

GraceLife Church Presents . . .

Soteriology

The Purpose,
Accomplishment, Plan, and
Application of Redemption

The Plan of Redemption

The Plan of Redemption

The Decree of God

Definition

- ❖ The decree of God is his eternal plan by which he has rendered certain all the events of the universe, past, present, and future.
- ❖ Providence is the working out of this decree in time.

The Plan of Redemption

The Decree of God

Definition

“God from all eternity did by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass; yet so as thereby neither is God the author of sin; nor is violence offered to the will of the creatures, nor is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established.”

The Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter III, Section 1.

The Plan of Redemption

The Decree of God

- ❖ 5 Characteristics of God's Decree
 - ❖ Eternal
 - ❖ Unconditional
 - ❖ Immutable
 - ❖ Exhaustive
 - ❖ Compatible

The Plan of Redemption

The Decree of God

- ❖ The decree of God is sometimes referred to as *predestination* since God predetermines all things that come to pass.
- ❖ *Predestination* is also used more narrowly to refer to God's decree of salvation.
- ❖ In that sense predestination refers to the doctrines of election and reprobation.

The Plan of Redemption

The Doctrine of Election

- ❖ Scripture teaches that God chooses, that there are a group he calls 'the elect,' and that this election is to salvation.
- ❖ Election was accomplished as part of the eternal decree of God before the foundation of the world.
- ❖ Election, like the decree, is unconditional
- ❖ Election, like the decree, was not based on foreknowledge of faith.
- ❖ Election results in salvation (we are elected to believe, not elected because we believe).

The Plan of Redemption

The Doctrine of Election

- ❖ The teaching on election.
- ❖ The timing of election.
- ❖ The terms of election (unconditional).
- ❖ The tranquilizing of election (foreknowledge).
- ❖ The triumph of election.

The Plan of Redemption

The Doctrine of Election

- ❖ Last time
 - ❖ The teaching on election.
 - ❖ The timing of election.
- ❖ Today
 - ❖ The terms of election.
 - ❖ The tranquilizing of election (foreknowledge).
 - ❖ The triumph of election.

The Plan of Redemption

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

- ❖ In the Old Testament:
 - ❖ Election of individuals to tasks or offices
 - ❖ Election of Israel—God's chosen nation
 - ❖ Election of individuals to the promised seed line
- ❖ In the New Testament:
 - ❖ Election of the twelve to salvation and apostleship
 - ❖ Election of 'the elect' those chosen by God

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

Definition

- ❖ If we believe the Bible we believe in election because the Bible uses the word and it uses it in connection with salvation.

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

Definition

“Election is an act of God before creation in which He chooses some people to be saved, not on account of any foreseen merit in them, but only because of his sovereign good pleasure.”

Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 670.

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

Definition

“It may be defined as that eternal act of God whereby He, in His sovereign good pleasure, and on account of no foreseen merit in them, chooses a certain number of men to be the recipients of special grace and of eternal salvation. More briefly it may be said to be God’s eternal purpose to save some of the human race in and by Jesus Christ.”

Louis Berkof, *Systematic Theology*, 114.

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

Definition

- ❖ 3 ways people attempt to re-define the doctrine of election
 - ❖ 1. Not connected to salvation.
 - ❖ 2. Not connected to individuals.
 - ❖ 3. Based upon foreknowledge of faith.

The Doctrine of Election

The Teaching on Election

Definition

1/2: Election is of individuals to salvation:

John 10:14 I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, 15 even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

John 10:27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; **28** and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.

John 17:6 I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.

The Doctrine of Election

The Time of Election

Before the Foundation of the World

Eph 1:3 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.

The Doctrine of Election

The Time of Election

Before the Foundation of the World

Matt 25:34 “Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’”

The Doctrine of Election

The Time of Election

Eternity

2 Thess 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. **14** It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Doctrine of Election

The Time of Election

Eternity

2 Tim 1:9 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,

The Doctrine of Election

The Time of Election

The Book of Life

Rev 13:8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, *everyone* whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.

The Doctrine of Election

The Time of Election

The Book of Life

Rev 17:8 “The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come.

The Doctrine of Election

The Time of Election

The Book of Life

Rev 21:27 and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

The Doctrine of Election

The Terms of Election

- ❖ If election is God's choice of individuals *to* salvation *before* the foundation of the world then nothing existed to influence God's decision.
- ❖ The reason anything exists or does not exist is because of God's freedom of inclination.
- ❖ The reason anyone hears the gospel or does not hear the gospel is according to God's freedom of inclination.
- ❖ The reason anyone responds to the gospel is because God chose them according to his sovereign good pleasure (Rom 8:30).

The Doctrine of Election

The Terms of Election

Rom 8:30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

The Doctrine of Election

The Terms of Election

- ❖ When we looked at the decree of God in general we concluded that the decree was unconditional and immutable—based solely on God's good pleasure, the same is true of election.

