

The Five Points of Calvinism

Unconditional Election

The TULIP

- **T**otal Depravity
- **U**nconditional Election
- **L**imited Atonement
- **I**rresistible Grace
- **P**erseverance of the Saints

UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

Definition of Election

- The doctrine of election (i.e., predestination) is the act of choice whereby God picks an individual or group out of a larger company for a purpose or destiny of His own appointment. (D.R.W. Wood, New Bible Dictionary)
- God determined beforehand—at the foundation of the world—specifically who would be saved (Ephesians 1:4).

Other Terms

- The doctrine of election is often dubbed “Calvinism” and “sovereign grace”
- Arminians (not Armenians) reject Calvinism; they believe in man’s free choice; called “semi-Pelagiun.”
- Pelagius lived during the 4th century and believed that man had all the power he needed to come to Christ on his own.

Those Whom God Chooses

- God chose Israel and the Church as a people for special service and privileges.
- Election may also refer to the choice of a specific individual to some office or to perform some special service.
- Also to the election of individuals to be children of God and heirs of eternal life.
- (R.F. Youngblood, F.F. Bruce, R.K. Harrison Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

Man's Need for Election

- Total depravity – Man is unable to make spiritual decisions due to his sin.
- Eccl. 9:3 – The hearts of men... are full of evil and there is madness in their hearts...
- Eccl. 7:20 – There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins.
- Jeremiah 17:9 – The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure.

Introduction (cont.)

- Prior to the Fall (Gen. 3) the will of man was in perfect harmony with the intellect. After the fall, they fail to agree with each other.
- “Free will” is never spoken of in relation to salvation in the Bible (only to offerings from those who expressed faith in the OT).
- Doctrine of election is taught in the Bible with no excuses as if there were no controversy surrounding it in the 1st century.

The Words Used in Context

- **Chosen** (ἐκλέγομαι) – 22 times... to pick out; to select for a purpose.
- **Elect** (ἐκλογή) – 22 times (election – 7 times)... to pick out; to choose.
- **Foreknowledge** (προγινώσκω) – 5 times... to know beforehand; to foreordain.
- **Predestined** (προορίζω) – 6 times... to predetermine; to decide beforehand.
- **Appointed** (τάσσω); 2 times (Acts 13:48; 22:10) to ordain; to determine.

A Chosen People

- **Deuteronomy 10:14–15...** “Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the highest heavens, the earth and all that is in it. **15** “Yet on your fathers did the LORD set His affection to love them, and He chose their descendants after them, even you above all peoples, as it is this day.

- **Psalm 33:12** — Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, The people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance.
- **Psalm 65:4** — How blessed is the one whom You choose and bring near to You To dwell in Your courts. We will be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, Your holy temple.
- **Psalm 106:5** — That I may see the prosperity of Your chosen ones, That I may rejoice in the gladness of Your nation, That I may glory with Your inheritance.

- **Haggai 2:23** — ‘On that day,’ declares the LORD of hosts, ‘I will take you, Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, My servant,’ declares the LORD, ‘and I will make you like a signet ring, for I have chosen you,’ ” declares the LORD of hosts.
- **Matthew 11:27** — “All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.
- **Matthew 22:14** — “For many are called, but few are chosen.”

- **Matthew 24:22, 24, 31...** “Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short... “For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect... “And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

- **Luke 18:7** — now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them?
- **Romans 8:28–30** — And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

- **Romans 8:33** — Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;
- **Romans 11:28** — From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of God's choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers;
- **Colossians 3:12** — So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

- **1 Thessalonians 5:9** — For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
- **Titus 1:1** — Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness,
- **1 Peter 1:1–2** — Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout... who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood...

- **1 Peter 2:8–9** — and, “A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE”; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed. But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God’s OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
- **Revelation 17:14** — “These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful.”

Election NOT Based on Foreseen Responses

- *Faith & good works are the result of being elected, not the cause of such... **God did the choosing:***
- **Mark 13:20** — “Unless the Lord had shortened those days, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect, whom He chose, He shortened the days.
- **Ephesians 2:10** — For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

- **John 15:16** — “You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.
- **2 Thessalonians 2:13** — But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

1 Samuel 2:6-8

- The LORD brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up. The LORD sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and he exalts. He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor.

Psalms

- **Ps 135:6:** The LORD does whatever pleases him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths.
- **Ps 139:1-16:** O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD.

Isaiah

- Isaiah 46:9-10: I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.
- Isaiah 55:11: so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Proverbs

- **16:4:** The LORD works out everything for his own ends, even the wicked for a day of disaster.
- **16:9:** In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.
- **16:33:** The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.
- **20:24:** A man's steps are directed by the LORD. How then can anyone understand his own way?

Spiritual Blindness

- *“And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God” (2 Corinthians 4:3–4).*

Spiritually Dead

- *“And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. But God...* (Eph. 2:1–5).

What God Promised in the OT

- *“I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness... I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you...I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances” (Ezek. 36:25-27).*

What Jesus is Fulfilling in the NT

- *“Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God... unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God” (John 3:3–5).*

God's Role in Our Salvation

- *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you...”*
(1 Peter 1:3–5).

THE FOREKNOWLEDGE OF GOD

Romans 8:29-30

- *Those whom God **foreknew** He also **predestined** to be conformed to the image of his Son... Those whom He **predestined** He also **called**...those whom he **called** He also **justified**...those those whom He **justified** he also **glorified** (8:29-30)*
- *What then? What Israel sought so earnestly it did not obtain, but the **elect** did. The others were hardened (11:7)*

Basis for Election: *Foreknowledge*

- Humans: Acts 26:5 and 2 Pet. 3:17 – “to know before” in the sense of having prior knowledge with which to base decisions
- God: Acts 2:23; Rom. 11:2; 1 Pet. 1:2, 20 – When God is subject of passage “foreknow” means “to enter into a relationship before” or “choose to determine before; to foreordain.”
- It’s not simply that God knows what people will do; rather, He foreknows *them* intimately

Foreknowledge

- NOT that God looked ahead and knew we would receive Christ—then chose us. If so, salvation would begin with our faith before our birth! Yet,
- The natural, sinful man is at war with God (Rom. 5:10; 8:7; Eph. 2:3; Col. 1:21)... “A natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised” (1 Cor. 2:14)... “The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God” (2 Cor. 4:4).