

Lesson 37
The Nature of Election - Part I
Eph 1:3-14

It always seems inexplicable to me that those who claim free will so very boldly for man should not also allow some free will to God. Why should not Jesus Christ have the right to choose his own bride?

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

If the elect could perish then Jesus Christ should be very unfaithful to His Father because God the Father hath given this charge to Christ, that whomsoever He elected, Christ should preserve them safe, to bring them to heaven. John 6:39. Christopher Love

If there is one single molecule in this universe running around loose, totally free of God's sovereignty, then we have no guarantee that a single promise of God will ever be fulfilled. R.C. Sproul

How is it that some of us are converted, while our companions in sin are left to persevere in their godless career? Was there anything good in us that moved the heart of God to save us? God forbid that we should indulge the blasphemous thought! Charles Haddon Spurgeon

The ultimate test of our spirituality, is the measure of our amazement at the grace of God. Martyn Lloyd Jones

Grace is favor shown to people who do not deserve any favor at all. We deserve nothing but Hell! If you think you *deserve* Heaven—then you are not a Christian. Martin Lloyd Jones

Most Christians salute the sovereignty of God but believe in the sovereignty of man. R. C. Sproul

The marvel of marvels is not that God, in His infinite love, has not elected all this guilty race to be saved, but that He has elected any. B.B. Warfield

Like the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and the miraculous birth of our Savior, the truth of election must be received with simple, unquestioning faith. A.W. Pink

From the Word of God I gather that damnation is all of man, from top to bottom, and salvation is all of grace, from first to last. He that perishes chooses to perish; but he that is saved is saved because God has chosen to save him. Charles Haddon Spurgeon

When you go through a trial, the sovereignty of God is the pillow upon which you lay your head. Charles Haddon Spurgeon

The prayer of a Christian is not an attempt to force God's hand, but a humble acknowledgement of helpless dependence...what we do every time we pray is to confess our own impotence and God's sovereignty. J.I. Packer

The Nature of Election

1. After considering the Scriptures we have previously looked at regarding God's sovereignty in salvation, it is clear that "election" is used within Bible terminology with "multiple senses." Read these Scriptures and see if you can identify three helpful ways to categorize election:
 - 1.) Num 16:5-7; Hag 2:23; 1 Pet 2:4; Acts 1:2 _____ election.
 - 2.) Deut 10:14-15; Ps 33:12; Amos 3:2; Acts 17:26 _____ election.
 - 3.) Neh 9:7-8; Jn 13:17-18; Acts 13:48; Rom 16:13; 1 Cor 1:27-31; Eph 1:3-14; 1 Thess 1:4; 5:9; Col 3:12; 2 Thess 2:13; 2 Tim 2:10 and _____ salvific election.
2. Based upon what you have learned, and these following Scriptures, how do we know that election is more than simply a corporate reality? Ex 33:12, 17-19; Isa 45:4; Jn 10:14, 27-28 cf. 17:20-21; 6:37, 39, 44, 64-65, 17:2, 6
3. Read these passages and explain how intimately personal sovereign election unto salvation really is. Rev 13:8; 17:8; 21:27
4. Do not miss the clear timing of when election takes place (Jn 17:24; Eph 1:4; 2 Tim 1:9; Tit 1:1-2; Phil 1:29; 1 Pet 1:2, 20). How does that truth help clarify why election is not based upon man's works but God's will (Rom 9:10-11)?
5. Therefore, what is meant by the fact that election is unconditional (Ps 115:3; 135:6; Isa 46:8-10; Dan 4:34-35; Eph 1:11; Rom 9:9-13)?
6. What is the ultimate basis or foundation for election unto salvation (Deut 7:7-8; Eph 1:4-5; Rom 9:16; Ex 33:19)?
7. What does the Bible mean when it speaks of God's "foreknowledge" of man (1 Pet 1:2) or being "foreknown" by God (Rom 8:28), and does this support conditional election where by God chooses

man based upon what He sees man do? We will deal with this more next class but this will get you thinking about it!

10 Reasons why being a "Sovereignly Chosen People" matters to the life and ministry of the Church!

1. Being a "Sovereignly Chosen People" crushes pride, arrogance, and self-centeredness in the Church! A **biblical** understanding of election elements any thought of boasting, judge mental spirit, and racism! Because of who we are as "God's Chosen People" we think and act humbly and sacrificially not arrogantly and selfishly! (1 Cor 1:26-2:5; 1 Pet 2:11-12; 5:1-5; Col 3:12-17; Rom 12:9-13; Phil 2:1-10)
2. Being a "Sovereignly Chosen People" is the platform for the greatest exaltation, adoration, and proclamation of God by the Church! No greater reason to praise God then exalting Him for being Him! (1 Pet 2:9-10, 3:15; Eph 1:3-14; Rom 11:33-36; 2 Thess 2:13-14...praise God for you!)
3. Being a "Sovereignly Chosen People" instigates a pursuit of holiness in the Church that is rightfully driven by what God has said, who God is and what God has done through Christ! Our personal and fervent training ourselves to godliness is always based on what God has done. The indicatives of Scripture ground and guide the Church's pursuit to fulfill the imperatives! (Ex 19:4-6, 20:18-20; Deut 10:14-22; Rom 8:28-30; Eph 1:3-4; 1 Pet 1:15-21; 2:9-12; 2 Pet 2:10-11; Col 1:22)
4. Being a "Sovereignly Chosen People" establishes strength, security, and the stability of eternal hope for the Church that can never be lost even though all else seems to fade! This is the very reason Peter writes to these suffering and persecuted believers that they might be encouraged exiles as they remember that though they have been ridiculed and rejected by the world they have been personally chosen and eternally redeemed by God! (Phil 2:12-13; 1 Pet 1:3-9; 2:1-10; 5:6-11; Rom 8:33-39...AWESOME; 1 Thess 5:24; Heb 13:20-21)!
5. Being a "Sovereignly Chosen People" establishes a foundation of God centered joy for the Church that never fails, disappoints, or discourages! Joy is the heartbeat of the chosen and it is God centered joy along the difficult and disastrous journey of life that grabs the attention of a watching world. (Luke 10:20; Acts 11:18; 1 Cor 1:30-31; Eph 1:6,12,14; Phil 1:6; Rom 11:33-36; 1 Pet 2:6-7; 3:12-17; Col 1:12-14; 1 Thess 5:24; Rev 7:9-17, 13:8, 17:8,14, 21:9-27)!
6. Being a "Sovereignly Chosen People" establishes an undeniable purpose and passion for the Church that makes her eagerly responsible to God for all of life and ministry! God did not choose a people so that they could live however they want but He chose a people that would be His own treasured

possession who are zealous for doing His work. (Jn 15:15; Rom 12:1-21; Eph 2:10, 4:1-16; 1 Pet 2:9-10; 2 Cor 5:14-15; Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-11; 2 Thess 2:13-15; Col 3:1-17)

7. Being a “Sovereignly Chosen People” establishes the priority and precious nature of the Church in the eternal plan of God. The Church is not an afterthought or plan B in the eternal counsel of God but the primary means for spreading His gospel across the globe as He prepares for His coming kingdom. (Mt 11:25-30, 16:18, 22:14, 28:18-20; Lk 24:45-49; Jn 6:36-37, 44, 15:15, 17:1-26; Acts 1:6-8, 2:38, 42-47, 9:4-6, 13:48, 16:14; Rom 11:25-32; Eph 2:11-22, 3:1-21, 5:25; Col 1:24-2:7; Titus 1:1-9, 2:1-10; 1 Tim 3:1-15; 2 Timothy 2:10, 1 Pet 1:1, 2:4-5; Rev 3:7-13)

8. Being a “Sovereignly Chosen People” establishes the Church as God’s primary means in declaring the gospel to the world as He brings many unbelievers to eternal glory! Peter makes it clear, as well as the rest of the New Testament, that God chose and appointed the Church to be His ambassadors to proclaim His message, honor His Word, exalt His Son, and disciple His sheep that the lost might find eternal hope. (Mt 28:18-20; Acts 1:6-8, 13:1-3, 14:21-23; 2 Cor 5:16-6:2; Phil 2:14-18; 1 Pet 2:9-12, 3:12-17; 1 Timothy 3:15; 2 Timothy 2:10; Titus 1:1-2; 3:1-3 Col 4:5-6; Rom 11:11-32; Jude 22-25)

9. Being a “Sovereignly Chosen People” establishes the greatest confidence and encouragement to God centered evangelism in and through the Church while ministering in and to a fallen and lost world! Sadly, many have thought that God’s sovereignty in salvation kills biblical evangelism but that kind of thinking is not so according to the Bible. Believers, serving as the ambassadors of Christ, have an unwavering assurance that God knows those who are His and the Lord will use His powerful Word, as passionately and accurately proclaimed through the Christian, to draw His people to Himself at just the right time. (Mt 11:25-30, 16:18, 28:18-20; Jn 1:12-13, 6:35-44, 17:20-26; 2 Cor 5:6-10, 14-6:2; 1 Pet 2:11-12, 3:15; Acts 2:39, 47; 13:48, **18:8-11**, 28:28-31; Rom 11:25-32; 2 Tim 2:8-13, 19; Titus 1:1-2; James 1:18; 1 Thess 1:2-10; 2 Thess 2:13-14)

10. Being a “Sovereignly Chosen People” establishes a patient and persevering perspective in the Church especially amidst ministry perplexities, problems and persecutions. Living as exiles in a foreign land is not easy as believers grow more and more in their understanding that this world is not our home. Knowing that God has chosen us for the glorious task of representing Him and that He is working out everything for His glory and the good of those who are His is most comforting amidst the confusion and chaos of this world. (Rom 5:1-11, 8:18, 28-39; 2 Cor 4:16-18; 1 Pet 1:3-11, 5:6-11; Mt 24:22; Jn 6:37-39; James 1:2-4; 1 Thess 5:24; Jude 24-25; Phil 1:6, 2:12-13, 3:12-4:1; Heb 13:5, 13:20-21)