The Doctrine of Election

The Terms of Election

2 Tim 1:9 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,

The Doctrine of Election

The Terms of Election

“An important implication of this reality—indeed, Paul’s point in discussing the timing of election—is to rule out personal merit as its ground. No temporal circumstances or personal characteristics influenced the Father’s election of his people, for it was a decree made before time began.”

John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 501.

The Doctrine of Election

The Terms of Election

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. 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.

The Doctrine of Election

The Terms of Election

“If the basis of God’s choice was the foreseen faith or action of those whom he choose, Paul would have had to write ‘predestined us . . . according to his foreknowledge of our faith.’ Yet he explicitly asserts that it was the good pleasure of *God’s* will, not man’s will, that was the ground of his choice. Quite simply, if election were conditioned on faith, as the Arminian contends, Paul has misspoken in Ephesians 1:5.”

John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 501.

The Doctrine of Election

The Terms of Election

Rom 9:11 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."

The Doctrine of Election

The Terms of Election

- ❖ Paul often contrasts works and faith (Rom 9:30–32; Gal 2:16; Gal 3:2, 5).
- ❖ But he does not do so in Romans 9:11–13.
- ❖ Instead he contrasts works with election because election is *not* based upon faith but upon God's free choice according to his good pleasure.

The Doctrine of Election

The Terms of Election

“Paul recognizes that when his doctrine of confronts fallen human reasoning, the response will be to charge

God with injustice (Rom 9:14). This is significant because the Arminian doctrine of conditional election would never draw this objection. Who would accuse God of being unjust for choosing to save people on the basis of their foreseen acceptance or rejection of Jesus?

Only the doctrine of God’s unconditional choice of some and not others elicits accusations of injustice.”

John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 503.

The Doctrine of Election

The Terms of Election

Rom 9:14 What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be!

The Doctrine of Election

The Terms of Election

Rom 9:15 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.

The Doctrine of Election

The Terms of Election

“This verse ought to be enough to end the controversy concerning salvation and man’s will. Paul unequivocally denies that human will and human effort have anything to do with the basis of God’s election to salvation.”

The Doctrine of Election

The Terms of Election

“By grounding God’s electing purpose in man’s foreseen faith and not in God’s sovereign will, the Arminian ultimately makes man the determinative cause of salvation and not God. On this view, what ultimately makes differentiates the saved person from the unsaved is not something God has done but something man has done.”

John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 503.

The Doctrine of Election

The Terms of Election

[To the question who makes you different? (cf. 1 Cor 4:7)] “The Arminian . . . must ultimately answer, ‘I make the difference, God chose me and not my neighbor because he foresaw that I would freely believe and my neighbor would not.’ In that case the believer has grounds for boasting.”

The Doctrine of Election

The Terms of Election

[The Arminian understanding of salvation teaches] “nothing that God and Christ have done can save us unless we add something to it; the decisive factor that actually saves us is our own believing. What we say comes to this—that Christ saves us with our help; and what that means, when one thinks it out, is this—that we save ourselves with Christ’s help.”

The Doctrine of Election

The Terms of Election

1 Cor 1:26 For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; **27** but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, **28** and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, **29** so that no man may boast before God. **30** But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, **31** so that, just as it is written, “LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD.”

The Doctrine of Election

The Terms of Election

Eph 2:8 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.

The Doctrine of Election

The Terms of Election

Conclusion

- ❖ Election is unconditional.
 - ❖ It is not dependent upon man's will, faith, desires, works, or anything else in man.
 - ❖ Election is entirely the action of God and depends solely on the good pleasure of his will.

The Doctrine of Election

The Tranquillizing of Election

- ❖ Many who reject unconditional election want to say that God's choice is based upon foreknowledge.
- ❖ They say God chooses those who he foresees will believe.

The Doctrine of Election

The Tranquillizing of Election

“God is often pictured as ‘looking down the corridors of time’ and discovering those who according to their own free will would believe in Christ—these he chose to save on the basis of their foreseen faith. Discovering the rest would reject Christ, he decided not to save them on the basis of their lack of faith. For this reason, this view is often called the *foreseen faith* view, the *prescient* view, or the *simple foreknowledge* view of election.”

John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 498.

The Doctrine of Election

The Tranquillizing of Election

- ❖ We saw Jonathan Edwards argument against such a view of God's decree.
- ❖ If God know future events with certainty, those events must be certain either because (1) God decreed them to be certain, or (2) they are certain outside of God's control.
- ❖ If the future is certain outside of God's control "then, to what purpose is any decree of God!"

The Doctrine of Election

The Tranquillizing of Election

- ❖ If God looked down the corridors of time and saw who would believe and that knowledge is not based on his decree, then (1) those actions are not really free because they are necessarily certain, or (2) God is not able to know the future.

The Doctrine of Election

The Tranquillizing of Election

Biblical Foreknowledge

- ❖ When we see the word ‘foreknowledge’ in English we can easily think it must mean to ‘know’ something ‘before.’

