

BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED – ELECTION

** SOME OBJECTIONS ANSWERED **

“It is the LORD. Let Him do what seems good to Him.” (1 Samuel 3:18b). These are the words of Eli after he has heard an unpleasant and painful message from the LORD. He has been told that his family will be judged. Instead of objecting, complaining, murmuring or trying to find excuses, his response was one of humble submission to the will of God. Quietly and humbly he submitted to the revealed Word of God. He recognized that the LORD is God. He knew that God is just, good and sovereign. Therefore Eli took his position as a creature and humbly bowed before God his Almighty Creator and Judge.



Bow in humble submission

This ought to be our attitude when we come to God and His Word, especially to such a fearful and awe-inspiring truth as *election*. We may have our questions but we must ask them humbly, rather than defiantly. We must remember that God is not obliged to answer all our questions. The fact that He does provide some answers to some of our questions is already a great act of grace on His part.

OBJECTION #1

ELECTION ENCOURAGES INACTION! This is a very common objection raised against the doctrine of *election*. It normally expresses itself in the areas of *salvation* and *evangelism*. This is how some will argue: *If God has elected some to be saved, then the elect will definitely be saved. Therefore that there is nothing for the elect to do. In fact, he can go on to sin and does not need to bother about believing in Jesus Christ, because at the end of the day, he will definitely be saved. It also follows that there is no need for Christians to preach the gospel. If that person is elected, he will one day be saved. Whether you evangelize to him or not will not make any difference. Such kind of reasoning is both wrong and dangerous!*

Remember that *election* is part of the secret will of God. **Deuteronomy 29:29** says, *“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.”* No one (before he is saved) knows whether he is elected or not. No one (before he is saved) is ever commanded to go and find out if he is elected. The revealed will of God clearly commands all men everywhere to repent of their sins and believe in the Lord Jesus

Christ. *Unless you repent of your sins, you will perish in hell. Unless you believe in Jesus Christ, you cannot be saved.* You must and should obey the clear command of God for your own good and salvation. The critical issue for a sinner is to turn from his sins and commit his life to Jesus the Christ, not to debate whether he is elected or not.

Christians who truly understand *election* will be the most diligent gospel preachers. Look at the apostle Paul -- how fervently he believed in *election* and how zealously he *evangelized*. Take **Acts 18:9-11** for an example. Paul was having a tough time preaching the gospel in Corinth because many oppositions. In the night, the Lord Jesus told him that He has many people in that city, i.e. there are many of God's elect in the city of Corinth who are yet to be saved. What was Paul's response?

"Oh good, since this is so, and God's election is sure, I can pack up my bags and go. I need not face all these oppositions anymore!" Is this his reaction? **Verse 11** says that he stayed there for 18 months to preach the gospel! When Jesus told him that there were many elects in Corinth, he was encouraged to evangelize even more diligently. This is the right and Biblical response. If your response is not like Paul's, then you have not understood *election* correctly.

OBJECTION #2 **ELECTION STOPS ME FROM BEING SAVED!** This objection goes something like this: *Since God has elected some to be saved, and only the elect will be saved, then if I am not saved, God's election is to be blamed!* **This reasoning is very appealing to sinners, but it is wrong!** Know that there will NEVER be the case where someone desperately wants to be saved but cannot because God did not choose him. This can never and will never happen. Why? Because by nature sinners do not want and would not want to come to Jesus Christ!

Jesus is the Light of the world. But man loved darkness rather than light, and they would not want to come to this Light. If a man desires to be saved, it is because God is creating those desires in his heart. God is doing this because God has elected him from eternity to be saved.

If you have such strong desires today, come to Jesus Christ right now! Do not pause and ask whether you are elected or not. Come to Him and you will never be cast out. Come to Him and you will never hunger or thirst again. The Bible is emphatic that man perished because of their willful rejection of Jesus. People who remain in unbelief do so because they are unwilling to come to God. The blame for such unbelief always lies with the unbelievers themselves, never with God.

OBJECTION
#3

ELECTION IS NOT FAIR! For God to choose only some to be saved is absolutely unfair, screamed some people. Really? Let's consider the facts carefully and properly. Besides man, there are some angels who also sinned against God. What did God do with those fallen angels?

Read **2 Peter 2:4 & Jude 6**. God did not provide a way of escape for them. There was no salvation for them. Now, the way God dealt with these angels was perfectly just and fair, and no fallen angel had ever dared to charge God for being unfair.

Wouldn't it be perfectly fair and just for God to treat fallen man in exactly the same way as the fallen angels? If God chose to leave man in sin and to save no one, He would not have violated His justice and fairness. It is only fair and just that a sinner pays for his sins! But God has decided to do much more than merely meet the demands of His justice. He has decided to save some sinful people. If He has decided to save only five persons out of the entire human race, that would be a *great* demonstration of mercy and grace. If He has decided to save only 100 out of the whole human race, it would be an *amazing* demonstration of mercy and love. But God has chosen to redeem out of sinful mankind a great multitude that no man can number -- this is *incalculable* mercy and love, far beyond our comprehension!

The question of fairness does not apply here at all. You can say that election is arbitrary -- He chose whom He wants to choose, but you cannot say that it is unfair. The final answer of the Bible to this charge of injustice is found in **Romans 9:20-24**. Have you read them? Here, Paul simply reminds us that man is man and God is God. God as God has the rights of God the Omnipotent Creator, to choose, decide and do as He wishes. One day, we shall all have to stand before this God and give an account of our actions. But God never had to stand before us and give an account for His actions. He is answerable to no one because He is God!

The doctrine of *election* ultimately puts our understanding of God, of man and of man's relationship to God to the test.

Do we really understand what it means for God to be God (the Almighty Creator) and for man to be man (a creature)? Do we really understand what the Bible means, when it says that God's ways are higher than our ways and God's thoughts are higher than our thoughts?



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