

# THE JUDEO-CHRISTIAN FAITH

Spring 2017 - WEEK 1 – Theology: Providence,  
Predestination, and Free Will

## ⊗ Terms:

-Theology (*theos* = God, *logia* = study of) – the study of God, the nature of the divine, and specifics of religious thought.

-Doctrine – what a person or group believes the whole Bible teaches about any particular topic.

⊗ **Providence:** God provides everything that is \_\_\_\_\_ for every part of creation by maintaining existence, involving Himself in history, and working through His creation to fulfill His purposes. (*Job 34:14-15; 37:6-13, Daniel 4:35, 1 Cor. 15:27, Ephesians 1:11, Colossians 1:17, Hebrews 1:3*)

⊗ **Sovereignty:** God is in \_\_\_\_\_ of everything, and He is surprised by nothing. He is always at work and His will cannot be thwarted. (*1 Chronicles 29:11-12, Psalm 115:3, Isaiah 14:27, Romans 8:28*)

\*God is \_\_\_\_\_ in His involvement with creation.

- God has \_\_\_\_\_ He intends to see accomplished.
- He uses \_\_\_\_\_ of creation to bring about those results.

⊗ **Predestination:** God, through His providence and sovereignty, \_\_\_\_\_ certain ones to receive salvation. (*Romans 8:29-30, Ephesians 1:5-11*)

- Predestination is a \_\_\_\_\_ idea.
- Most commonly associated with \_\_\_\_\_ (16<sup>th</sup> century French theologian John Calvin).

⊗ **Free Will:** Each person has real \_\_\_\_\_ regarding every action which includes accepting God's offer of salvation. (*2 Peter 3:9*)

- Free Will is a \_\_\_\_\_ idea.
- Most commonly associated with \_\_\_\_\_ (16<sup>th</sup> century Dutch pastor Jacobus Arminius/ Libertarianism)

NOTES:

(more room for notes on back)

⊖ **Middle Knowledge:** God also knows everything that could have been. He knows how every person would have lived and how every event would have occurred in all \_\_\_\_\_ worlds. Therefore, God's predestination involves placing us the time and place He chooses for us, while still giving us the opportunity to choose Him. (*Matt. 11:21-24*)

• Middle Knowledge is more of a \_\_\_\_\_ idea.

• Most commonly associated with Molinism. (16<sup>th</sup> century Jesuit - Luis de Molina)

⊖ **Open Theism:** God voluntarily chooses to \_\_\_\_\_ His knowledge of the future so that mankind can truly have free will in his decisions. God can also be influenced by our prayers to make decisions or change his mind. (*Jer. 3:6-7*)

• Open Theism is a philosophical idea; \_\_\_\_\_ a biblical idea.

• Most commonly associated with modern theologians like Richard Rice & Clark Pinnock ("openness theology").

### ⊖ **Bringing it all together:**

1. God is not \_\_\_\_\_ by anything. He knows everything past, present, and future and all \_\_\_\_\_. *Isaiah 46:19.*
2. God is \_\_\_\_\_. *Matthew 6:25-34*
3. No person \_\_\_\_\_ salvation. It cannot be \_\_\_\_\_. *Romans 3:23-24*
4. No person can become a Christ follower without God choosing to \_\_\_\_\_ salvation (grace) and \_\_\_\_\_ the person to Himself (Holy Spirit). *John 6:44*
5. Our \_\_\_\_\_ do matter; they have \_\_\_\_\_ - both good and bad. *Galatians 6:7-8*
6. We are at our best when we \_\_\_\_\_ the person that God has created us to be. *Psalm 139*

#### **Romans 10:9-10:**

*That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.*

NOTES: