

Objections to Election of Sinners to Salvation Pt 5 Romans 8:28–33

Romans 8:28–33 (NKJV)

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? *It is* God who justifies.

Introduction

2 Thessalonians 2:13 (NKJV)

¹³ But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,

Acts 13:48 (NKJV)

⁴⁸ Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

Review

There are 3 types of Election taught in the Bible

1. **National**- personal choice by God to use a nations for a particular purpose,
—-not salvific
2. **Vocational**—-personal choice by God to use a person for a purpose or position of service.—-not salvific.
3. **Salvational** - personal choice by God to save individuals for salvation.

The first 4 we consider are attempts to redefine and restrict the doctrine of Election

1. God chose only nations not individuals
2. God chose for Service not Salvation
3. God chose a plan not persons.
4. God chose those, who he knew would believe.

These next 5 are an attempt to bring objections to refute the Biblical Doctrine Election

1. It is not Fair
2. It means that God created people for Hell
3. It makes men robots and eliminated free will
4. It eliminates the need for missions and evangelism.

5. It makes prayer for the lost useless.

Lesson

1. It is not Fair

This is probably the most common objection given regarding the doctrine of Election. It is not Fair.

The assumption is that if God did not choose everyone or at least give everyone an opportunity to hear the gospel and respond, God is obviously unfair.

Its foundation is the Love of God and a misunderstanding of fairness and Justice.

This, is one of the anticipated objections of
Romans 9

The Context is the Sovereign choice of God through Abraham, Isaac and Jacob...

Romans 9:11–13 (NKJV)

¹¹ (for *the children* not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of

Him who calls), ¹² it was said to her, *“The older shall serve the younger.”* ¹³ As it is written, *“Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.”*

Romans 9:14–18 (NKJV)

¹⁴ What shall we say then? *Is there* unrighteousness with God? Certainly not! ¹⁵ For He says to Moses, *“I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion.”* ¹⁶ So then *it is* not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy. ¹⁷ For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, *“For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.”* ¹⁸ Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens.

The reason we have an initial reaction to this with doctrine as unfair is we have a misunderstanding or a lack of biblical clarity of Man’s sinfulness and his deserving of death and the nature of evil of sin and a shallow view of the Holiness and Justice of God.

These next 5 are an attempt to bring objections to refute the Biblical Doctrine Election

1. It is not Fair

2. It means that God created people for Hell

The Problem

Some needed foundational facts

1. **Hell was created by God.**

Hell exist be cause God created it.

Hell is not run but the devil. He is not in charge of it....God is

Matthew 25:41 (NKJV)

⁴¹ “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared (Perf Pass Part- having been prepared) for the devil and his angels:

Colossians 1:16–17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or

powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

John 1:3 (NKJV)

³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

2. Millions of people end up in Hell. That is a fact.

Revelation 20:11–15 (NKJV)

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.

¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. ¹³ The sea

gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Matthew 25:41 (NKJV)

⁴¹ “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:

Matthew 25:46–26:1 (NKJV)

⁴⁶ And these will go away into everlasting punishment,”

Matthew 7:13–14 (NKJV)

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.

Matthew 7:21–23 (NKJV)

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!’

3. Being a Calvinist or an Arminian or some combination of both, does not help you solve the problem of people going to Hell by God's design

1. If you are Calvinistic/ Reformed in our doctrine of Election,

That means, you believe that God chose out of all of fallen humanity a select number (elect) to be saved and purposely passed over the rest allowing them to receive there just punishment in Hell.

Therefore, God created millions of people knowing that they where not elect and would be passed over and go to hell.

2.If you are Arminian and adopt a foreknowledge view of Election.

That means that, you believe that God look down time and saw all the fallen sinners who would believe the gospel and choose Christ freely of there own self determination, then God would elect them and them alone to go to heaven, and all those who freely of there own self-determination chose to reject Christ would go to Hell.

Therefore, God created millions of people knowing that that they would never believe the

gospel and therefore would never become God's elect, to go to hell.

