

# The Doctrine of Salvation

A 10 week study of the Ordo Salutis

July 1 - Aug. 26, 2018

# The Doctrine of Salvation

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# Election and Predestination

The term predestination is often employed as a synonym for God's decree, since He predestines all things. However, it is also used more narrowly to summarize God's dealings with fallen man concerning salvation, and in that sense it has a twofold meaning: the doctrine of predestination concerns God's decision to elect some to salvation (election) and His decision to pass over others and punish them for their sins (reprobation).

- MacArthur, pg. 493

# Election and Predestination

The decree of election is the free and sovereign choice of God, made in eternity past, to set His love on certain individuals, and, on the basis of nothing in themselves but solely because of the good pleasure of His will, to choose them to be saved from sin and damnation and to inherit the blessings of eternal life through the Mediatorial work of Christ. - MacArthur, pg 493

Election is an act of God before creation in which he chooses some people to be saved, not on account of any foreseen merit in them, but only because of his sovereign good pleasure. - Grudem, pg 670

# Election and Predestination

## Ephesians 1:4-5

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

## Romans 8:29-30

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.

# Election and Predestination

## Romans 9:11-13

(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.”

## 2 Thessalonians 2:13

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,

# Election and Predestination

1 Peter 1:1-2

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 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: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

1 Thessalonians 1:4

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

# Types of Election

In Scripture we see God elect, or chose and appoint people to specific roles, callings, or tasks. Moses (Num. 16:5-7), Zerubbabel (Hag. 2:23), the tribe of Levi (Deut. 18:1-5), the prophets, and even angels.

God also chose certain nations or groups to enjoy special privileges or perform unique services to God.

Deut. 7:6-7 - “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. 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;”



# Second London Baptist Confession, 1689

By the decree of God, for the manifestation of His glory, some men and angels are predestinated or foreordained to eternal life through Jesus Christ, to the praise of His glorious grace. Others are left to act in their sin to their just condemnation, to the praise of His glorious justice. Those angels and men thus predestinated and foreordained, are particularly and unchangeably designed, and the number of them is so certain and definite, that it cannot be either increased or diminished. Those of mankind who are predestinated to life, God chose before the foundation of the world was laid, in accordance with His eternal and immutable purpose and the secret counsel and good pleasure of His will. God chose them in Christ for everlasting glory, solely out of His free grace and love, without anything in the creature as a condition or cause moving Him to choose.

As God has appointed the elect unto glory, so, by the eternal and completely free intention of His will, He has foreordained all the means. Accordingly, those who are elected, being fallen in Adam: - are redeemed by Christ, - are effectually called to faith in Christ by His Spirit working in due season, - are justified, adopted, sanctified, - and are kept by His power through faith unto salvation; - neither are any but the elect redeemed by Christ, effectually called, justified, adopted, sanctified, and saved.

The doctrine of this high mystery of predestination is to be handled with special prudence and care, in order that men who are heeding the will of God revealed in His Word, and who are yielding obedience to it, may, from the certainty of their effectual vocation be assured of their eternal election. So shall this doctrine provide cause for praise, reverence, admiration of God, and also provide cause for humility, diligence, and abundant consolation to all who sincerely obey the Gospel.

# Reprobation

The decree of reprobation is the free and sovereign choice of God, made in eternity past, to pass over certain individuals, choosing not to set His saving love on them but instead determining to punish them for their sins unto the magnification of His justice.

- MacArthur, pg. 504

Reprobation is the sovereign decision of God before creation to pass over some persons, in sorrow deciding not to save them, and to punish them for their sins and thereby manifest his justice.

- Grudem, pg 684

# Reprobation

Romans 9:17-22

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...

# Reprobation

The Bible speaks of the elect, and so we see also a category of the nonelect.

1 Peter 2:8

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

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were **destined** to do. (ESV)

# Election and Predestination

1. The doctrine of election is a comfort. Romans 8:28-30

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.

# Election and Predestination

2. The doctrine of election is a reason to praise God.

Ephesians 1:5-6 ...having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

1 Thessalonians 1:2, 4 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers...knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God.

# Election and Predestination

3. The doctrine of election is an encouragement to evangelism.

2 Timothy 2:10 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.

# Election and Predestination

Do you understand that God has a right to put His wrath and His judgment and His justice and His fury on display to His own glory as much as He has a right to put His mercy and His grace on display to His own glory? Do you understand that God gets as much glory out of His wrath as He gets out of His grace? Paul understands that. That this is a sovereign work, and that God is not unjust. Psalm 119 says, “Your righteousness is an ever-lasting righteousness.” “You are the righteous one.” God will do what God will do. Paul understands that this work of salvation is a sovereign work done by God. So he says it’s all the sovereignty of God. He hardens whom He hardens, He has mercy on whom He decides to have mercy. He loves who He loves, He hates who He hates.

- MacArthur, “Salvation: A Sovereign Work of God”



# Resources

RC Sproul - Chosen by God

[https://www.ligonier.org/learn/series/chosen\\_by\\_god/gods-sovereignty/](https://www.ligonier.org/learn/series/chosen_by_god/gods-sovereignty/)

James White - Unconditional Election: What Does It Mean?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u3wDat16yvk>

Steven Lawson - Sovereign Election (The Doctrines of Grace in John)

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/series/doctrines-of-grace-john/sovereign-election-part1/>

John MacArthur - The Doctrine of Election

<https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/90-273/the-doctrine-of-election-part-1>