

# The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES  
with Pastor Greg Formey



## God Foreknew You

**Romans 8:28-29**

Sunday, July 19, 2026

**"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers." ESV**

Have you ever wished you could see the future? We worry about our jobs, our health, and our families. We stress because we are trapped in the present, blind to what happens tomorrow.

When we read the Bible, we learn about God's "foreknowledge." But God's foreknowledge is not like looking into a magic crystal ball. It is not just God knowing cold, hard facts about what will happen next. Instead, God's foreknowledge is a deep, eternal truth. It weaves together His perfect knowledge with His loving plan for human history.

This is an exploration of this massive idea. We will see that God's knowledge of the future is not abstract. It is intensely personal, and it is the foundation of our hope.

### KNOWING IN ETERNITY PAST AND DIVINE KNOWING

To understand God, we must understand how He relates to time. We live our lives like a person watching a parade from the sidewalk. We see the marching band, then we wait. Next, we see the floats. Finally, we see the firetruck at the end. We experience time in a sequence, one moment after another.

But God does not stand on the sidewalk. God is in a helicopter high above the city. He sees the beginning of the parade, the middle, and the end all at the exact same time.

The Bible tells us that God's grace was given to believers "before the ages began" (2 Timothy 1:9). His knowledge is an eternal reality. He does not have to wait for time to pass to learn what will happen. Long before you drew your first breath, God saw your entire life. King David wrote in Psalm 139:16, "Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them."

Because God sees all things at once, He is never surprised. He apprehends what will occur without His knowledge being limited by the ticking clock.

## KNOWING: WHY GOD CHOOSES

When we use the word "know," we usually mean knowing facts. I know that the sky is blue. I know that the capital of France is Paris. But in the Bible, "knowing" is deeply relational. It is about love, covenant, and purpose.

Think about the difference between knowing a famous actor and knowing your best friend. You might know facts about the actor, but you *know* your friend's heart. When the Old Testament talks about God's foreknowledge, it means He chose to love us before we even existed.

- **Jeremiah's Calling:** God told the prophet Jeremiah, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you" (Jeremiah 1:5). God did not just know facts about Jeremiah. He gave Jeremiah a sacred purpose before he was born.
- **Israel's Election:** God spoke to the nation of Israel and said, "You only have I known of all the families of the earth" (Amos 3:2). Did God not know about the other nations? Of course He did. But "knowing" Israel meant He made a special promise to them.
- **Rebekah's Twins:** In Romans 9, the Apostle Paul talks about Rebekah's unborn children. He says that before they were born, and before they had done anything good or bad, God made a choice. God's purpose operates "not because of works but because of him who calls."

God's foreknowledge is the basis of His calling. He knew you, and He loved you, before the world was made.

## Conclusion

The doctrine of God's foreknowledge is not meant to confuse us. It is meant to comfort us. It means your life is not an accident. Your trials are not random.

Before time began, before the stars were placed in the sky, God stood outside of time. He saw your unformed substance. He knew every mistake you would make, every tear you would cry, and every joy you would experience. And looking at all of it, He set His love on you. Rest securely today, knowing that your life rests safely in the hands of the God who knows the end from the beginning.