney. The entire kidney was removed, and Gail is recovering well.**
- Thank you to Paul for driving out to pick Jerry up for Bible class and worship while Gail is indisposed.
- **There will be a workshop conducted by the Sojourners on “Life after Covid” in the church on Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup> here at the Valley Cities building. We have invited area churches to join us and hope to brainstorm ideas of how to go forward.**

## PRAYERS

- **Pray for Zachary Cowles as he is deployed now for two years.**
- **Pat Guthrie** from Kittanning has lung cancer and is having chemo treatments. He thanks us for praying for him.
- Pray for **Gail Westerhold** as she recuperates from her cancer surgery.
- Pray for **Linnett Short, a former coworker of Paul’s.** She has stage 3 lung cancer. She recently has undergone immunotherapy treatments.
- **Arthur’s younger sister, Sue,** has metastatic breast cancer and is in need of prayer. She will be visiting Dana Farber Cancer Institute this week to evaluate her treatment regimen.
- Please pray for **Arthur’s brother Chris** from England, who has Alzheimer’s Disease. Pray that he can decide to be a Christian while he is still able to understand.
- **Jonathan Russell** who worships at Ithaca is in poor health and in need of prayer.
- **Don Myers** is visiting a neurologist this week to determine whether he has Parkinson’s Disease.
- **There was a request in our Prayer Box for Kenneth who is in need of disability income.**

If you have any PRAYERS or NEWS that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at [barncat7237@gmail.com](mailto:barncat7237@gmail.com) or text or call (607) 261-0911.