

14 Insights On The Doctrine of Election¹

(With Over 100 Scriptures)

¹ Adapted by Mark Richardson from Ernest C. Reisinger, <http://wwwFOUNDERS.org/library/reis1.html> - accessed 06.25.06.

Definition: Election is an act of God before the creation in which he chooses people to be saved, not on account of any foreseen merit in them, but only because of His sovereign good pleasure.²

1. God's election is not based on foreseen faith or works, but it produces faith and works.

Rom. 9:11-16

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,

Rom 9:12 it was said to her, "THE OLDER WILL SERVE THE YOUNGER."

Rom 9:13 Just as it is written, "JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED."

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

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."

Rom 9:16 So then it {does} not {depend} on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.

Rom. 11:5-8

Rom 11:5 In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to {God's} gracious choice.

Rom 11:6 But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.

Rom 11:7 ¶ What then? What Israel is seeking, it has not obtained, but those who were chosen obtained it, and the rest were hardened;

Rom 11:8 just as it is written, "GOD GAVE THEM A SPIRIT OF STUPOR, EYES TO SEE NOT AND EARS TO HEAR NOT, DOWN TO THIS VERY DAY."

Phil. 1:6

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.

2 Tim. 1:9

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,

Eph. 2:8-10

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, {it is} the gift of God;

Eph 2:9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Acts 13:48

Acts 13:48 ¶ 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.

1 Cor. 3:5

1 Cor 3:5 ¶ What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave {opportunity} to each one.

² Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1994), 670.
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Rom. 12:3

Rom 12:3 ¶ For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

Eph. 4:7

Eph 4:7 ¶ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Acts 5:31

Acts 5:31 "He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

II Tim. 2:25

2 Tim 2:25 with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth,

2. Election does not shut the door of salvation, but opens that door for all those who come to Christ.

John 6:37 "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 "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.

John 6:63 "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

John 6:65 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."

3. Election is not a hindrance to gospel preaching, but assures the gospel of success.

Is 55:11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding {in the matter} for which I sent it.

John 10:26 "But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep.

John 10:27 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;

John 10:28 and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.

John 6:45 "It is written in the prophets, 'AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT OF GOD.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me.

John 17:20 ¶ "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word;

John 17:21 that they may all be one; even as You, Father, {are} in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

Acts 15:14 "Simeon has related how God first concerned Himself about taking from among the Gentiles a people for His name.

Acts 16:14 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.

Acts 18:27 And when he wanted to go across to Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him; and when he had arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace,

2 Tim 2:9 for which I suffer hardship even to imprisonment as a criminal; but the word of God is not imprisoned.

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.

4. God's election is not of the Jews only.

Rom 9:24 {even} us, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles.

Rom 11:5 In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to {God's} gracious choice.

Rom 11:6 But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.

Rom 11:7 ¶ What then? What Israel is seeking, it has not obtained, but those who were chosen obtained it, and the rest were hardened;

Rom 11:8 just as it is written, "GOD GAVE THEM A SPIRIT OF STUPOR, EYES TO SEE NOT AND EARS TO HEAR NOT, DOWN TO THIS VERY DAY."

Rom 11:11 ¶ I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their transgression salvation {has come} to the Gentiles, to make them jealous.

Rom 11:12 Now if their transgression is riches for the world and their failure is riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their fulfillment be!

Rom 11:25 ¶ For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery--so that you will not be wise in your own estimation--that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in;

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,

5. God's election is not merely to service, but to salvation.

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.

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

(See 2 Timothy 2:10, above)

6. God's election is not fatalism, but is the work of God.

1 Thess 1:4 knowing, brethren beloved by God, {His} choice of you;

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.

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.

7. God's election does not destroy man's so-called "free will" (a concept not supported by Scripture). The will of man is his desire, wish or choice. Because of the Fall, it is corrupt and, left to himself, he chooses sin.

Jer 17:9 ¶ "The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?"

Jer 13:23 "Can the Ethiopian change his skin Or the leopard his spots? {Then} you also can do good Who are accustomed to doing evil.

John 3:19 "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.

John 3:20 "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

John 3:21 "But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

John 5:39 "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me;

John 5:40 and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.

John 3:11 "Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and testify of what we have seen, and you do not accept our testimony.

Ps 65:4 How blessed is the one whom You choose and bring near {to You} To dwell in Your courts. We will be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, Your holy temple.

Ps 110:3 Your people will volunteer freely in the day of Your power; In holy array, from the womb of the dawn, Your youth are to You {as} the dew.

