

07-Sheep or Goat?

The **eternal** destiny of each of us hinges upon the answer to **only one question**. In the Lambs Book Of Life, are we listed as one of the Lord's sheep? If not, we are listed in the mind of the Living God as a **goat!** At one time, we were all goats but the Living God has changed some into a sheep. We shared in the paper, "03-God's Plan Of Salvation", how a goat can become a sheep. But, according to the testimony of Jesus Christ, **most** people will never desire to be changed from a goat to a sheep by following the Lord's **correct** plan of salvation. They will end up trying to apply the salve of religion to the cancer of sin! That is why we suggest to anyone who has not correctly applied for salvation, that they sin as little as possible since every sin they commit is being recorded and will be revealed at the White Throne Judgment. " ¹¹ *Then I saw a large, white throne and the one who was sitting on it. The earth and the heaven fled from his presence, but no place was found for them.* ¹² *I saw the dead, both unimportant and important, standing in front of the throne, and **books** were open. **Another book was opened—the Book of Life.** The dead were judged according to their works, as recorded in the **books.**" Revelation 20:11-12 (International Standard Version)*

¹³ *"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.* ¹⁴ *Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.* ¹⁵ *"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.* ¹⁶ *You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?* ¹⁷ *Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.* ¹⁸ *A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.* ¹⁹ *Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.* ²⁰ *Therefore by their fruits you will know them.* ²¹ *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.* ²² *Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'* ²³ *And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'* ²⁴ *"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:* ²⁵ *and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house;*

and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock." Matthew 7:13-25 (New King James Version)

According to what the apostle Paul shared in his letter to the local church in Rome (the book of Romans in your Bible), all of the goats who are changed into sheep were predestinated to become sheep because of the foreknowledge of the Living God. **Foreknowledge means knowledge of an event before it happens.** Foreknowledge, predestination and election can be best understood by the illustration below that we shared on our website, <http://www.bayourouge.net>, in the paper titled "A Chronological Study Of Revelation".

"We believe that the following illustration is one of the best ways to understand predestination and election. Let us say that we intend to go to a dog kennel tomorrow to buy some of the dogs. We intend to have the owner put all of his dogs on one end of a large enclosed space and we were going to stand on the other end and call to them. We intend to pay for all the dogs that will come to us when we call to them. Now if we had the foreknowledge of the Living God, that is, if we knew about everything that was going to happen in the future, we would already know the dogs that will come to us **tomorrow** when we call to them. If we had the foreknowledge of the Living God, we would know their names, what they looked like and how much we were going to have to pay for each dog. For instance, we might have to pay five dollars for one of the dogs, twenty dollars for another and we might even have to pay \$500 for a third. If we had the foreknowledge of the Living God, we could already make a list, **today**, of the names of all the dogs that were going to come to us when we call to them **tomorrow**. If we had the foreknowledge of the Living God, we could write a check, **today**, for all the dogs that will come to us when we call to them **tomorrow**".

*"²⁹ For whom he did **foreknow**, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified." Romans 8:29-30 (King James Version)*

The Holy Spirit convicts all men of their sins and the Holy Spirit calls everyone to salvation. However, just like our illustration of the dogs, not everyone comes to the Lord, repents of their sins and requests that Jesus Christ pay the sin debt they owe. But because of the foreknowledge of God, He knew, before the foundation of the world, the people who would

come to Him when He called them to salvation and **how many times He would have to call to them before they responded**. The Lord not only knew our names and what we would look like, He also knew the sins each one of us were going to commit and what it would cost for Him to pay our sin debt. It is important to remember, however, that the burden rests upon each person. Each person must decide, themselves, what they will do when the Holy Spirit calls them to salvation. " ²⁹ *For whom he did **foreknow**, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son...*". Romans 8:29 (King James Version)

Election, in relationship to being predestined for salvation, could be understood as the list with the names of all the people who will respond to His call and would come to Him for salvation. The Lord also has many other lists such as (1) the list of the names of the true members of the Jewish Theocracy, (2) the list containing the names of the wedding guests at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, (3) the list of those who will be saved during the Great Tribulation, (4) the list containing the names of the members of the Bride of Christ, and (5) a list of the people who will never come to the Lord **correctly** no matter how many time the Holy Spirit calls to them. **These are just a few of the lists.**

²⁸ *We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those he **foreknew** he also **predestined** to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those he **predestined** he also **called**; and those he **called** he also **justified**; and those he **justified** he also **glorified**.* ³¹ *What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? ³³ Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. ³⁴ Who will condemn? It is Christ (Jesus) who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵ What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? ³⁶ As it is written: "For your sake we are being slain all the day; we are looked upon as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:28-39*

(New American Bible-United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)