So both views conclude with people in hell, with God knowing the outcome before he created them.

Some who argue for or against this point argue from a more philosophical and logical point than Biblical.

I'm not saying that logic is opposed to Biblical doctrine, but sometimes we have to admit that we don't have all the information, and that we have to be comfortable trusting in the Character of God.

Some try to sort this out be speculation on the order of the decrees of God.

These three theological terms, discussed among [Calvinist](#) thinkers, deal with God's [predestination](#) of certain individuals to be saved. The term ***lapsarian*** is related to the English word *lapse*; mankind's fall into sin was a "lapse" in that it was a "slip" or a "falling" from their original state of innocence. The focus of infralapsarianism (infralapsarian), sublapsarianism (sublapsarian), and supralapsarianism (supralapsarian) is sequence—the order in which God determined things to happen.

In what order did God create humanity, allow the fall, elect some to salvation, and provide salvation for humanity? Ultimately, these are issues that we are incapable of fully grasping. It does not truly matter what order God decreed what to occur. What truly matters is that God created humanity, humanity sinned, and God has provided salvation through Jesus Christ.

Infralapsarianism (“after the lapse”) puts God’s decrees in the following order:

- (1) God decreed the creation of mankind,
- (2) God decreed mankind would be allowed to fall into sin through their own self-determination,
- (3) God decreed to save some of the fallen, and
- (4) God decreed to provide Jesus Christ as the Redeemer. Infralapsarianism focuses on God allowing the fall and providing salvation. This is by far the majority Reformed (or Calvinistic) view.

Sublapsarianism (“under the lapse”) is very similar to infralapsarianism, putting God’s decrees in the following order:

- (1) God decreed to create human beings,
- (2) God decreed to permit the fall,
- (3) God decreed to provide salvation sufficient to all, and

(4) God decreed to choose some to receive this salvation. The only difference between infralapsarianism and sublapsarianism is whether God *first* decreed to provide salvation through Jesus Christ and *then* chose some to be saved, or vice-versa.

Supralapsarianism / antelapsarianism (“before the lapse”) puts God’s decrees in the following order:

- (1) God decreed the election of some and the eternal condemnation of others,
- (2) God decreed to create those elected and eternally condemned,
- (3) God decreed to permit the fall, and
- (4) God decreed to provide salvation for the elect through Jesus Christ. Supralapsarianism focuses on God ordaining the fall, creating certain people for the sole purpose of being condemned, and then providing salvation for only those whom He had elected.

infralapsarianism seems to be the most biblical position. We do not believe the Bible portrays God as decreeing the fall and creating people for the sole purpose of eternal condemnation. Ultimately, though, the answers to the lapsarian issue are best left up to God. Instead of worrying or arguing over when God decreed what, our concern should be on

proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to all who need to hear it.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/lapsarianism.html>

Simply put, you can get lost trying to figure out the order of decrees of God. The Bible does not tell us this. The closest we come to an order is found in Romans

Romans 8:29–30 (NKJV)

²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

But there might be a simpler way to understand this.

First and most Obvious

1. God decreed to create.

Revelation 4:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ “You are worthy, O Lord,

To receive glory and honor and power;
 For You created all things,
 And by Your will they exist and were created.”

Romans 11:36 (NKJV)

³⁶ For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

2. God decreed to allow and purpose evil to affect His Creation

Isaiah 45:7 (NKJV)

⁷ I form the light and create darkness,
 I make peace and create calamity;
 I, the Lord, do all these *things*.’

Amos 3:6 (NKJV)

⁶ If a trumpet is blown in a city, will not the people be afraid?
 If there is calamity in a city, will not the Lord have done *it*?

Acts 4:25–28 (NKJV)

²⁵ who by the mouth of Your servant David have said:

*‘Why did the nations rage,
And the people plot vain things?*

*²⁶ The kings of the earth took their stand,
And the rulers were gathered together
Against the Lord and against His Christ.’*

²⁷ “For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together ²⁸ to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.

