

Unconditional Election

Introduction:

- A. If Calvinism be true, we may as well go home, close this building, forget about preaching the gospel and simply live our lives in abject terror.
- B. This is true because of the Calvinistic doctrine of unconditional election.
- C. Did God unconditionally choose before the world all individuals to be either saved or lost?
- I. The Bible does teach a doctrine of “predestination” and “election.”
 - A. God did “predestinate” certain things. - Ephesians 1:3-11
 - 1. “to mark out beforehand, to determine before, foreordain” (Vine. 1:305)
 - 2. “decide beforehand” (Thayer. 541)
 - B. He has an “elect.” - 1 Peter 1:1-2 (“picked out, chosen” - Vine. 2:21; so Thayer. 197)
 - C. He did “foreknow.” - Romans 8:29
 - D. He did “choose.” - Ephesians 1:4
- II. But the Bible does **not** teach the unconditional election of individuals.

A. Unconditional Election:

The doctrine of election declares that God, before the foundations of the world, chose certain individuals from among the fallen members of Adam's race to be the objects of his undeserved favor. These, and only these, He purposed to save.... His eternal choice of particular sinners unto salvation was not based upon any foreseen act or response on the part of those selected, but was based solely on His own good pleasure and sovereign will. This election was not determined by, or conditioned upon, anything that man would do, but resulted entirely from God's self-determined purpose (Five Points. 30).

B. the Bible's teaching concerning choosing - Ephesians 1:4

- 1. “in him”
- 2. “that we should be holy”

C. differences

- 1. The predestination of Calvinism involves the **unconditional** election of **particular individuals** to be saved and others to be lost.
- 2. The predestination of the Bible involves an elect **group** (the church) of saved to which **all** may be added **conditioned upon** their faith in and obedience to the gospel. - Ephesians 3:9-10; Acts 2:47; Revelation 22:17

III. Why is the doctrine of unconditional election false?

- A. It makes God a respecter of persons. - Acts 10:34-35; Romans 2:11; 10:12-13; Ephesians 6:9; Colossians 3:25; 1 Peter 1:17
- B. It means God wills the damnation of people. - Ezekiel 18:32; 1 Timothy 2:3-4; 2 Peter 3:9
- C. It makes a mockery of the Lord's invitation. - Matthew 11:28-30; Revelation 22:17
- D. It makes the work of Satan absurd. - 1 Peter 5:8
- E. It denies that human action is the basis of God's judgment. - 2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:12-13

Conclusion:

- A. Your election is based upon your faith in and obedience to the gospel. - 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14
- B. Will you accept His invitation and become one of God's elect? - Revelation 22:17