

Sovereign Unconditional Election

Intro.

Sovereign unconditional election is a huge subject. It covers multiple major subjects such as:

- the sovereignty of God
- the determined and desired will of God
- man's fallenness and inability
- grace
- the callings of God
- free will
- man's responsibility
- foreknowledge
- predestination
- evangelism
- the Book of Life
- The glory of God

I have, during my teaching ministry over the years, given 6 different all-day bible conferences on the subject. It really needs 7-8 hours to cover this subject. On the following pages I have tried to summarize what the issue is and what Scripture has to say about it. This paper is designed to be a quick reference for you now and in the future. Every believer is on a spiritual journey of studying, learning, and growing. This subject usually takes time to understand and accept. You may need to study it, then put it on a back burner and let it simmer for a bit and then revisit it at some future point. That's ok. Some truths of scripture take longer than others to understand and believe.

The Issue

WHAT THE ISSUE IS NOT:

First let's start with what the issue is not. This is not a battle between Calvinism and Arminianism, even though there are many who like us to believe it is. I stay away from labels. In fact I detest them. Why? Because labels come with baggage. And each side of this debate has plenty of baggage. If you label yourself a Calvinist, then in people's minds they have a certain caricature of what a Calvinist is to them. Same way with an Arminian. They are filled with baggage. If someone asks me if I am a Calvinist or an Arminian, I say neither. I am a Biblicist. I explain that a Biblicist is not trying to defend what others believe but only what the text of scripture says. It does not matter what John Calvin believed or Jacob Arminius believed. That's not important. It only matters what the scripture says.

HERE IS WHAT THE REAL ISSUE IS:

- Is God sovereign over all things?
- Is man in a helpless "dead" state and incapable of choosing God for his salvation?
- Is God unfair to select some for salvation and not others?

Let's look at what the scriptures tell us . . .

“SCRIPTURES ON ELECTION”

Eph 1:4

4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.

Acts 13:48

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.

John 15:16

16 "You did not choose Me but I chose you,

John 1:12-13

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,

13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 6:37

37 "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.

John 6:44

44 "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him;

John 6:65

65 And He was saying, "For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father."

Matt 11:27

27 "All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.

Matt 7:13-14

13 "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.

14 "For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Matt 22:14

"For many are called, but few are chosen."

John 3:8

8 "The **wind blows where it wishes** and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Eph 1:5

5 **He predestined us** to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

Eph 1:11

11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been **predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will**,

Rom 8:29-30

29 For **those whom He foreknew, He also predestined** to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

30 and **these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.**

2 Thess 2:13

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 . . .**

James 1:18

18 In the **exercise of His will He brought us forth** by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

Col 3:12

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 Tim 2:10

10 Therefore I endure all things **for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus** with eternal glory.

1 Thess 1:4

4 knowing, brethren beloved by God, **His choice of you;**

1 Peter 1:3

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

2 Peter 1:10

10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and **choosing you**;

2 Tim 1:9

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 which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,**

Matt 24:22-31

22 "Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the **sake of the elect** those days will be cut short

24 "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.

31 "And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER **His elect** from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

Rom 8:33

33 Who will bring a charge against **God's elect**? God is the one who justifies;

2 John 1

1 The Elder,

To the **elect lady** and her children,

2 John 13

13 The children of your **elect sister** greet you. Amen.

Titus 1:1

1 Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ,
according to the faith of **God's elect**

1 Peter 1:1-2

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia,
Asia, and Bithynia,

2 **elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father,**

1 Peter 5:13

13 She who is in Babylon, **elect** together with you, greets you; and
so does Mark my son.

Jer 24:6-7

6 'For **I will** set My eyes on them for good, and **I will** bring them
again to this land; and **I will** build them up and not overthrow
them, and **I will** plant them and not pluck them up.

7 '**I will** give them a heart to know Me, for I am the Lord; and they
will be My people, and **I will** be their God, for they will return to
Me with their whole heart.

Rom 9:1-23

- 1 I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit,
- 2 that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart.
- 3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh,
- 4 who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises,
- 5 whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.
- 6 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. **For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel;**
- 7 **nor are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants,** but: "THROUGH ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL BE NAMED."
- 8 That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants.
- 9 For this is the word of promise: "AT THIS TIME I WILL COME, AND SARAH SHALL HAVE A SON."