Acts 2:23 (NKJV)

²³ Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;

3. God decreed to allow and purpose the Fall of man to take place

a. God place the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil in the Garden

b. God created Adam with the ability to make a choice. They could choose to server God or not serve God and if not then they would serve Evil.

1689 Second London Baptist Confession

CHAPTER 4; OF CREATION

Paragraph 2. After God had made all other creatures, He created man, male and female,⁴ with reasonable and immortal souls,⁵ rendering them fit unto that life to God for which they were created; being made after the image of God, in knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness;⁶ having the law of God written in their hearts,⁷ and power to fulfill it, and yet under a possibility of transgressing, being left to the liberty of their own will, which was subject to change.⁸

CHAPTER 6; OF THE FALL OF MAN, OF SIN, AND OF THE PUNISHMENT THEREOF

Paragraph 1. Although God created man upright and perfect, and gave him a righteous law, which had been unto life had he kept it, and threatened death upon the breach thereof,¹ yet he did not long abide in this honor; Satan using the subtlety of the serpent to subdue Eve, then by her seducing Adam, who, without any compulsion, did willfully transgress the law of their creation, and the command given to them, in eating the

forbidden fruit,² which God was pleased, according to His wise and holy counsel to permit, having purposed to order it to His own glory.

God "works all things after the counsel of his will" (Ephesians 1:11).

This "all things" includes the fall of sparrows (Matthew 10:29), the rolling of dice (Proverbs 16:33), the slaughter of his people (Psalm 44:11), the decisions of kings (Proverbs 21:1), the failing of sight (Exodus 4:11), the sickness of children (2 Samuel 12:15), the loss and gain of money (1 Samuel 2:7), the suffering of saints (1 Peter 4:19), the completion of travel plans (James 4:15), the persecution of Christians (Hebrews 12:4-7), the repentance of souls (2 Timothy 2:25), the gift of faith (Philippians 1:29), the pursuit of holiness (Philippians 3:12-13), the growth of believers (Hebrews 6:3), the giving of life and the taking in death (1 Samuel 2:6), and the crucifixion of his Son (Acts 4:27-28). (Piper)

4. God decrees the damnation of all sinners to death and Hell as a result of the Fall

Romans 5:18–19 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Therefore, as through one man's offense *judgment* came to all men, resulting in condemnation, ¹⁹ For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners,.....

Romans 5:12 (NKJV)

¹² Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—

Romans 5:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ ... For if by the one man's offense many died,

John 3:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ **“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**

We need to stop right here for a moment and make it very clear that had God done nothing else but destine everyone for Hell, He would have done nothing wrong.

If God had never purposed or desired to set his love on anyone and save by grace and mercy any of the rebel sinners, He would have been just in sending all to eternal torment.

If he never decreed to send Jesus, He would have been Just in doing so.

It is also important to remember that in the Garden, we left God, He did not leave us.

We sinned against Him, He did nothing wrong to us. He gave us the freedom to love him of our own self determination and we chose evil

5. God decrees to save some undeserving sinners from the Foundation of the World.

Revelation 13:8 (NKJV)

⁸ All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

1 Peter 1:18–20 (NKJV)

¹⁸ knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. ²⁰ He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you

Ephesians 1:4 (NKJV)

⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

Titus 1:1–2 (NKJV)

Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, ² in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,

Acts 13:48 (NKJV)

⁴⁸ Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

Matthew 25:34 (NKJV)

³⁴ Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

6. God decrees to Justly pass by many who freely rebelled against Him and let them receive the full force of His wrath

Proverbs 16:4 (NKJV)

⁴ The Lord has made all for Himself,
Yes, even the wicked for the day of doom.

Job 21:30 (NKJV)

³⁰ For the wicked are reserved for the day of doom;
They shall be brought out on the day of wrath.

Romans 9:21–23 (NKJV)

²¹ Does not the potter have power over the clay,
from the same lump to make one vessel for honor
and another for dishonor?