The Doctrine of Election

The Tranquillizing of Election

Biblical Foreknowledge

1 Pet 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen **2** according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

The Doctrine of Election

The Tranquillizing of Election

Biblical Foreknowledge

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The Doctrine of Election

The Tranquillizing of Election

Biblical Foreknowledge

1 Pet 1:20 For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you

- ❖ What happens if we take foreknowledge in 1 Pet 1:20 in the same way as Arminians would in 1:2?
- ❖ How was Jesus foreknown before the foundation of the world?

The Doctrine of Election

The Tranquillizing of Election

Biblical Foreknowledge

Rom 8:29 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.

The Doctrine of Election

The Tranquillizing of Election

Biblical Foreknowledge

- ❖ Romans 8:28 says God foreknew persons not their events or actions.
- ❖ God must have simple foreknowledge of all people, are all then predestined to be conformed to Christ?
 - ❖ No, foreknowledge refers to an intimate relationship that God has with his people because he knew us before we were even created, even as he knew Christ before the foundation of the world.

The Doctrine of Election

The Tranquillizing of Election

Biblical Foreknowledge

Gen 4:1 Now the man had relations [lit. knew] with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, “I have gotten a manchild with *the help of the LORD.*”

The Doctrine of Election

The Tranquillizing of Election

Biblical Foreknowledge

Gen 18:19 “For I have chosen [lit. knew] him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him.”

The Doctrine of Election

The Tranquillizing of Election

“They do not denote simple intellectual foresight or prescience, the mere taking knowledge of something beforehand, but rather a selective knowledge which regards one with favor and makes one an object of love, and thus approaches the idea of foreordination, Acts 2:23 (comp. 4:28); Rom 8:29; 11:2; 1 Pet 1:2. These passages simply lose their meaning, if the words be taken in the sense of simply taking knowledge of one in advance, for God foreknows all men in that sense.”

Louis Berkof, *Systematic Theology*, 112.

The Doctrine of Election

The Tranquillizing of Election

“It completely turns things upside down, for in saying God foresaw certain sinners would believe in Christ, and that because of this, he predestinated them unto salvation, is the very reverse of the truth . . . False theology makes God’s foreknowledge of our believing the cause of his election to salvation; whereas, God’s election is the cause, and our believing in Christ is the effect.”

A.W. Pink, *The Attributes of God*, 39.

The Doctrine of Election

The Tranquillizing of Election

- ❖ If election is taught in Scripture, and it was God's choice before the foundation of the world, and it not based upon (simple) foreknowledge, what was it based upon?
 - ❖ The good pleasure of his will
 - ❖ Unconditional election

The Doctrine of Election

The Triumph of Election

- ❖ Election, as God's work leads inviolably and efficaciously to salvation.
- ❖ The Father chooses and gives to the Son
- ❖ The Son propitiates
- ❖ The Holy Spirit regenerates

The Doctrine of Election

The Triumph of Election

2 Thess 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.

The Doctrine of Election

The Triumph of Election

2 Thess 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.

The Doctrine of Election

The Triumph of Election

2 Tim 2:19 Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness.”

The Doctrine of Election

The Triumph of Election

“Their final salvation does not depend on their uncertain obedience, but has its guarantee in the unchangeable purpose of God.”

Lewis Berkof, *Systematic Theology*, 114.

The Doctrine of Election

The Uses of Election

- ❖ As a comfort
- ❖ As a reason to praise God
- ❖ As encouragement for prayer, evangelism, and ministry

The Doctrine of Election

The Uses of Election

As a Comfort

Rom 8:28 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. **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.

The Doctrine of Election

The Uses of Election

As a Comfort

Rom 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us? **32** He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? **33** Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; **34** who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. **35** Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? . . . **37** But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. **38** For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Doctrine of Election

The Uses of Election

As a Reason for Praise

Eph 1:3 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

The Doctrine of Election

The Uses of Election

As a Reason for Praise

1 Thess 1:2 We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention *of you* in our prayers; **3** constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father, **4** knowing, brethren beloved by God, *His* choice of you;

The Doctrine of Election

The Uses of Election

As a Reason for Praise

1 Thess 1:5 for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.

The Doctrine of Election

The Uses of Election

As a Reason for Praise

- ❖ Did the gospel come to you in a powerful way, opening your blind eyes to the beauties of Christ, causing you to desire to turn from sin to him, and even making you willing to suffer for his sake?
- ❖ Then you ought to thank, praise, and worship God for election!

The Doctrine of Election

The Uses of Election

As an Encouragement to Duty

Acts 18:9 And the Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, “Do not be afraid *any longer*, but go on speaking and do not be silent; **10** for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city.” **11** And he settled *there* a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

The Doctrine of Election

The Uses of Election

As an Encouragement to Duty

2 Tim 2:10 For this reason I endure all things 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.

The Doctrine of Election

The Uses of Election

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