

Lesson 38
The Nature of Election - Part II

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. Martyn 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

Review

Over the last few weeks we have learned, from the Scriptures, a lot about this doctrine of “election” and how it is really a subset of God’s eternal, unconditional, unstoppable, and exhaustive decree! Election ultimately means **God’s Choice!** Election at its most basic level means that God purposely and specifically chooses people, nations, individuals for temporal tasks, roles, functions and even specific individuals for eternal salvation. We have seen many different people, vocational positions, and temporal tasks that God has chosen and accomplished through nations and individuals. A very helpful and biblically sound definition of election in regards to salvation would be...*The sovereign free determination of God where He, in eternity past, specifically chooses certain individuals on the basis of nothing in themselves but solely because of His good pleasure and love, to save from sin and eternal damnation.* Remember and joyfully remind yourself of the 10 statements we went over in the Lesson 37 regarding the positive and practical impact a right understanding of this doctrine has on the life of a godly man. The Bible is very clear that this doctrine of election is above all else a blessing! Listen to the clarity of Scripture Ps 65:4 says... “*Blessed is the one you choose and bring near to dwell in your courts.*” The NKJV highlights the sovereign work of God in bringing his people to himself when it translates that verse as “*Blessed is the man you choose, and cause to approach you that he may dwell in your courts.*” The improper handling of this doctrine has caused much consternation in the Church, yet in the Bible, God makes it very clear that this doctrine is an

eternal blessing! Now, let's keep training ourselves to godliness by driving the roots of our faith deeper as we grow further in awe of God's sovereign grace given to Christians even before they believed!

1. Look up and define "foreknowledge" from the dictionary.
2. How does Peter use the same Greek word [*proginosko*] meaning "foreknowledge" for Christ in Acts 2:23 and "foreknown" in 1 Pet 1:20?
3. Read Rom 11:2. How does Paul use the same Greek word "foreknew" in this passage, and is there any correlation to what is said in Amos 3:2?
4. Is Israel the only people "known" by God?
5. Interestingly, consider how in Amos 3:2 the Hebrew word [*yada*] "to know" is translated in the ESV verses NASB or NKJV cf. with Gen 18:19.
6. What is meant when the same Hebrew word "to know" is used in Gen 4:1 and 4:25 cf. 4:17; 19:5, 8; 24:16; 38:26; Judg 11:39; 1 Sam 1:19 cf. Mt 1:25?
7. Another connection to be made here is with a very similar Greek term [*ginosko*] also meaning "to know" that is often used in a salvific sense in the New Testament. Look up these verses and explain how the term "to know" is being used. Mt 7:23; 1 Cor 8:3; Gal 4:9; 2 Tim 2:19
8. How does Jesus use the term in Jn 10:14, 27; 17:3 cf. Mt 7:23?

9. How can Jesus not know someone (Mt 7:23) and yet at the same time know every idle word that has been or ever will be spoken (Mt 12:36 cf. Jn 21:17)?

10. Read Romans 9:11-18 and write down at least five observations or truths about election that flow through this passage.

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

11. After this long study on election give scriptural support that proves that the Bible presents this topic:

1. As a comfort to believers;

2. As an instigation to worship;

3. As an encouragement to evangelism.

12. Explain from Scripture how this doctrine kills pride and drives humility in the believer. How does rightfully understanding this root of godliness help you further train yourself to godliness?