

The Doctrine of Election

Romans 8:33

Romans 8:28–33 (ESV)

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 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. 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.

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 gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

Introduction:

Election is such an important biblical doctrine that if it were not for the doctrine of ELECTION no one would be saved, and Christ's death would be of no effect, that is, it would not affect any one savingly.

JOHN A BROADUS, former president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary: *“From the divine side, we see that the Scriptures teach an eternal election of men to eternal life simply out of God's good pleasure.”*

B. H. CARROLL, founder and first president of the Southwestern Baptist Seminary: *“Every one that God chose in Christ is drawn by the Spirit to Christ. Every one predestined is called by the Spirit in time, and justified in time, and will be glorified when the Lord comes.”*

JAMES P. BOYCE, founder and first president of Southern Baptist Seminary: *“God, of His own purpose, has from eternity determined to save a definite number of mankind as individuals, not for or because of any merit or works of theirs, nor of any value of them to Him; but of His own good pleasure.”*

W. T. CONNER, professor of theology, Southwestern Baptist Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas: *“The doctrine of election means that God saves in pursuance of an eternal purpose. This includes all the gospel influence, work of the Spirit and so on, that leads a man to repent of his sins and accept Christ. So far as man’s freedom is concerned, the doctrine of election does not mean that God decrees to save a man irrespective of his will. It rather means that God purposes to lead a man in such a way that he will freely accept the gospel and be saved.”*

CHARLES HADDON SPURGEON, The Prince of Preachers, in a sermon delivered on Matthew 24:24 (April 22, 1860): *“I do not hesitate to say, that next to the doctrine of the crucifixion and the resurrection of our blessed Lord – no doctrine had such prominence in the early Christian church as the doctrine of the election of Grace.”*

Spurgeon said, “There seems to be an inveterate prejudice in the human mind against this doctrine, and although most other doctrines will be received by professing Christians, some with

caution, others with pleasure, yet this one seems to be most frequently disregarded and discarded.”

If it were true in Spurgeon’s day, I wonder what he would say now when most pulpits are silent about it, and therefore, the pews ignorant of it.

The Old Baptist Confessions, such as, The Baptist Confession of 1689 (London Confession): The Philadelphia Confession of 1742; The New Hampshire Confession – all these confessions are crystal clear on the blessed doctrine of Sovereign Election.

There is no doctrine so grossly neglected and misrepresented in all the Bible. One of our Fathers said, *“From hostile lips a fair and correct statement of the doctrine of election is never heard.”*

The treatment the doctrine of election receives from the hands of its enemies is much like that received by the early Christians from pagan Roman Emperors. The early Christians were often clothed in the skins of animals and then

subjected to attack by ferocious wild beasts. So the doctrine of election is often clothed in ugly garb and held up to ridicule and erroneous attacks.

A Southern Baptist Looks at the Biblical Doctrine of Election
ELECTION STATED AND DEFENDED
By ERNEST C. REISINGER

So much is discussed and emphasized today of the free choice of man that you hardly ever hear of the free choice of God.

Over and over again it is preached from modern pulpits that man has a free will and he has a free choice that you would think that the entire universe depends on the choice of man.

The way it is presented in most churches is that God's plan of Salvation is dependent solely on the choice of man. That if man does not chose to be saved then God's plan is frustrated and his desire is not met.

But what you want hear is that God is free to chose.

As James White refers to it in his book, "The Potter's Freedom"

God is free, He is free to do what every He wants

Romans 9:11–26 (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.*”

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.

¹⁹ You will say to me then, “Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?” ²⁰ 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?”

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, ²⁴ *even* us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?

²⁵ As He says also in Hosea:

“I will call them My people, who were not My people,

And her beloved, who was not beloved.”

²⁶ *“And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them,*

‘You are not My people,’

There they shall be called sons of the living God.”

God makes choices. He has a will. And all of mankind is affected by the choices He makes.

It is God who chose to create the universe

It is God who chose to create angels

It is God who chose to create man

It is God who chose to create the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

It is God who chose to ordain the existence of evil

It is God who chose to judge the world with a flood.

It is God who chose to send His Son Jesus Christ to save sinners

It is God who chose to have 12 Apostles

It is God who chose to have 66 books in our Bible

It is God who chose to create hell.

It is God who chose to make hell eternal.

So with all the emphasis today on man's choices

I want to declare emphatically that

God makes Choices

The Fact of God's Choice

God chose Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Solomon, Daniel, Ezekiel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and All the Major and minor Prophets

Exodus 3:1 (NKJV)

3 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian...”

2 And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush...”

10 Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.”

Jeremiah 1:4–5 (NKJV)

4 Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying:

5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;
Before you were born I sanctified you;
I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”

Israel

Deuteronomy 7:6–8 (NKJV)

6 “...the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself.... **7** 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; ⁸ but because the Lord loves you...”

Psalm 135:4 (NKJV)

⁴ For the Lord has chosen Jacob for Himself, Israel for His special treasure.

Isaiah 41:8–9 (NKJV)

⁸ “But you, Israel, *are* My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen....,

⁹ ...I have chosen you and have not cast you away:”

Matthew 11:25–27 (NKJV)

²⁵ ...Jesus answered and said, “I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from *the* wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes...²⁷ ...and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and *the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.*

Matthew 24:22 (NKJV)

²² And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but **for the elect's sake** those days will be shortened.

Matthew 24:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, **even the elect.**

Matthew 24:31 (NKJV)

³¹ And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together **His elect** from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Romans 8:33 (NKJV)

³³ Who shall bring a charge against **God's elect**? *It is* God who justifies.

