

*Evening Worship October 7, 2018*

*"Unconditional Election"*

*Deuteronomy 7:6-7; Romans 9:10-13; 1 Corinthians 1:26-29*

*One of my memories from gym class was the picking or being picked for teams, it was a matter of pride or shame for every child...*

*Unconditional Election*

*Is a simple concept, it simply means God is not looking for the best of the best of the best, no, He chooses, how He chooses for reasons mostly unknown to us and never for reason we might take pride in –*

*I. A check to Israel's pride –*

**"For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. <sup>7</sup>"The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; (Deuteronomy 7:6-7 NKJ)**

- 1. God called his people to a high calling, to be holy, meaning to be fully devoted to Him!*
- 2. They were a special treasure, why? Because God set His love on them, because He chose them. Note He did not set His love on them because they were superior to other nations for you were the least of all peoples; (Deuteronomy 7:7 NKJ)*

*Now in this passage it speaks to their lack of numbers, but the implication is there was nothing else special about them – pre-choice!*

*II. We see the same thing in Romans 9, but it is applied to Jacob and Esau –*

**And not only *this*, but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, even by our father Isaac <sup>11</sup> (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), <sup>12</sup> it was said to her, "The older shall serve the younger." <sup>13</sup> As it is written, "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated." (Romans 9:10-13 NKJ)**

- 1. What Paul makes abundantly clear is the difference in the two boys was nothing in them:*
  - A. They were brothers, born of the same father and mother, Isaac and Rebecca*
  - B. They were twins, born about the same time, Esau came out first*
  - C. Before they were born or had done good or evil God chose, LOVED Jacob, and He HATED Esau!*
- 2. Even in life, did Jacob show himself dramatically superior to Esau? Which of the answers below best describes the two men?*
  - A. Both men were perfectly righteous in God's sight*
  - B. Jacob was perfectly righteous while Esau was evil*
  - C. Esau was perfectly righteous while Jacob was evil*
  - D. Both men were sinners, God showed mercy to one, wrath to the other.*

*Would God have been wrong if He would have poured His righteous wrath on both boys?*

**What shall we say then? *Is there* unrighteousness with God? Certainly not! <sup>15</sup> 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." <sup>16</sup> So then *it is* not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy. <sup>17</sup> For the Scripture says to 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." <sup>18</sup> Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens. <sup>19</sup> You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?" <sup>20</sup> But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed *it*, "Why have you made me like this?" (Romans 9:14-20 NKJ)**

*Mercy is not about who is willing or running, but God by grace has mercy upon whom He wills and He harden, whom He wills!*

*Since all are sinners, Romans 3:10-11, He would be perfectly righteous to pour His wrath upon all, but by grace He shows mercy to some – As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; <sup>11</sup> There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. (Romans 3:10-11 NKJ)*

Now the Arminian says God gives opportunity to all, some choose God, and God by looking into the future to see who chooses Him, God then (after He sees what choice they make) chooses them who chose Him, these He foresaw even before the foundation of the world as superior to other sinners who did not choose Him, this is conditional election – 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, (Ephesians. 1:4 NKJ)

*It is true God gives opportunity to all* - <sup>21</sup> But to Israel he says: "All day long I have stretched out My hands To a disobedient and contrary people." (Romans 10:21 NKJ)

<To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.> The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. <sup>2</sup> Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. <sup>3</sup> *There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard.* <sup>4</sup> Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world. ... (Psalm 19:1-4 NKJ)

*Yet, when all reject Him, is He wrong to choose some?*

*III. God does not choose us because we are better –*  
For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called.* <sup>27</sup> But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; <sup>28</sup> and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, <sup>29</sup> that no flesh should glory in His presence. (1 Corinthian 1:26-29 NKJ)

*I was president of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship when I was a student at Western Illinois University ... one of my memories of that time was one of the girls in our group saying "we should pray especially that Barry Manilow would become a Christian, just think of what God could do with all his (Manilow's) talent!"*

*However, unconditional election means God does not need our talent, our abilities, our brains, our money or our might to do his will:*

1. *He uses, I am not eloquent Moses to lead His people out of Egypt –*  
<sup>10</sup> Then Moses said to the LORD, "O my Lord, I *am* not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I *am* slow of speech and slow of tongue." (Exodus 4:10 NKJ)
2. *He uses naughty, you should be back with the sheep, too young to fight David to defeat Goliath –*

<sup>28</sup> Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger was aroused against David, and he said, "Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle."

<sup>29</sup> And David said, "What have I done now? *Is there* not a cause?" (1 Samuel 17:28-29 NKJ)

3. *He uses Paul, a persecutor of His church, to build it –*  
Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. <sup>4</sup> Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" <sup>5</sup> And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It *is* hard for you to kick against the goads." <sup>6</sup> So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord *said* to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." (Acts 9:1-6 NKJ)

4. *We are called to be strong in the Lord and in His might, any thoughts of strength, ability, worthiness we think we might have apart from God only defeats us –*  
Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. (Ephesians 6:10 NKJ)

"I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. (John 15:5 NKJ)

5. *Unconditional election militates against pride, so does God –*  
But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." (James 4:6 NKJ)

*Arnold A. Brevick*