

Election to Salvation

Edited by Leon King

Although the Biblical doctrine of election to salvation is one of the most despised teachings found in God's Word, it is a very precious and awe-inspiring truth to those children of God who have learned it from the Holy Spirit. This long-neglected doctrine needs to be emphasized once again in New Testament churches everywhere.

I. What is 'election to salvation'?

A. "God, of His own purpose, has from eternity determined to save a definite number of mankind, as individuals, not for or because of any merit or work of theirs, nor of any value to Him of them; but of His own good pleasure."

James P. Boyce

B. "Election is that eternal act of God, by which in His sovereign pleasure, and on account of no foreseen merit in them, He chooses certain out of the number of sinful men to be the recipients of the special grace of His Spirit, and so to be made voluntary partakers of Christ's salvation." *Augustus H.*

Strong

C. "Election is that sovereign act of God whereby He chose out from the sinful human race certain to be the recipients of His special saving grace. It is solely His sovereign pleasure and on account of no foreseen merit in those chosen." *Henry C. Thiessen*

D. "In short, the doctrine of election states that---before the foundation of the world---God chose certain individuals to salvation and ordained the means by which they are saved . . . Unconditional election asserts . . . that those who are saved are saved only because God out of His mercy and grace

chose to save them---not with a view to anything He foresaw in the creature, but only for His own glory, His own pleasure, and because of His own purpose determined within Himself." *Thomas J. Nettles*

E. "Election may be defined as that eternal act of God whereby He, in His sovereign good pleasure, and not on account of any foreseen merit in them, chose a certain number of persons from among the human race to be the recipients of special grace and of eternal salvation." *R. V. Sarrels*

F. "Unconditional Election refers to the sovereign choice of some men unto salvation by God the Father, before the foundation of the world, not according to any foreseen merit or faith that He saw in the sinner, but according to His own good pleasure and purpose of grace." *Tom Ross*

G. "Election to everlasting life is an absolute act of God's sovereign grace without any respect had to our foreseen faith or holiness or obedience because election is the cause of our faith and holiness and not faith and holiness the cause of election." *Benjamin Keach*

II. Where is 'election to salvation' taught in the Holy Bible?

A. In eternity past, God the Father elected certain members of Adam's fallen race to salvation (Eph 1:4-5,11; 2Th 2:13; 2Ti 1:9; 1Pe 1:1-2).

Ephesians 1:4-5, 11 (KJV) *According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,...11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:*

2 Thessalonians 2:13 (KJV) *But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:*

2 Timothy 1:9 (KJV) *Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,*

1 Peter 1:1-2 (KJV) *Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.*

B. He gave them as His love gift to the Lord Jesus Christ (Joh 6:37; 17:2,6,9,11-12,24).

John 6:37 (KJV) *All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*

John 17:2,6,9,11-12,24 (KJV) **2** *As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him... 6* *I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word... 9* *I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine... 11-12 *And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest**

me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled... 24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

C. He ordained them to eternal life (Ac 2:47; 13:48; 18:9-10; Joh 10:16).

Acts 2:47 (KJV) *Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*

Acts 13:48 (KJV) *And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.*

Acts 18:9-10 (KJV) *Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: 10 For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.*

John 10:16 (KJV) *And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.*

D. He recorded their names in the Lamb's Book of Life (Re 13:8; 17:8).

Revelation 13:8 (KJV) *And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

Revelation 17:8 (KJV) *The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.*

E. He designated them as Christ's sheep (Joh 10:26-29).

John 10:26-29 (KJV) *But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. 27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. 29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.*

F. He decreed that the Lord Jesus Christ would redeem them by shedding His blood and dying on the cross in their place for their sins (Joh 10:11,14-16; Ac 2:22-24; 4:26-28; 1Pe 1:18-20; Re 13:8).

John 10:11, 14-16 (KJV) *I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep... 14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. 15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.*

Acts 2:22-24 (KJV) *Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: 23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have*

*crucified and slain: **24** Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.*

Acts 4:26-28 (KJV) *The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ. **27** For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, **28** For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.*

1 Peter 1:18-20 (KJV) *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; **19** But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: **20** Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,*

Revelation 13:8 (KJV) *And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*