*πηλός (from *palsós) is perhaps related etym. to the Lat. palus (“swamp”) and from the class period it means “morass,” “mud,”² “muck,” “dung,”⁴ also “loam,” “clay.” It is thus a mixture of dust⁶ or soil with a fluid*

In acc. with common Gk. usage the LXX uses the term for “mud” (ψ 68:14 etc.), “filth” (2 Βασ. 22:43 etc.), “loam,” “clay” (Wis. 15:7; Jer. 18:6

Rengstorf, K. H. (1964–). [πηλός](#). G. Kittel, G. W. Bromiley, & G. Friedrich (Eds.), *Theological dictionary of the New Testament* (electronic ed., Vol. 6, p. 118). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

²² What if God, wanting to show *His* wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, ²³ and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory,

A few concluding thoughts that need to be made.

1. Election and Predestination are always unto salvation, never damnation.

Ephesians 1:4–6 (NKJV)

⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

Romans 8:29–35 (NKJV)

²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? *It is* God who justifies. ³⁴ Who *is* he who condemns? *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation,

or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

In response to the objection that Election

means that God created people for Hell

Election does not create or send people to Hell

Men are already condemned before Election occurs in the mind of God

There would not be a need to elect if men were not considered fallen.

There never would have been a time that God did not consider man in a fallen state.

Acts 15:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ “Known to God from eternity are all His works.

God would have always from all eternity past known that men would have been lost and condemned

So Election is only a means of saving some who do not deserve it.

Where we get into trouble with the topic of double predestination is when we make it

God decreeing to send some to Hell BEFORE He decrees to allow the fall in sin

Hence God is selecting out of all innocent un-fallen humanity to destine people for Hell.

I don't believe the Bible teaches this.

It would be impossible for a God who knew all His works from all eternity to every learn there was going to be a fall

He would have always, always an always considered man as fallen, sinful, deserving of death.

That's why we can have verses like this and it not be unjust.

Proverbs 16:4 (NKJV)

⁴ The Lord has made all for Himself,
Yes, even the wicked for the day of doom.

1 Peter 2:7–8 (NKJV)

⁷ Therefore, to you who believe, *He is precious*; but to those who are disobedient,

*“The stone which the builders rejected
Has become the chief cornerstone,”*

⁸ and

*“A stone of stumbling
And a rock of offense.”*

They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed. (Aorist Passive)

[English Standard Version](#)

and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

[Young's Literal Translation](#)

and a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence -- who are stumbling at the word, being unbelieving, -- to which also they were set;

Jude 4 (NKJV)

⁴ For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 2:2–3 (ESV)

² And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. ³ And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

[English Standard Version](#)

And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep. Our sin and Unbelief sends us to Hell. Our natural and hateful rejection of Christ is what sends us to Hell.

[New American Standard Bible](#)

and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

Condemnation and Judgment is the destiny of all me because of sin and our fall in Adam unless God by mercy and Grace saves some

So NO

Election does not mean that God created people for Hell

What it means is that God decreed to create all people,

Knowing that He purposed to allow His creation and all mankind to be affected by the free and willful act of Adam to disobey him, thereby causing God to justly condemn all, and undeservingly to be gracious and mercifully save some.

What remains however is the Question

Since God knew He would create man and He would fall, and many would end up in Hell

Why did he create anyway.

Romans 9 and Eph 1 are the closest we can get for answer

Romans 9:21–23 (NKJV)

²¹ Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?

²² What if God, wanting to show *His* wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for

destruction, ²³ and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had **prepared beforehand for glory,**

Ephesians 1:4–6 (NKJV)

⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ **to the praise of the glory of His grace,** by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

Ephesians 1:11–14 (NKJV)

¹¹ In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, ¹² that we who first trusted in Christ should be **to the praise of His glory.**

¹³ In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, **to the praise of His glory.**

In the end

Men go to Hell because they don't want God and love their sin

Men go to Heaven because God merciful and graciously saves and delivers men who don't want God and love their sin