Ephesians 1:4 (NKJV)

⁴ just as **He chose us** in Him before the foundation of the world,

Colossians 3:12 (NKJV)

¹² Therefore, as **the elect of God**, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

1 Thessalonians 1:4 (NKJV)

⁴ knowing, beloved brethren, **your election by God.**

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,

2 Timothy 2:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Therefore I endure all things **for the sake of the elect**, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

Titus 1:1–2 (NKJV)

1 Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of **God's elect** ...
² in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,

James 2:5 (NKJV)

⁵... **Has God not chosen the poor of this world** *to be* rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

1 Peter 1:2 (NKJV)

² **elect according to the foreknowledge of God** the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ:

1 Peter 2:9–10 (NKJV)

⁹ But **you are a chosen generation**, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

⁹ who has **saved us and called us with a holy calling**, not according to our works, but **according**

to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus **before time began,**

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 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.

Ephesians 1:5 (NKJV)

⁵ having **predestined** us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

John 6:37 (NKJV)

37 “All that the Father gives Me will come to Me,…”

John 6:39 (NKJV)

39 “This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing,…”

John 17:2 (NKJV)

2 “...You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.”

John 17:6 (NKJV)

6 “I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me,...”

John 17:9 (NKJV)

9 “I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.”

John 17:11 (NKJV)

11 ...”Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me,...”

John 10:16 (NKJV)

16 And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My

voice; and **there will be one flock** *and* one shepherd.

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.**

Revelation 17:8 (NKJV)

⁸ The beast that you saw...will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, **whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world,**

Acts 22:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Then he (Ananias) said (to Saul/ Paul), ‘The **God** of our fathers **has chosen you** that you should know His will, and see the Just One, and hear the voice of His mouth.

It is not debatable at all that God is the one making the choice. The choice was made by God before the foundation of the world, long before you

every existed. You were not around to give any input or voice your opinion or to persuade God to choose you.

A couple of notes about this choice

1. He chose you before you were born
2. He chose you sovereignly, according to His will,
3. He chose you not based on your works or faith.
4. He chose you for His purpose and Pleasure.

1. He chose you BEFORE you were born

Ephesians 1:4 (NKJV)

⁴ just as He chose us in Him **before the foundation of the world**,

2 Thessalonians 2:13 (NKJV)

¹³ "... **God from the beginning chose you for salvation** through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,"

2. He chose you sovereignly, according to His will,

Ephesians 1:5 (NKJV)

⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Romans 9:15–16 (NKJV)

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.

3. He chose you **NOT** based on your works or faith.

Not Works

Romans 9:11 (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),

Ephesians 2:8–9 (NKJV)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Not Faith

Some say that God did choose but it was based on his foreknowledge of our faith.

i.e. He looked down time and saw that you would choose Him and believe in Him and so in response He chose you.

Reasons this is not correct.

1. This would make Grace meaningless. Salvation is unmerited. This view would make God save you because YOU did something.

2. It ignores that fact that Man is unwilling to respond to the Gospel.

3. It ignores the fact that faith and repentance are gifts of God, not what man produces.

4. It ignores the Biblical meaning of the word "foreknowledge"

1 Peter 1:2 (NKJV)

² elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ:

Romans 8:29 (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.

proginóskó: to know beforehand

Original Word: προγινώσκω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: proginóskó

Phonetic Spelling: (prog-in-ocē'-ko)

Definition: to know beforehand

Usage: I know beforehand, foreknow.

Romans 8:29 (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.

Genesis 4:1 (NKJV)

4 “Now Adam **knew** Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain,...”

Amos 3:2 (NKJV)

² “You only have I **known** of all the families of the earth;
Therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.”

Jeremiah 1:5 (NKJV)

⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I **knew** you;
Before you were born I sanctified you;
I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”

Matthew 7:23 (NKJV)

²³ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never **knew** you;
depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’

The Foreknowledge in these text are best understood as for-loved or loved before.

1 John 4:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ We love Him because He first loved us.

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,

4. He chose you for His purpose and Pleasure.

Ephesians 1:5–6 (NKJV)

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 1:9 (NKJV)

⁹ having made known to us the mystery of His will, **according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself**,

Ephesians 1:11–12 (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**.

The Fact that God chose to save some means he did not choose others.

He did not choose everybody. Everybody will not go to Heaven.

John 6:37 (NKJV)

37 **All** that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

When people hear this for the first time, often the response is **that that is not fair**

Its not fair for God to choose some and not others.

But this is exactly the argument that Paul anticipates in Romans 9

In fact, a test as to whether you are presenting the Biblical view of Election correctly means you would get the exact response Paul anticipates in Romans 9

That is not Fair.

Romans 9:11–18 (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.*”

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**.

That fact that someone would raise the argument that

God is unfair or unjust

means they do not understand the first point we made.

Horatius Bonar

I WAS A WAND’RING SHEEP

I was a wand’ring sheep,

I did not love the fold:

I did not love my Shepherd’s voice,

I would not be controlled.
I was a way-ward child,
I did not love my home:
I did not love my Father's voice,
I loved afar to roam.
The Shepherd sought His sheep,
the Father sought His child:
He followed me o'er vale and hill,
o'er deserts waste and wild:
He found me nigh to death,
famished, and faint and lone,
He bound me with the bands of love,
He saved the wand'ring one.
Jesus my Shepherd is:
'Twas He that loved my soul,
'Twas He that washed me in His blood,
'Twas He that made me whole:
'Twas He that sought the lost,
That found the wand'ring sheep:
'Twas He that bro't me to the fold,
'Tis He that still doth keep.

No more a wand'ring sheep,
I love to be controlled,
I love my tender Shepherd's voice,
I love the peaceful fold:
No more a way-ward Child,
I seek no more to roam:
I love my heavenly Father's voice,
I love, I love His home!