(See John 6:44, 65; Acts 13:48 (above).

8. God's election is not anti-missionary, but gives the foundation for missions.

2 Pet 3:9 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.

2 Pet 3:14 ¶ Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless,

2 Pet 3:15 and regard the patience of our Lord {as} salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you,

(See John 6:37; 17:20,21; 2 Tim. 2:10; Isa. 55:11, above).

9. God's election does not destroy the responsibility of man. Men are responsible for whatever light they have, be it:

Conscience

Rom 2:14 For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves,

Rom 2:15 in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them,

Rom 2:16 on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.

Nature

Rom 1:18 ¶ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

Rom 1:19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.

Rom 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

Written law

Rom 2:17 ¶ But if you bear the name "Jew" and rely upon the Law and boast in God,

Rom 2:18 and know {His} will and approve the things that are essential, being instructed out of the Law,

Rom 2:19 and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness,

Rom 2:20 a corrector of the foolish, a teacher of the immature, having in the Law the embodiment of knowledge and of the truth,

Rom 2:21 you, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that one shall not steal, do you steal?

Rom 2:22 You who say that one should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?

Rom 2:23 You who boast in the Law, through your breaking the Law, do you dishonor God?

Rom 2:24 For "THE NAME OF GOD IS BLASPHEMED AMONG THE GENTILES BECAUSE OF YOU," just as it is written.

Rom 2:25 ¶ For indeed circumcision is of value if you practice the Law; but if you are a transgressor of the Law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision.

Rom 2:26 So if the uncircumcised man keeps the requirements of the Law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision?

Rom 2:27 And he who is physically uncircumcised, if he keeps the Law, will he not judge you who though having the letter {of the Law} and circumcision are a transgressor of the Law?

The gospel

Mark 16:15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

Mark 16:16 "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

Man's inability to do righteousness no more frees him from responsibility than does Satan's inability to do righteousness.

10. God's election does not make God unjust. His blessing of a great number of unworthy sinners with salvation is no injustice to the rest of the unworthy sinners. If a governor pardons one convict, is it injustice to the rest?

1 Thess 5:9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
1 Thess 5:10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.

11. God's election does not discourage convicted sinners, but welcomes them to Christ. The God who convicts is the God who saves. The God who saves is the God who has elected men unto salvation. He is the same God who invites.

Rev 22:17 ¶ The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.

12. God's election does not discourage prayer. To the contrary, it drives us to God, for He it is who alone can save. True prayer is the Spirit's prompting; and thus will be in harmony with God's will.

Rom 8:26 ¶ In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for {us} with groanings too deep for words;
Rom 8:27 and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to {the will of} God.

13. God's election is not of man. Some have said, "God votes, the devil votes, and man votes." However, the Bible teaches that election is not of the devil and man, but "of God."

1 Thess 1:4 knowing, brethren beloved by God, {His} choice of you;

John 10:16 "I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock {with} one shepherd."

1 John 4:10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son {to be} the propitiation for our sins.

14. God's election is not of reason, but of God's revelation. At first, it does not appeal to man's reason, but when man accepts God's Word, it is seen to be the only thing that could be "reasonable."

Matt 20:15 'Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with what is my own? Or is your eye envious because I am generous?'

Other specific references to the words "elect" and "election":

Matthew 24:22 "And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved; but for the ELECT'S sake those days shall be shortened."

Matthew 24:24 ". . . insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very ELECT."

Matthew 24:31 ". . . and they shall gather together HIS ELECT from the four winds . . ."

Romans 8:28-33 N.B. V 33 "Who shall lay anything to the charge of GOD'S ELECT? It is God that justifieth."

Romans 9:11 "For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to ELECTION might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth. "

Romans 11:5, 7 "Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according TO THE ELECTION OF GRACE. What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but THE ELECTION hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded. "

Romans 11:28 ". . . but as touching the ELECTION, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes. "

Col. 3:12 "Put on therefore, as the ELECT of God. . ."

1 Thess. 1:4 "Knowing, brethren beloved, YOUR ELECTION OF GOD."

2 Thess. 2:13 ". . . because God hath from the beginning CHOSEN you to salvation . . ."

2 Tim. 2:10 "Therefore I endure all things for the ELECT'S SAKES, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory."

Titus 1 ". . . Titus 1:1 Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness,

2 Peter 1:10 ". . . give diligence to make your calling and ELECTION sure . . ."

See also Isa. 42:1; 45:4; 65:9; 65:22.