

## **The Election of Grace**

“The eternal election of God, however, or predestination, that is, God’s ordination to salvation, does not extend at once over the godly and the wicked, but only over the children of God” (FC SD XI 5).

### **1. General Statement**

“Whatever God has done, is doing, and will still do for us during our life on earth to bring us to faith in Christ and to preserve us in this faith unto eternal salvation, is not a matter of chance; neither is it motivated by any personal merit and worthiness, or better conduct, which God foresaw in some people; but God has from eternity purposed and planned it and by grace for Christ’s sake He has chosen and predestined us to salvation before the foundation of the world” (p.182).

### **2. Bible Proof**

2 Timothy 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 given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,”

Ephesians 1:3-6, “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, <sup>4</sup>just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before

Him in love, <sup>5</sup>having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved.”

### 3. Election in Detail

#### (a) Election is an act of God

Ephesians 1:4-6, “...just as He chose....”

2 Timothy 1:9, “who has saved us and called us....”

#### (b) God was moved to do this, not by any merit or worthiness He foresaw in man, but solely and exclusively by His grace

Romans 9:11, “...for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls....”

2 Timothy 1:9, “...not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,”

Ephesians 1:4-6, “...having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved.

(c) This predestination pertain to men themselves

Ephesians 1:4, "...just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, <sup>5</sup>having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

2 Thessalonians 2:13, "But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth..."

(d) Election extends only to certain ones.

Acts 13:48, "And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed."

Matthew 22:14, "For many are called, but few are chosen."

(e) The elect are predestined unto being called through the Gospel and unto salvation...

Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."

2 Timothy 1:9, "...not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,"

Ephesians 1:5, "...having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will..."

John 10:28, “And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.”

Ephesians 2:10, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

4. The decree of election ordains not merely the final salvation of the elect but includes the entire way that leads them to heaven.

2 Thessalonians 2:13, “But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth...”

Romans 8:28-30, “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. <sup>29</sup>For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. <sup>30</sup>Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”

Matthew 7:23, “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!”

Faith is not a cause, but the result of a believer’s election. Believers are not elected in view of a future faith.

Acts 13:48, “And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.”

## 5. Knowledge of our Election

No man on earth has direct information as to his personal election; he can have only an inferred knowledge.

John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

2 Corinthians 13:5, “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.”

Thus knowledge of election—not election itself—is contingent on faith. Faith in Christ does not explain why we are elected, but it shows us that we are elected (p.186). Election is the cause of our salvation.

2 Timothy 1:12, “For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.”

“God did not blindly reach into the mass of mankind with His almighty hand and with His bare(nude) omnipotence seize a number of men as His elect; but He seized His elect “through sanctification of the Spirit and belief in the truth.” ... If a person asks, ‘Am I chosen to salvation?’ he should in turn be asked, ‘Do you sincerely believe in the Gospel?’ For the elect have been chosen “through sanctification of the Spirit and belief in the truth.”

Romans 10:11, “For the Scripture says, ‘Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.’”

## 6. The Comfort of this doctrine

We find comfort in our election only while we are in the faith.

Matthew 24:24, “For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.”

Romans 9:16, “So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.”

Romans 11:6, “And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.”

2 Peter 1:10, “Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;”

## 7. Relation of the election of grace to the work of grace

“The work of the Holy Ghost, by which we are brought to Christ and to salvation, is the fulfillment and the execution of the election of grace. Hence, there is so intimate a connection between the two that an error in one will result in an error in the other” (p. 187).

## 8. False Teachings on election

The Bible knows nothing of a predestination unto eternal death.

1 Timothy 2:3-4, “...God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

Matthew 23:37, “How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!”

	Source of Salvation	Source of Damnation
Synergistic (Arminian)	Man	Man
Calvinistic (Double Predestination)	God	God
Scriptural	God Eph 2:8-9	Man Mt 23:37

Romans 11:33, “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!”