

Romans Series

Lesson #95

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Dr. Robert L. Dean, Jr.

The Epistle to the ROMANS

**Foreknowledge:
To Know Beforehand or to Lovingly Choose?
Part 2
Romans 8:29**



Rom. 8:28, “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Rom. 8:29, “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

Moo, *Romans*;

“In the six occurrences of these words in the New Testament, only two mean ‘know beforehand’ (Acts 26:5, cited above, and 2 Pet. 3:17); the three others besides the occurrence in this text, all of which have God as their subject, mean not ‘know before’—in the sense of intellectual knowledge, or cognition—but ‘enter into relationship with before’ or ‘choose, or determine, before’ (Rom. 11:2; 1 Pet. 1:20; Acts 2:23; 1 Pet. 1:2)... If, then, the word means ‘know intimately,’ ‘have regard for,’ this must be a knowledge or love that is unique to believers and that leads to their being predestined.”

“The background of the term should be located in the Old Testament, where for God ‘to know’ (יָדָע, yāda‘) refers to his covenantal love in which he sets his affection on those whom he has chosen (cf. Gen. 18:19; Exod. 33:17; 1 Sam. 2:12; Ps. 18:43; Prov. 9:10; Jer. 1:5; Hos. 13:5; Amos 3:2). The parallel terms ‘consecrate’ and ‘appoint’ in Jer. 1:5 are noteworthy, for the text is not merely saying that God ‘foresaw’ that Jeremiah would serve as a prophet. The point is that God had lovingly chosen him to be a prophet before he was born. Similarly, in Amos 3:2 God’s knowledge of Israel in contrast to that of the rest of the nations can scarcely be cognitional, for Yahweh had full knowledge of all nations of the earth. The intention of the text is to say that Yahweh had set his covenantal love only upon Israel.”

Palmer, et al; *The Five Points of Calvinism*

“When the Bible speaks of God knowing particular individuals, it often means that He has special regard for them, that they are the objects of His affection and concern.”

BDAG

- ① to know beforehand or in advance, have foreknowledge (of) τί something**

- ② choose beforehand τινά someone Rom. 8:29; Rom. 9–11; 1 Pet. 1:20—Know from time past Acts 26:5**

Acts 2:23, “Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;”

βουλή *boulé*; “will, purpose, intent, aim,” based on deliberation and reflection.

1 Peter 1:1–2,

“Peter, apostle of Jesus Christ to [the] elect residents of the diaspora of Pontus, Kappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, according to foreknowledge of God the Father by the sanctification of the spirit for the purpose of obedience and sprinkling of blood of Jesus Christ.”

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**Omniscience—
God knows all
the knowable**

**Foreknowledge—
God knows in advance
what will happen**

Thomas Edgar

“Thus, God knows everything that will happen if He causes it, if He causes only some of it, or if He merely allows it to happen. Since He is omniscient, He knows what will happen even if He allows the universe to be completely random. He knows what will happen regardless of the cause. Whether man can philosophically explain how this works is irrelevant, since man has no ability to explain something only God possesses and about which man knows nothing apart from Scripture.”