

# Objections to Election of Sinners to Salvation Pt 6 Romans 8:28–33

## Romans 8:28–33 (NKJV)

<sup>28</sup> 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. <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified

<sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? <sup>32</sup> 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? <sup>33</sup> Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? *It is* God who justifies.

## Introduction

## 2 Thessalonians 2:13 (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> 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 ...

### **Acts 13:48 (NKJV)**

<sup>48</sup> 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 nation 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.

**1. It is not Fair-** if God is just, all go to hell, non are saved

**2. It means that God created people for Hell**

God created knowing that Adam would freely choose to rebel and decided to save some who would justly go to Hell.

**3. It makes men robots and eliminated free will**

Another way of saying this is,

How can man be held responsible for rejecting the Gospel if God has already determined who will and who won't be saved.

It is claimed that it eliminates free will and makes men mere pawns in the chess game of eternity where God plays both sides .

This is in the framework of a bigger question of how can God be Sovereign in Election and Man be held responsible for his rejection of salvation.

Or the the Sovereignty of God and Human responsibility

This is the second objection that Paul anticipates in Romans 9 in his discussion of Sovereign Election.

Objection #1 = that's not Fair

Objection #2 = how can God hold us accountable?

Romans 9:17–19 (NKJV)

<sup>17</sup> 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.”* <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?”

### **Some foundational thoughts**

There is a certain amount of mystery that is beyond our comprehension when we look into the work of God and the will of man. And I do not propose to you that I have all the answers.

But I do believe we can be clear on what is clear and draw accurate conclusions from the perspicuity of the text and the rest we can trust with a Righteous, Just, Loving and Gracious God.... And leave mystery and the lack of information with God.

When the Sovereign will of God intersect with the will of man.... there is a mystery as to how all this works.

## 1. Authorship of Scripture

God is the author of every word of Scripture. He wrote it. Yet we see that there are human authors who wrote it. Their personality, historical setting, vocabulary, intellect, education and experiences all dominate the letters or books of the Bible.

Yet we are told that every word is the very breath of God.

### 2 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV)

<sup>16</sup> All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, There is a union of the divine and Human will that remains a mystery

## 2. Living the Christian life

We would all agree, that when are a disobedient and not as committed as we need to be as a Christian, that all that responsibility falls on us. But when we obey and live faithful lives, all the credit is to be given to God.

We are command to persevere, to discipline ourselves, to die to self, to give every effort even to the point of exhaustion to live the Christian life, yet we are told that we must yield to God and depend on Him and if we are faithful in or perseverance, discipline and dying to self, it is all because God has done it.

### **Philippians 2:12–13 (NKJV)**

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.

### **Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)**

<sup>20</sup> I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

## **3. The Sovereignty of God and the Responsibility of man**

1. By the Sovereignty of God we mean that God is in absolute control of all things including the choosing of the elect and the passing over of the the non elect.

God is truly free to do as He wills with his Creation, which includes sinful human beings.

His will, will always be done, and no one can ultimately resist His will. He is the King and His rule is absolute.

2. By Responsibility of Man, we mean that sinful man is accountable for his choices he makes in regards to God, Christ and God's Law. He has volition (the ability to make choices) and is therefore, responsible for every choice He makes.

**For Clarity it needs to be noted.**

But the saving of the Elect and the Responsibility of the Non Elect for their Rejection of the gospel are 2 totally different issues.

The Sinner who is saved has nothing to do with his salvation or being elect, therefore he bears no responsibility for it. It is purely of Grace, and Mercy



and a Sovereign Work of God's Spirit in Regeneration.

However, the sinner who rejects the offer of salvation in Christ by refusing to Repent and Believe the Gospel is fully accountable and fully responsible for his choices

The apparent conflict, contradiction or paradox or antinomy is.

How can man be held responsible for his actions when it is the will of God that determines everything.

Or how can man be held responsible to do something when the Bible says that He cannot do it.

**i.e.** He is commanded to love God with all of his heart, soul mind and strength, yet also the Bible clearly says he cannot obey the law.

or

He is commanded to repent of his sin, and believe the gospel and confess Jesus as Lord, yet the Bible is very clear that you cannot do these things. In fact, the only way you can is if God grants you the ability to do so. (open your eyes, grant you understanding, give you faith, repentant and confession by the power of the Holy Spirit)

The Arminian, gets around this by teaching a doctrine called Prevenient Grace (that which goes before...grace before)

This teaches that God by his grace, elevates all sinners to the same level of understanding and enlightenment. He gives this sight to see and frees them to make a choice for Christ.

This is based primarily on a misinterpretation of John 12:32 (NKJV)

<sup>32</sup> **And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all *peoples* to Myself."**

Both Calvinist and Arminians believe in a Prevenient Grace.

The Arminian says it is for everyone

The Calvinist says it is for the elect only

Paul recognized that this was a clear tension in the mind of the objector to sovereign election by grace and the Responsibility of man.

Romans 9:18–19 (NKJV)

<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?”

How can the sinner be held responsible when it was part of the plan for man to make evil choices and reject God.

This tension is also seen in the most evil act ever committed by man against God.

Acts 2:23 (NKJV)

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

Acts 4:27–28 (NKJV)

<sup>27</sup> “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 <sup>28</sup> to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.

In order to understand this we need to be very clear on a number of things

1. God commands the will of man to obey
2. Man does not have the ability to obey.
3. God holds mans responsible for His disobedience

### **1. God commands the will of man to obey**

There are 613 Commandments in the first 5 books of the Old Testament

There are 1050 commandments in the New Testament for Christians.

### **Moral Commands**

Exodus 20:3–17 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> “You shall have no other gods before Me.

<sup>4</sup> “You shall not make for yourself a carved image— any likeness *of anything* that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth; <sup>5</sup> you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your

God, *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth *generations* of those who hate Me, <sup>6</sup> but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

<sup>7</sup> “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold *him* guiltless who takes His name in vain.

<sup>8</sup> “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day *is* the Sabbath of the Lord your God. *In it* you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who *is* within your gates. <sup>11</sup> For *in* six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that *is* in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

<sup>12</sup> “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup> “You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup> “You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup> “You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup> “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup> “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that *is* your neighbor’s.”

Matthew 22:35–40 (NKJV)

<sup>35</sup> Then one of them, a lawyer, asked *Him a question*, testing Him, and saying, <sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?”

<sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, “ ‘*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*’ <sup>38</sup> This is *the* first and great commandment. <sup>39</sup> And *the* second *is* like it: ‘*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*’ <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

**There are commands to Repent and Believe and follow Christ**

**Acts 2:37–38 (NKJV)**

<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?”

<sup>38</sup> Then Peter said to them, “**Repent**, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

### **Acts 17:30 (NKJV)**

<sup>30</sup> Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

### **Mark 1:14–15 (NKJV)**

<sup>14</sup> Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, <sup>15</sup> and saying, “**The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”**

### **Luke 9:23 (NKJV)**

<sup>23</sup> Then He said to *them* all, “**If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.**

As said by a Bible teacher, “God’s commands are not designed to show us what we can do but what we ought to do.”

<http://shalomrb.com/thisistrue/GodCommandsAllToRepent&Believe.pdf>

God's law does not imply ability but rather responsibility

1. God commands the will of man to obey

**2. Man does not have the ability to obey.**

### Regarding God's Moral Law

Romans 8:7–8 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

<sup>8</sup> So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Jeremiah 13:23 (NKJV)

<sup>23</sup> Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots?

*Then* may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil.

Matthew 12:34 (NKJV)

<sup>34</sup> **Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.**



## Regarding Repentance and Belief

1 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup> But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

John 6:44–45 (NKJV)

<sup>44</sup> **No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.** <sup>45</sup> **It is written in the prophets, ‘*And they shall all be taught by God.*’ Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.**

Acts 16:14 (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup> Now a certain woman named Lydia heard *us*. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.

2 Corinthians 4:4–6 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.... <sup>6</sup> For it is the God who commanded light to

shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

1 John 5:20 (NKJV)

<sup>20</sup> And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; ...

John 8:43 (NKJV)

<sup>43</sup> Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word.

## The Gifts of Repentance and Faith and Confession imply inability

### Repentance

Acts 11:18 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup> When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, “Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life.”

Acts 26:17–18 (NKJV)

<sup>17</sup> I will deliver you from the *Jewish* people, as well as *from* the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, <sup>18</sup> to

open their eyes, *in order* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan to God,...’

2 Timothy 2:25–26 (NKJV)

<sup>25</sup> in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, <sup>26</sup> and *that* they may come to their senses *and escape* the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will.

## **Belief**

John 6:64–66 (NKJV)

<sup>64</sup> **But there are some of you who do not believe.”**

For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him.

<sup>65</sup> And He said, **“Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.”**

<sup>66</sup> From that *time* many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.

**Philippians 1:29** (NKJV)

<sup>29</sup> For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,

## John 1:12–14 (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

### Confession of Jesus as Lord

#### 1 Corinthians 12:3 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

1. God commands the will of man to obey
2. Man does not have the ability to obey.

### **3. God holds mans responsible for His disobedience**

#### Romans 3:19 (NKJV)

<sup>19</sup> Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, **and all the world may become guilty before God.**

Romans 2:1 (NKJV)

**2 Therefore you are inexcusable**, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.

Romans 1:20 (NKJV)

<sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that **they are without excuse**,

Romans 2:12 (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law

Matthew 12:36 (NKJV)

<sup>36</sup> **But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.**

Ecclesiastes 12:14 (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup> For God will bring every work into judgment,

Including every secret thing,  
Whether good or evil.

Romans 2:16 (NKJV)

<sup>16</sup> in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

Hebrews 9:27 (NKJV)

<sup>27</sup> And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

Revelation 20:12 (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> 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.

***So it is pretty clear...***

***You are commanded to obey and that it is your duty to obey***

but

***You are unable to obey***

yet

***You are held accountable for your disobedience***

Or

***You are commanded to Repent, Believe, Confess and Follow***

but

***You are totally unable to Repent, Believe, Confess and Follow***

Yet

***You are held accountable for your Rejection, Rebellion and Unbelief***

Sounds Clear cut, Looks like a contradiction or a unjust requirement.

God is requiring of us something we cannot do, then holding us eternally responsible for it.

***Not so fast. It isn't that simple***

How can a sinner be held accountable for something He cannot do.

Is there a way to understand this

Jonathan Edwards and others have made a distinction between

an inability that we cannot be held liable for

and an inability that we can be held accountable for.

1. Natural inability
2. Moral inability

### **1. Natural inability— excusable**

You can't do what you most deeply want or will to do.

A Crippled person who is commanded to get up out of bed yet cannot get move and get out of bed, not because he is bound there against his will but rather is unable to get up because of physical inability is not responsible or accountable since he does not have the physical ability to get up. This



Natural inability is the “can’t” we are not accountable for.

## **2. Moral inability – not excusable**

If you are lying in the bed but won’t get up because you love lying in the bed so much that you are unwilling to leave the bed, even though you have the physical ability to move and get up, you are accountable. This Moral inability is the “can’t” that we are responsible and accountable for. We love our sin and evil so much and hate God and his Law so much that we can’t leave it.

So Accountability and Responsibility lies in Natural Ability and Moral inability.

We all have the Natural ability.

The most aggressive Atheistic and Agnostic has natural ability.

We have physical minds that can think, reason, and draw conclusions

We have physical eyes that can see

We have wills that can make choices.

We have desires that can be fulfilled

We have affections that can be satisfied.

This is why even unbelievers can understand the Bible academically. The Liberal lost university professor can tell you all the facts of the gospel and understand them academically yet remain unchanged

This is also why men are without excuse in Romans 1

Romans 1:18–20 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, ( they will be judged) who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, <sup>19</sup> because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

They suppress the truth that that know with there minds

Even though they can clearly see it and understand it.

All their natural ability makes them  
 “without Excuse”

So if they can see, and understand, who God is by the physical world through their natural ability....  
 What keeps them from coming to God and submitting to Him

### **Romans 1:21–23 (NKJV)**

<sup>21</sup> because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Professing to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against ....men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

The would not always precedes the could not.  
 The will not always precedes the cannot.  
 The love of evil and sin leads to rebellion and rejection.

It is the love of sin and evil that binds our wills from responding to the call of Christ.

### John 3:19–20 (NKJV)

<sup>19</sup> And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

1. They see the light
2. They understand that it is Light
3. They know they should come to the light
4. They bound by their love of evil, so much that it makes them hate the light.

The have natural ability to come

But

their moral inability, (love of sin and hatred of righteousness) keeps them from coming. therefore they are fully accountable.

### John 12:35–40 (NKJV)

<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “A little while longer the light is with you. Walk (command) while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. <sup>36</sup> While you have the light, believe (command) in the light, that you

**may become sons of light.”** These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them.

1. Jesus speaks directly to their will and commands them to Walk and believe.
2. He speaks to their natural ability, to comprehend and understand what he is saying.
3. He speaks to their morality and says to leave evil and come to the truth and righteousness

But their Moral inability binds them and keeps them from coming.

<sup>37</sup> But although He had done so many signs before them, **they did not believe in Him,**

The would not always precedes the could not.

The will not always precedes the cannot.

The love of evil and sin leads always leads to rebellion and rejection.

<sup>39</sup> **Therefore they could not believe**, because  
Isaiah said again:

<sup>40</sup> *“He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts,  
Lest they should see with their eyes,  
Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn,  
So that I should heal them.”*

Jeremiah 6:10 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> To whom shall I speak and give warning,  
That they may hear?  
Indeed their ear *is* uncircumcised,  
And they cannot give heed.  
Behold, the word of the Lord is a reproach to  
them;  
They have no delight in it.

So the answer to the objection that  
election

**3. makes men robots and  
eliminated free will**

## **Is not true because**

1. Men have natural abilities to see and understand and a will to choose.
2. But their love of sin blinds them to the truth and corrupts their understanding and binds their will in sin.
3. Therefore they freely and willfully reject the gospel because of their love of sin and are fully accountable for their choice to reject the claims of Christ.