

GOD'S GRACIOUS AND ETERNAL ELECTION OF SINNERS TO BE HIS HOLY PEOPLE: UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

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Introduction: Consider Ephesians 1:3-6. Isn't it amazing that when Paul contemplates why God should be praised, the first thought that comes to his mind and off his pen is this: Blessed be God for choosing us, before the foundation of the world, to be His holy and blameless people, in and through His Son. Far from being avoided as "problematic" or "divisive," the doctrine of election is glorious as the first expression of God's rich and free grace in Christ. Were it not for election, we would not be saved!

I. Definition of Unconditional Election – God's gracious choice, made in eternity past, of those whom he would save by faith through the atoning death of his Son, a choice based not upon anything that those so chosen would do, or any choice that they would make, or on how good or bad they might be, or on anything else specifically true about them (i.e., their qualities, characters, decisions, or actions) in contrast to others, but rather based only upon God's own love, good pleasure, and will.

II. Select Biblical Support for Unconditional Election

John 10:25–26 – ²⁵ Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me. ²⁶ But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep."

John 17:2 – even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life.

Ephesians 1:4–5 – ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵ He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will (cf. 2 Tim 1:9)

Acts 13:48–49 – 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. ⁴⁹ And the word of the Lord was being spread through the whole region.

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

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.

2 Timothy 2:10 – For this reason I endure all things [suffering, affliction, imprisonment in his missionary journeys] for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.

III. Main Reasons People Question Unconditional Election

A. God's universal love for the world (John 3:16), and his desire for all to be saved (2 Pet 3:9), show that unconditional election cannot be true.

B. If we are free and responsible for our choices, it must be up to us whether we believe or not.

C. If the elect must be saved and the non-elect cannot be saved, what is the point of prayer and evangelism?