

## THE SADDEST SCRIPTURE

The predestination of God is revealed to us in Romans 8:29-30 where we find that those God foreknew He “predestined” to become like His Son. His plan was to call them, justify them, and glorify them so that Jesus would be the firstborn of many brethren. What a gift! To be included in God’s family as a sibling of Jesus Christ.

This biblical record of predestination is not a partial, favoring, individual predestination like the doctrine of Calvinism teaches where some individuals are chosen before the foundation of the world while others are ignored and left to condemnation. Biblical predestination is the destining of a group. That group is made up of all those who have chosen to partake of God’s grace and purpose that is freely offered to all men.

Ephesians one makes it abundantly clear that this destined group is made up of all those who have chosen to get into Christ. Anyone who chooses to access God’s mercy and get into Christ can receive heaven’s blessings (1:3). These “in Christ” are the “chosen” ones to be justified (1:4), who have redemption (1:7), who have accepted God’s purpose (1:9) for their lives. Anyone can choose to believe and obey God becoming identified with this group purposed for eternal glory with our Lord.

This is why Luke 7:30 must be one of the saddest scriptures recorded. There we read, “*But the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God’s purpose for themselves, not having been baptized by John.*” Here, some with knowledge, access, and opportunity chose to refuse God’s purpose for themselves. The only thing sadder is the thought that some are doing this today also. God’s purpose for us is eternal glory in His family. He intends blessing, justification, redemption, and honor and it is inconceivable that people would reject all that in favor of judgment and condemnation. We accept His purpose by faith and obedience, getting into Christ. Have you accepted or do you still reject His purpose for you?

**Carl McMurray**