

GOD'S FORKNOWLEDGE, FORORDINATION, PREDESTINATION, NOT THE SAME THING

Ed Dye

(Jeff, give this your eagle eye)

1. In God's Omniscience we must recognize that he limited himself in granting free will to man. The quality of free will granted to man means man has been granted the right to choose any course of action, good or bad, and its consequences. This in turn of necessity means God has placed limitations upon what he can know as a fact, as a reality that has and must have existence.
2. God might or can "know" man's possible courses of action in a way similar to the way man knows them, but if God knows man's choice as a fact, as a reality that has and must have existence, before he makes it, where then is man's choice or free will?
3. My point is that God's foreknowledge with reference to man does not determine beforehand whether or not this or that act or acts of man, good or bad, will be, or must become a fact of actual existence. The principle of free-will granted man does not permit that. But once man's act becomes a fact of actual existence, God sees and knows it – not even one escapes his notice!
4. If God's foreknowledge with reference to man demands that he has determined that all of man's acts, good or bad, will be, are going to be, this or that before the fact of it, or before man even chooses to act, how can there be any rational thing called "free-will," which of necessity means by the very act of granting it that God has limited his knowledge in such matters?
5. And, if they are not known nor tested till we choose them except as a probability or potentiality, then isn't it a fact that God can limit himself to know the future as to man's actions only as potentiality or probability, for it has not happened as yet.
 - a. Cf. the case of Abraham, Gen.22:11,12, "now I know". When did God know?
 - b. The case of Jer.19:5, "neither came it into my mind"
6. If we accept the premise of man's free will, then we must of necessity deny that man's behavior is necessitated! If man is free from any compulsion, either conscious or unconscious, to act in any way predetermined by God, then this poses a conflict with so-called predestination-foreknowledge.
7. Thus you can see from the logic that precedes this, the subject of the Omniscience and foreknowledge of God is hardly a "simple" one.

8. If the foreknowledge of God due to his Omniscience means, as some want to think, that he knows all things, and must know all things of the future (with reference to man and his acts) as a **FACT**, a reality that has and must have existence, then it is difficult to know what meaning can be attributed to freedom, and one is in fact of necessity committed to determinism, predetermination, predestination.

- a. “Determinism”: “The doctrine that all events, including human action, are determined by causes regarded as external to the will.” – Web.
- b. “Predestination”: “The divine foreordaining of all that will happen, esp. with regard to the salvation of some and not others.” – Web.
- c. “Predetermine”: “determine of decree beforehand; prearrange; pre-establish; preplan.” – Web.

9. From this false concept of God’s Omniscience and foreknowledge came the false system of hyper Calvinism and the **T U L I P** doctrine.

- a. All of this false system proceeds out of one false assumption: if God is Omniscient he must know all things and it will be nothing else, hence all reality must be fore-ordained and or pre-determined by him.

(Jeff: Once again give this your once-over. Wherein you find me wrong in my thinking and my conclusions, please don’t hesitate to point it out to me.)

As always,
Ed