- 10 And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived twins by one man, our father Isaac;
- 11 for though the twins were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to His choice would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls,
- 12 it was said to her, "THE OLDER WILL SERVE THE YOUNGER."
- 13 Just as it is written, "JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED."
- 14 What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be!
- 15 For He says to Moses, "I WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHOM I HAVE MERCY, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOM I HAVE COMPASSION."
- 16 So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.
- 17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE I RAISED YOU UP, TO DEMONSTRATE MY POWER IN YOU, AND THAT MY NAME MIGHT BE PROCLAIMED THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EARTH."
- 18 So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires.

- 19 You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?"
- 20 On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, "Why did you make me like this," will it?
- 21 Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use?
- 22 What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction?
- 23 And He did so to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory,

Here are 4 observations about these verses:

1. It is obvious that these verses present a God who is in charge, in control. He is the One who initiates, who calls, who chooses, and who brings it all to pass. God is the ultimate planner, ultimate administrator, and the ultimate One to carry out every detail of His plan.
2. It all begins in eternity past. To use a comparison I have used before, God, the Divine Painter, brought a “blank canvas” and filled it with His plan in eternity past, which included all events, all places, and all people. Every space on the canvas is filled. Nothing is wasted.
3. There is no place for randomness, coincidence, luck, and chance.
4. Everything is purposeful.

God Chose –

1. Angels

I Tim 5:21

21 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of His **chosen** angels,

2. Abraham – Neh. 9:7

3. Israel – Ex. 20:5; Ps 132:13

4. Isaac - Gen. 21:12

5. Jacob – Rom 9:8-15

6. Zerubbabel – Haggai 2:23

7. Jesus Christ – Is. 42:1; 1 Pet. 2:6

8. Disciples – Jn. 15:16

9. Paul – Gal. 1:15

*In reality, EVERYTHING God does, He has elected to do.

*God has chosen the plan, therefore God chooses all those who will carry out the plan.

- Even though God does the choosing, He still holds man responsible (Rom. 9:19,20). He is held responsible in 2 ways:
 1. By being in Adam. (Rom 5:18,19)
 2. For personal rejection. (Jn. 3:18,36)
- The following diagram ties together the major aspects of biblical election.
- Look at it carefully and then on the following page I will explain what the diagram means.

THE 3 PILLARS OF ELECTION

ELECTION

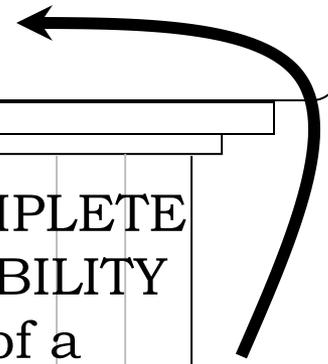
SOVEREIGNTY
of
GOD



GLORY
of
GOD



COMPLETE
INABILITY
of a
SPIRITUALLY
DEAD
MAN



God is the ultimate source of everything. God knew all possible plans He could put into existence.

A B C D E... Infinity

God chose the plan that would most fully display ALL of His attributes. (glorify Him the most).

(A) B C D E... Infinity

The plan included the fall of man and man's resultant spiritual "deadness". That means that man is incapable on his own of choosing God.

Note the following about the diagram:

1. Election rests on the support of 3 pillars.
2. **The first is the Sovereignty of God.** God is in control, as we have seen in verse after verse. He is sovereign. That is what it means to be God. As Spurgeon has explained - His sovereignty is so deep that it covers every detail included the trajectory of a dust particle as it floats in the air.

Think of Rom. 8:28 and your life –

28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

This tells us God is in control of our lives and all events that surround us.

He causes **ALL** things to work together for our good. That includes good things, holy things, righteous things, His Word, other believers, it also includes our job, our family, our community, our government, and it also includes bad things, evil things, suffering, temptation, even our sin He uses to work for our good as we can learn and grow from our disobedience.

We love this verse, don't we? It is so all-encompassing. And the foundation of the verse is the sovereignty of God.

3. The second pillar is the Glory of God. God's purpose in all that He has created and all that He does is to display His glory (which are all of His attributes – love, grace, mercy, omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence, holiness, righteousness, justice – to name a few). The plan God put together most fully accomplishes that perfectly. The salvation of man is not God's ultimate purpose. Displaying His glory is. Evil, sin, wickedness all serve as a backdrop for the brilliance of God's glory. Without them we would not realize nor understand just how majestic, how magnificent, how great God is in all of His perfections.

It is like a jeweler displaying his diamonds. He displays them against a black velvet background. Why? Because he knows it will enhance the qualities of the diamond. They sparkle, they shine, and reflect light because of their many facets. The black background causes the diamond to be seen in all of its purity, complexity, and brilliance.

The same principle is seen when painting. A painter was once asked, "how do you make white, whiter?" His answer was, "you put black next to it."

The world we live in is "black", but the diamonds of God's attributes and the works of His hands all display how great and mighty He is.

In eternity past God knew all possible plans -

Ⓐ B C D E F G → infinity

Plan that would bring Him the most glory -
most fully display His attributes.

Eph 1:3-14

- 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,
- 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,
- 6 **to the praise of the glory of His grace**, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.
- 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace
- 8 which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight
- 9 He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him
- 10 with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him
- 11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,
- 12 to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be **to the praise of His glory**.
- 13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation — having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,
- 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, **to the praise of His glory**.

4. **The third pillar is the inability of a “dead man.”** The fall was a part of the plan designed in eternity.

1 Peter 1:18-20

18 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,

19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

20 **For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world,**

- According to Eph. 2:1-3, every man comes into this world “D.O.A.” – dead on arrival. Dead because of what sin has done to him.
- “Dead” is an air-tight term. There is no wiggle room. You are either dead or you are not.
- Man is dead in his sins. He is unable to respond to any spiritual stimulus.
- Many Christians see man in a hospital, spiritually sick, maybe on life-support, but still has the ability to decide to open his mouth to receive the medicine.
- But man is not in a hospital, he is in a morgue. Dead.
- Man needs an outside source to breathe life into him. He can’t do it on his own. He has no ability.
- Eph. 2:4,5 tells us that it is Christ who makes us alive. He enables us to respond.
- Therefore man is incapable of choosing God on his own –

Rom 3:10-11

"THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;

11 THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS,

THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;

- Therefore if lost man is ever found, it was not because man did the seeking but it was God (as all of the verses we looked at explain.)

“You contribute nothing to your salvation except the sin that made it necessary.”

— Jonathan Edwards

Eph 2:1,2,4-9

- 1 And you were **dead** in your trespasses and sins,
- 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.
- 4 **But God**, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,
- 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, **made us alive** together with Christ (**by grace you have been saved**),
- 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
- 7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
- 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;
- 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Rom 5:6

- 6 For while we were still **helpless**, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

Rom 3:10-12

10 as it is written,

"THERE IS **NONE RIGHTEOUS**, NOT EVEN ONE;

11 THERE IS **NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS**,

THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;

12 ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME
USELESS;

THERE IS **NONE WHO DOES GOOD**,

THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE."

1 Cor 2:14

14 But a **natural man** does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and **he cannot understand them**, because they are spiritually appraised.

Because of man's inability, God must do a work in man so that he can respond to the call for salvation:

1. God makes him alive.

Eph 2:5

5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, **made us alive** together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

2. God grants him repentance.

2 Tim 2:25-26

25 if perhaps **God may grant them repentance** leading to the knowledge of the truth,

26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

3. God gives him the faith to believe.

Eph 2:8

8 For by grace you have been saved **through faith**; and that not of yourselves, **it is the gift of God**;

Implications:

1. Man has no spiritual, living nature to incline him to do anything for the glory of God by relying on his power to do so.
2. Man is therefore dead to righteousness, dead to holiness, dead to obedience and dead to faith.
3. Whatever thoughts man thinks, or whatever feelings man feels, or whatever deeds man does, they were not the thoughts, feelings, and deeds that were of the Spirit but of the flesh.
4. Therefore nothing man thinks, feels, and does is spiritual because man is spiritually dead.
5. In this state of death, man is utterly unable to respond to any spiritual stimulus and therefore is unable to love God, obey God, please God, or do any good in any way that would merit salvation.
6. If you leave any hope for fallen man to accomplish anything spiritually, to have any ability, regardless how small, to be able to contribute anything to his salvation, you are rejecting what the Bible says about man's total inability.

Eternity Past

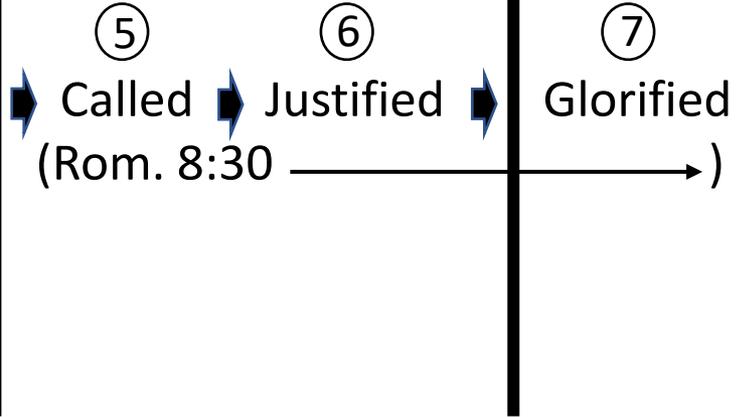
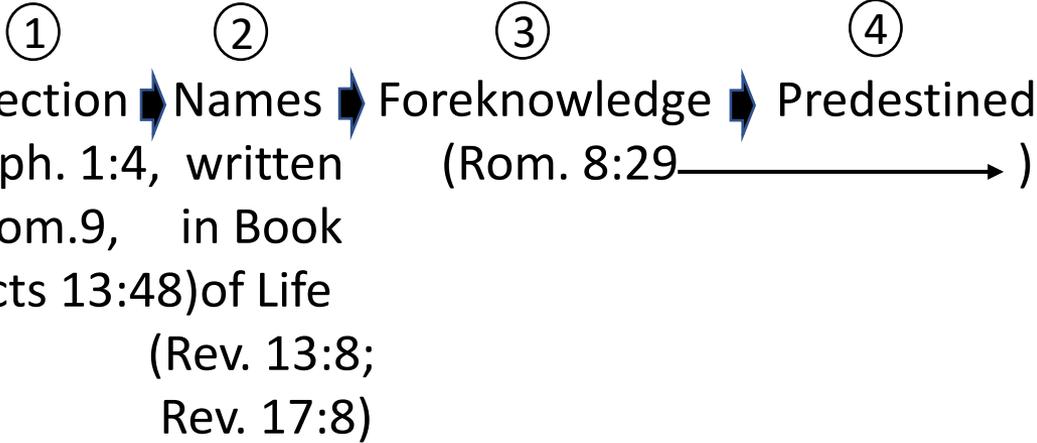
Foundation of the world

Time

Eternity

Future

Divine Decrees



- So the third pillar leaves us without hope.
- But that is where election comes in.
- Scripture says God is the one who has chosen those whom He will save.
- Does He have to save any? No. God is under no obligation to save anyone.
- It will be by His great grace that anyone will be saved.
- Because God alone is responsible for my salvation, God alone will receive all of the glory.
- So the arrow on the right side of the diagram leads us to our only hope and that is to election.
- If God does not intervene, man is lost. Forever.
- So on what basis does God elect someone? Is it because of their looks, intelligence, wealth, knowledge, wisdom, fame? No. His election is **unconditional**. That means there are no conditions. The reason why someone was chosen in eternity past lies wholly with the One doing the choosing and not the one chosen.

Let's look at other subjects that relate to Election . . .

Free Will

When people ask me if I believe in “free will”, I tell them, yes, but then I define it. Free will very simply is choosing what I want. The key word here is “want.” That means that man will always choose according to his strongest inclinations (desires). Fallen man will always make choices based on his old sin nature, the flesh. It is not until fallen man is reborn, does he get a new nature that now wants to please Christ.

People, in their minds and worldviews create universes that they want to live in. People want to live in a universe where man is free, self-determining. But a universe where man has ultimate self-determination just doesn't exist. If having such a universe would bring more glory to God, then it would exist.

We will always do what we want to do.

4 major problems with Ultimate Self-Determining Free Will:

1. You cannot pray for someone's salvation if USDFW will is all-important and needs to be guarded. If God were to act or intervene, He would violate the person's free-will. Therefore God's hands are tied.
2. There is no explanation, apart from election, for why you became a believer and your neighbor or friend or relative did not. If the answer is found in you (more intelligent, more spiritually sensitive, more moral, etc.), then you have produced self-righteousness and you will get the credit for your salvation, which is unfair for those without your attributes.
3. If USDFW is true, then the eternal destiny of unbelieving man depends on the faithfulness and persuasion of a believer. That is a scary thought. Someone could spend an eternity in hell because of the failure of someone to witness.
4. Matt. 7:13,14 is false – there is no narrow way and “few that find it”, and there is no broad way and “many that find it.” The destinies of mankind are totally up for grabs. If man has USDFW, who knows what he will choose.

No one will come screaming and kicking into the Kingdom of God because he does not want to be there.

And no one will be kept out of the Kingdom of God who wants to enter.

The Calling of God

2 calls:

External or general Call – goes out to everyone. It is a call to respond to the gospel. (Matt. 22:14)

Internal or effective Call – goes out to the elect and they respond positively to the gospel. (Rom. 8:30)

God's Will

1 Will - 2 Dimensions:

1. God's Determined Will - what He has determined will happen.

- It is revealed.
- This is what He has decreed in eternity past.
- We do not know it until after it has happened.

2. God's Desired Will - what He desires to happen.

- revealed in His Word.

• God wills the "greater good". It may be His desired will or it may not be.

• God determines for any given situation what will best put on display His divine attributes and therefore achieve His divine purposes.

Example: The death of Christ. See the following page. God's **desired will** is for no one to be murdered. However in the death of His Son, God's determined will was that His Son would be murdered. His Determined Will trumped His Desired will for the greater good.

Let's look at it . . .

Desired Will

Ex 20:13

13 "You shall not murder.

Determined Will

Acts 2:23

23 this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.

Acts 4:27-28

27 "For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,

28 to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.

Here is another example that is often brought up -

God's Desired Will

2 Peter 3:9

9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not **wishing** for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

1 Tim 2:3-4

3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

4 who **desires** all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

So the glaring question is: why then aren't all men saved if God desires it?

- Maybe God doesn't have the power to save everyone.
- Maybe God is lying.
- We know both of those are not true, so there must be something that trumps or is greater than God's desire for all men to be saved.

You basically have 3 choices:

1. Satan prevents it from happening. No, God is greater than Satan.
2. Man's free will prevents it from happening. No – see next page.
3. God's **determined will** supersedes his desired will. Yes.

2 Pet 3:9 & 1 Tim. 2:4

If it is freewill that trumps God's desire, then that creates 3 problems:

1. For the sake of free will, the majority of the human race will spend all of eternity in Hell.
2. You have now created a circle outside of the sovereignty of God, along with chance, luck, coincidence, and randomness. You are saying man can exist and act apart from God. No one gets glory. God is not Omniscient (which is Open Theism) of what goes on in that circle.
3. You have reduced God to something other than what the Bible says about Him – loving, Omnipotent, Omniscient, Sovereign. That is idolatry.

Evangelism and Prayer

If God elects those who are to be saved, why evangelize or pray? Because evangelism and prayer are the means by which the elect are saved. Remember being elect does not mean you are saved.

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Grace

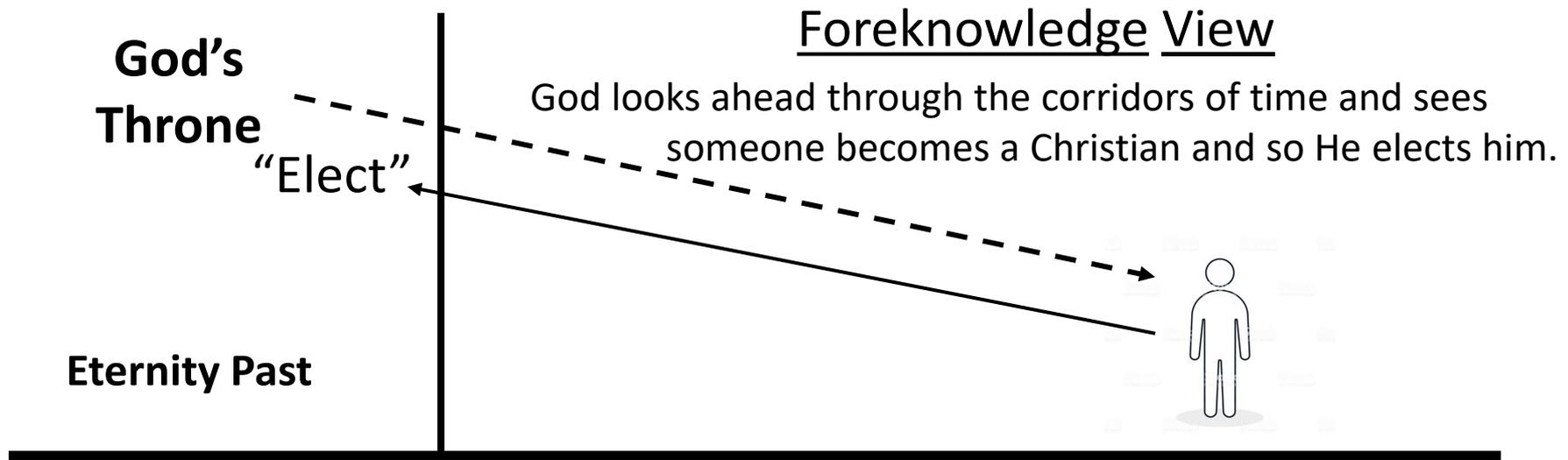
God's grace acts totally on its own. It takes the initiative. It acts not out of obligation. Therefore election is a display of God's grace.

Predestination

Election has a goal. God chooses men for salvation and then predestines them to be "conformed to the image of His Son."

Foreknowledge

There are those who have tried to explain election by using what is called "the foreknowledge view." See the following 2 pages.



Problems with this view:

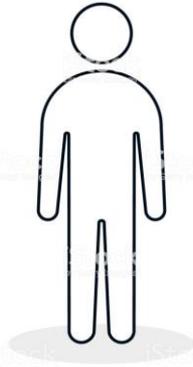
1. Man's salvation is left to "luck and chance". God's sovereignty has no part in it. So are the people at the Great White Throne Judgment just "unlucky"?
2. If God can see events in the future as certain, then they are fixed, and if fixed, then man still is not free to choose. So again this view doesn't solve anything.
3. It goes against the Jacob and Esau example in Rom. 9:11,16. Election is not based on what happens in the future.

4. Contradicts “You did not choose me but I chose you . . .”
Jn. 15:16 God, in this view, is a responder to man’s actions, not the other way around. God’s decision is dependent on my decision.
5. It contradicts the statement in Rom. 3:10 that no man seeks God. This view says that man does seek God on his own.
6. Too limited in its definition of “foreknowledge”. To “foreknow” (προγινωσκω) means to have a “predetermined” intimate relationship with someone. It means to “forelove”. It means more than to have a mere knowledge of what will happen. (Jer. 1:5; Gen. 4:17; Matt:1:25; Amos 3:2; Is. 49:1; Ex. 33:17; Matt. 7:23; Jn. 10:14,15; Acts 2:23; 2 Tim. 2:19)

**This is the view that produced Open Theism which denies God’s Omniscience for the sake of having a future that has not been determined.

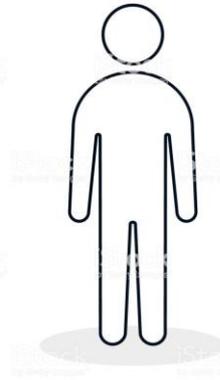
Here, on the next slide, is something to think through . . .

A



Why?

B



1. Both **A** and **B** are presented with the gospel.
2. **A** responds positively, repents, and puts his trust in Christ alone for salvation.
3. **B** rejects the gospel and dies in his sins.
4. Why does **A** receive the gospel and **B** does not?
5. Is **A** more intelligent, more spiritually sensitive, more moral, more good, than **B**, and therefore those are the reasons?
6. If the answer is yes then you have produced a self-righteousness in **A**, and **A** will get the credit for his salvation, which is unfair for those without **A's** attributes.
7. If you say God gave him those attributes but does not give them to everyone so that they can respond positively to the gospel, then God is unfair and you are back to the same dilemma as Election where God only chooses some for salvation.

3 Examples of the Elect being saved

Exhibit A: The City of Nineveh

Jonah 3:1-10

- 1 Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying,
 - 2 "Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and proclaim to it the proclamation which I am going to tell you."
 - 3 So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three days' walk.
 - 4 Then Jonah began to go through the city one day's walk; and he cried out and said, "Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown."
 - 5 **Then the people of Nineveh believed in God; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least of them.**
 - 6 When the word reached the king of Nineveh, he arose from his throne, laid aside his robe from him, covered himself with sackcloth and sat on the ashes.
 - 7 He issued a proclamation and it said, "In Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let man, beast, herd, or flock taste a thing. Do not let them eat or drink water.
 - 8 "But both man and beast must be covered with sackcloth; and let men call on God earnestly that each may turn from his wicked way and from the violence which is in his hands.
 - 9 "Who knows, God may turn and relent and withdraw His burning anger so that we will not perish."
 - 10 When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do it.
- *Without God's sovereign unconditional election, how do you explain an entire city, of approx. 600,000, all repenting for salvation?

Exhibit B: Paul

Acts 9:1-7

- 1 Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest,
 - 2 and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.
 - 3 As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and **suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him;**
 - 4 and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"
 - 5 And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" And He said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting,
 - 6 but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do."
- *God chose Paul and called him to Himself. There was no seeking on Paul's part.

Exhibit C: Lydia

Acts 16:14-15

- 14 A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and **the Lord opened her heart** to respond to the things spoken by Paul.
 - 15 And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.
- *It was God who opened Lydia's heart, she did not do it on her own.

7 ways that sovereign unconditional election makes a difference in my life:

1. It produces humility. It crushes pride.

I can take “0” credit for my salvation. Salvation is all of God. Jonah 2:9, “Salvation is from the Lord.” It was not my intellect, my wisdom, my spiritual sensitivity, or my ?????? that caused me to respond to the gospel. It was God’s sovereign work of grace in my life. My pride, my ego, my arrogance, are crushed. Election is the most powerful truth we have that humbles the heart of the believer.

2. It exalts God.

It gives God all of the credit. It puts me on my knees in daily thanksgiving and worship of Him who chose me and saved me. Can I do anything less than worship Him and praise Him forever for rescuing me from eternal condemnation in hell.

3. It keeps the Church from compromise, gimmicks, and arm-twisting evangelism.

We evangelize in a graveyard, not in a hospitable ward. God will draw the elect to Himself. They will come. God has also specified how He will draw the elect and what He uses. The Church’s responsibility is to give a clear, uncompromised proclamation of the gospel.

4. It produces personal holiness.

If God elects you and predestines you to holiness – Eph. 1:4, “just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.”, then our goal should be to be holy. We should desire to “grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.” so that we magnify Him, Who has so wondrously chosen and saved us for all eternity.

5. It is the basis for my eternal security.

There are no dropouts in God's sovereign election. All of those who were elected in eternity past for salvation all make it one day to heaven (Rom. 8:29,30). Phil 1:6, "For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus." Phil 2:13, "for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure." If you are truly saved, God will then be at work in your life to produce fruit (Gal. 5:22,23), and good works (Eph 2:10; James 2:14-26).

6. It gets my eyes off myself and onto God.

Election gives me purpose and direction as I focus my life on His glory. It keeps my relationship with God at the highest level. He is the Potter, I am the clay.

7. It makes my evangelism and prayer effective.

I have confidence, even though I am unaware who they are, that God has elected certain individuals who will respond to the gospels when I proclaim it. My job is to be faithful. God will be faithful in drawing men and women to Himself. Likewise when I pray for the unsaved, I know God will, in His sovereignty and providence, bring about His will and answer those prayers in the manner He determines best.

Men who believed and taught this glorious truth:

- B. B. Warfield
- Charles Hodge
- Charles Spurgeon
- Francis Schaeffer
- George Mueller
- George Whitefield
- Isaac Watts
- John Bunyan
- John Calvin
- John Foxe
- John Knox
- John Newton
- Jonathan Edwards
- Martyn Lloyd-Jones
- Martin Luther
- William Carey
- William Wilberforce

- D.A. Carson
- D. James Kennedy
- J.I. Packer
- James Montgomery Boice
- John F. MacArthur
- John Piper
- Albert Mohler
- R.C. Sproul
- Steve Lawson
- David Jeremiah
- John Walvoord
- Tim Keller
- Chuck Swindoll

• dick johnson

*To name only a few.