

Introduction

- Everyone believes God is in control of all things and that man has the free will to do whatever he or she desires.
- Every serious thinker affirms that God chooses who will be saved.
- The only disagreement is how does God decide?
- Calvinism says God chooses based purely on His grace.
- This is known as unconditional election because we do not have to do anything.
- Arminianism says God chooses based on foreknowledge of our free will.
- Ultimately, the final decider in salvation is either God's choice or man's choice.
- No one believes God forces people in to the kingdom nor excludes those who desperately want to be there.
- God chooses who to save either based simply on His grace, or because He sees those who would choose Him.
- Election is either unconditional, or is conditional based on our choice.

Key Passages

- "though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad - in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls" Romans 9:10-24
- "It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers"- Deuteronomy 7:7-8
- "All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out." John 6:37
- "But you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. My sheep hear my voice and I know them, and they follow me." John 10:26-27
- "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide" John 15:16
- "As many as were appointed to eternal life believed." Acts 16:48
- "The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul." Acts 16:14
- "Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world" Ephesians 1:4
- "In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according too the purpose of His will" Ephesians 1:5
- "So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace. And if by grace, then it is no longer by works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace." Rom 11:5-7
- "Because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth." -2 Thessalonians 2:13

Unconditional Election

- God chose some to salvation not based on anything they have done or would choose to do, but purely based on His mercy and love.
- We are elected to our time period, nation, family, social status, and financial situation based purely on God's sovereignty. Why not salvation?
- This appears to be the plain reading of the Biblical text, even though it is the most difficult for us to stomach.

Conditional Election

- God chose us as long as we met the condition.
- This believes God chooses based on God's foreknowledge that the elect would accept Christ if given the ability.
- The primary passage is Romans 8:29 "Those God foreknew he also predestined."
- Our future possible choice to believe Jesus must not be influenced by sin, background, desire, or any other circumstance to be pure free will.

Objections

- This makes logical sense and is not against the Bible, but it is not clearly taught from the Bible.
- The Bible itself nowhere says God chooses based on seeing our choice.
- Why do some choose Jesus and some do not even in ideal circumstances?
- We all had the free chance to choose faith in Adam and failed.
- God does not ordain the world based on what may happen in other universes where He has less control.
- I worry that conditional election makes salvation partially based on my works.=

Takeaways

- We need to remember that God does not owe salvation to any sinner.
- We should marvel that God has saved any of us.
- We are inquiring of some of the greatest mysteries of God.