

GOD'S ELECTION OF PEOPLE FOR SALVATION

C. H. Spurgeon, “Whatever may be said about the doctrine of election, it is written in the Word of God as with an iron pen, and there is no getting rid of it. To me, it is one of the sweetest and most blessed truths in the whole of revelation, and those who are afraid of it are so because they do not understand it. If they could but know that the Lord had chosen them, it would make their hearts dance for joy.”

I. GOD'S ELECTION OF PEOPLE FOR SALVATION IS PREDETERMINED.

- ❖ **Ephesians 1:3-4**, Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, *even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.*

When did God choose those who are saved? Before the foundation of the world. *You are saved in eternity before you are saved in time.*

- ❖ **John 17:1-2**, Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, *to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.*

To whom will the Lord Jesus give eternal life? To those whom the Father had given Him.

- ❖ **Revelation 13:8**, “and all who dwell on earth will worship it, *everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.*”

When were the names written in the book of life of the Lamb? Before the foundation of the world.

- ❖ **Romans 8:30**, “And those *whom he predestined* he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.”

Whom will God call, justify and glorify? Those who were predestined.

C. H. Spurgeon, “I believe the doctrine of election, because I am quite certain that, if God had not chosen me, I should never have chosen Him; and I am sure He chose me before I was born, or else He never would have chosen me afterwards; and He must have elected me for reasons unknown to me, for I never could find in myself why He should have looked upon me with special love. So I am forced to accept that great Biblical doctrine.”

2. GOD'S ELECTION OF PEOPLE FOR SALVATION IS UNCONDITIONAL.

John Piper, Unconditional election is God's free choice before creation, not based on foreseen faith, to which traitors he will grant faith and repentance, pardoning them and adopting them into his everlasting family of joy.

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- ❖ **Ephesians 1:4**, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, *according to the purpose of his will*,
- ❖ **John 15:16**, You did not choose me, but *I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide...*

On what basis did God choose? Out of His Sovereign Will:

- ❖ **Romans 9:10-16**, And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, *though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad*—in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls— she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” *So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.*

Foreknowledge:

- ❖ **Romans 8:29**, “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.”

Note: Foreknowledge is not foreseeing man's response, for this would make man's choice to cause God to elect. Here, God's election is dependent on man's choice. But God's election is His sovereign choice. Foreknowledge indeed is knowing a person intimately beforehand.

- ❖ **Matt. 7:22-23**, On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘*I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.*’
- ❖ **John 10:27**, My sheep hear my voice, and *I know them*, and they follow me.

Therefore, foreknowledge means knowing a person intimately beforehand. As the Lord spoke to Jeremiah (1:5), “Before I formed you in the womb *I knew you.*” The Scripture also says in 2 Timothy 2:19, “The Lord *knows* those who are his.”

Sam Storms, “Divine election may be defined as that loving and merciful decision by God the Father to bestow eternal life upon some, but not all, hell-deserving sinners. This decision was made before the foundation of the world and was based not upon any act of will or works of men and women, but solely upon God's sovereign good pleasure. One does not enter the ranks of the elect by meeting a condition, be it faith or repentance. One enters the ranks of the elect by virtue of God's free and

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altogether gracious choice, as a result of which he enables us to repent and believe. Thus, election is both sovereign and unconditional.”

3. GOD'S ELECTION OF PEOPLE FOR SALVATION IS FULFILLED THROUGH THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL AND PRAYER.

Preaching of the Gospel: Predestination, Christ's Atonement, Gospel

- ❖ **I Thessalonians 1:4-5**, For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, *because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.*
- ❖ **Acts 13:48**, *And when the Gentiles heard this (the Gospel), they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.*

R. C. Sproul, "We must never underestimate the importance of our role in evangelism. Neither must we overestimate it. We preach. We bear witness. We provide the outward call. But God alone has the power to call a person to himself inwardly. I do not feel cheated by that. On the contrary, I feel comforted. We must do our job, trusting that God will do his."

Prayer

John Piper, "Prayer is one of God's appointed means of bringing the elect to faith."

- ❖ **I Timothy 2:1-4**, First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Note: All people to be saved does not necessarily mean every person, but all kinds of people. See **Acts 2:17-18**, *And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.*

4. GOD'S ELECTION OF PEOPLE FOR SALVATION IS EVIDENTIAL (FAITH, REPENTANCE, HOLINESS).

i. Faith:

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- ❖ **Acts 13:48**, And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and *as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.*

Additional Thought:

- ❖ **John 3:16**, For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that *whoever believes* in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Who will believe?

- ❖ **John 10:26-27**, *but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.*

And,

- ❖ **Matthew 11:28**, *Come to me*, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Who will come to Jesus?

- ❖ **John 6:44**, No one can come to me *unless the Father who sent me draws him.*

ii. Holiness:

- ❖ **Ephesians 1:4**, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, *that we should be holy and blameless before him.*
- ❖ **Romans 8:29**, 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.
- ❖ **2 Peter 1:5-11**, For this very reason, *make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.* For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. *Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.*

J. I. Packer, “What is the value and effect of the knowledge of our own election? Does it allow us to become complacent, and to conclude that, since we are elect, it does not matter how we live? No. As the passage quoted from 2 Peter itself indicated, only if we are daily perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord, evidencing the genuineness of our faith by our works, have we any right to

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be sure of our election at all.”

5. GOD'S ELECTION OF PEOPLE FOR SALVATION IS ETERNALLY SECURE.

Thomas Brooks, “The first great work that men are to attend in this world is the eternal safety and security of their souls; the next great work is to know, to be assured, that it shall go well with their souls forever.”

- ❖ **John 10:27-28**, My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and *they will never perish*, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.
- ❖ **John 6:39**, And this is the will of him who sent me, *that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me*, but raise it up on the last day.
- ❖ **Romans 8:30**, “And those *whom he predestined* he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified *he also glorified*.”
- ❖ **Romans 8:31-39**, What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

SUMMARY:

1. God's election of people for salvation is *predetermined*.
2. God's election of people for salvation is *unconditional*.
3. God's election of people for salvation is *fulfilled through the preaching of the gospel and prayer*.
4. God's election of people for salvation is *evidential (faith, repentance, holiness)*.
5. God's election of people for salvation is *eternally secure*.