

# The Doctrine of Predestination

1. The Doctrine of Predestination was introduced to Christianity by John Calvin in 1536. It is the belief that every living person on earth is born to be saved or lost and there is nothing anyone can do about it. In other words each of us are “Predestinated” to go either to heaven or hell from birth.
2. Another term used to describe The Doctrine of Predestination is “Calvinism”.
3. John Calvin was the founder of the Presbyterian Church and through this denomination “Calvinism” has continued to be perpetuated.
4. The Doctrine of Eternal Security is a spin off of the Doctrine of Predestination. It was adopted by the founding fathers of the Baptist faith who felt the concept of pure Calvinism to be too severe for the average person. They were right of course. By emphasizing the positive (saved) and diminishing the negative (lost) they were able to make the gospel more attractive and evangelism and world missions more meaningful. This brought about the term “once saved always saved” with nothing being said about the lost.
5. To say once you’re saved you’re always saved is to evoke that inevitable question “but what if a saved person backslides, fails God, returns to sin, is he or she saved or lost?” That question is usually answered one of two ways by the Calvinists.
  - A. Once you’re saved you’re always saved and it doesn’t matter what you do or how wicked you are “you can’t be plucked from the Father’s hand”.
  - B. The other answer is, “he or she was never saved to start with.”