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THE INCOMPATIBILITY OF FREE WILL AND INFALLIBLE FOREKNOWLEDGE

The foreknowledge of God has seemed to many persons to be incompatible with human free will. How can God know with certainty what might or might not happen? The survey of answers to the source of God's infallible foreknowledge of contingent events such as free human choices suggests that any way a person can come up with that satisfactorily explains how God can know human choices with certainty before those choices have actually been made will not be compatible with genuine human freedom.¹ However, it still remains possible, in some person's views quite likely, that there is much about the nature of divine knowledge which escapes our ability to understand. For such persons, due deference to human ignorance requires a very limited conclusion about how God can know future contingent events with certainty, i.e., we just don't know how God knows such things. For such persons, a demonstration of the incompatibility of free will and divine foreknowledge is required to settle whether God can consistently know contingent events with certainty.

An Unsound Argument for Incompatibility

The question of the compatibility of human free will and infallible foreknowledge approaches the problem from a different angle. A well known statement of the incompatibility question was given by Augustine in his *De libero arbitrio*: