

# Soteriology: Studies Concerning Salvation

4/14/2019

## Lesson 6. The Preparation for Salvation: Election

**“Salvation is of the Lord”**

 Romans 8:29-30

*“Whom He foreknew,  
and whom He predestinated,  
and whom He called,  
and whom He justified,  
He also predestinated;  
these He also called;  
these he also justified;  
these He also glorified.”*

### I. Definition:

- A. God chooses individuals or groups to be objects of His favor.
  1. Angels (I Timothy 5:21)
  2. Israel (Deuteronomy 7:6-7; 26:18)
  3. King Cyrus (Isaiah 45:1-4)
  4. Jesus Christ (Isaiah 42:1; Luke 23:35)
  5. Church age saints (I Thessalonians 1:4; II Thessalonians 2:13)
  6. Tribulation saints (Matthew 24:22, 24, 31)
- B. With respect to salvation: Election is God's unconditional and pre-temporal choice of those individuals whom He would save.
  1. "The thought expressed by the word election cannot be modified. It asserts an express intention on the part of God to confer salvation on certain persons, but not all. It is not a mere purpose to give salvation to those who may believe; it rather determines who will believe." (Lewis Sperry Chafer, Systematic Theology, Vol. 3, p. 172)
  2. "Election is that eternal act of God, by which in His sovereign pleasure, and on account of no foreseen merit in them, He chooses certain out of the number of sinful men to be the recipients of the special grace of His Spirit, and so to be made voluntarily partakers of Christ's salvation." (Strong, Systematic Theology, p. 779)
  3. "Election in the Scripture frequently refers to God's eternal decree whereby He has chosen a people from among the sinful mass of humanity and has appointed them to obtain everlasting life through our Lord Jesus Christ." (J. Oliver Buswell, A Systematic theology of the Christian Religion, Vol. 2, p. 149)

C. To elect means to choose.

1. It is God who chooses, not God choosing those who choose Him.

Psalm 65:4; Ephesians 1:4; Colossians 3:12; 1 Peter 2:4

2. Scripture does not say that man chooses God.

John 15:16, 19 *"you have not chosen Me"*

## II. Greek words:

A. eklegomai (verb)

to choose

to select someone or something for oneself

eklektos (adj.) chosen, select

Arndt & Gingrich - especially of those whom God has chosen from the generality of mankind and drawn to Himself.

eklogē (noun) active - selection, choosing

passive - that which is chosen or selected

B. heilato (middle form of haireo) to choose

II Thessalonians 2:13 (to choose someone for something)

also see Deuteronomy 7:6-7; 26:18

## III. Election occurred in eternity past.

 Ephesians 1:4 *"He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world"*

 II Thessalonians 2:13 *"God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation"*

Compare...

Romans 9:23 *"that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy which He prepared beforehand for glory"*

II Timothy 1:9 *"who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace granted us in Christ from all eternity"*

Revelation 13:8; 17:8 those who worship the beast are ones *"whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the lamb."*

## IV. Election is according to foreknowledge.

 I Peter 1:2

A. "elect

*according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, (basis)  
by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, (means)  
that you may obey Jesus Christ (purpose)  
and be sprinkled with His blood."*

B. To foreknow does not mean merely to know beforehand what will happen. Rather, foreknowledge designated and determined what will happen.

Acts 2:23 defines foreknowledge as being connected to God's predetermined plan.

C. Election is not based upon foreseen faith.

1. No scripture supports this concept of election.

    Foreknowledge is not used with respect to unbelievers.

2. The depravity of man speaks against choice based upon foreseen faith.

3. Blinding by Satan is also a hindrance to faith.

## **V. Election is based upon God's sovereign will and purpose.**

Choice is clearly according to God's purpose and will.

    He chooses. He shows mercy. He predestines. He calls.

**Book** Ephesians 1:4, 5, 7, 9, 11

    Romans 9:11-24; also see Romans 8:28

    Compare Deuteronomy 7:6-7; 26:18

**Book** Acts 13:48 "***as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.***"

## **VI. Election is motivated by God's love and grace.**

**Book** Ephesians 1:4-6 "*in love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace*"

    Compare Romans 11:5-7 "*there has also come at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious choice*"

## **VII. Election is personal. God chooses individuals.**

**Book** Ephesians 1:4            "*He chose us*"

**Book** II Thessalonians 2:13    "*God has chosen you*"

**Book** Romans 8:28-30        "*whom*"; cf. with :33 "*God's elect.*"

**Book** Revelation 13:8        Individual's names are written in the book of life.

    Also note Romans 9:11    God chose Jacob but not Esau.

## **VIII. Election is to salvation. God chooses individuals to be saved.**

**Book** II Thessalonians 2:13-14 "*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.*"

    (Note: Sanctification and faith are the means of salvation, not the basis of election.)

**Book** II Timothy 2:10 "*For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.*"

- BOOK Romans 11:7 "That which Israel is seeking for, it has not obtained, but those who were chosen obtained it, and the rest were hardened;"
- BOOK Acts 13:48 "When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. Also I Peter 2:9; believers are "a chosen race... a people for God's own possession"

#### **IX. Election should have an effect upon our daily Christian life.**

- BOOK Ephesians 1:4 "that we should be holy and blameless before Him"

- BOOK I Peter 2:9 "that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light"

- BOOK II Thessalonians 2:13 "we should always give thanks"

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