

## Bible Training Institute

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

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## Soteriology Part 3

The Doctrine of Election

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## Historical Views of Election

- Individual Conditional Election (Classical Arminianism)
  - Origen (d. 254)
  - John Chrysostom (d. 407)
  - Semi-Pelagians
  - Roman Catholicism
  - Arminianism
  - John Wesley

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## Historical Views of Election

- Corporate Election
  - Election is God's purpose to save a class of people who trust in Christ.
  - Election is corporate, not individual—OT = Israel and NT = Church
- Double Unconditional Election (High Calvinism)
  - God predestines who will be saved and who will be condemned—KEY: BOTH are based on God's will and NOT on actions of humans

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## Historical Views of Election

- Universal Election (Karl Barth)
- Unconditional Single Election (Moderately Reformed)
  - Augustine (A.D. 354-430)
  - Sovereign election to life but not to death
  - Election to life is unconditional but reprobation to death is conditioned on human disobedience
  - God does not foreordain people to destruction in the same way that he foreordains them to life

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## Terminology of Election

- Foreknowledge (prognosis)—predestined love relationship
  - Romans 8:29 linked to predestination
  - 1 Peter 1:2—linked to election
  - Only twice in NT does this term refer to simply knowing in advance (Acts 26:5; 2 Peter 3:17)
  - Other references mean foreordination and predetermination (Acts 2:23; Rom 8:29; 11:2; 1 Peter 1:2, 20)

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## Terminology of Election

- Predestine (proorizo)—means to “determine beforehand” (Acts 4:27-28; Rom 8:29-30; Eph 1:5, 11)
- Election
  - Hebrew term (bahar)— “elect” or “choose”
    - 198 times in OT—speaks of God choosing a people, certain tribes, specific individuals—always speaks of choosing from out of a group
  - Greek terms eklegomai and eklektos 22x each

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## Categories of Election

- Election to Service (Num 16:5-7; 1 Sam 10:24; 1 Chron 28:4-6; 29:1; Jer 1:10; Hag 2:23; Deut 18:5; 21:5; Deut 17:15; 1 Pet 2:4, 6; Mark 3:13-15; John 15:16)
- Corporate Election
  - Nation Israel—Deut 7:6-8
  - The Church—1 Peter 2:9-10

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## Categories of Election

- Personal Election
  - OT—Adam/Eve, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Isaac, Jacob, Psalm 65:4, Jeremiah
  - NT—
    - Matt 11:25-27
    - John 5:21
    - John 13:18
    - John 15:16
    - Acts 13:48
    - Romans 8:28-30
    - Romans 9:11-13
    - Ephesians 1:4-6
    - 1 Thess 1:4
    - 2 Timothy 2:10
    - 1 Peter 1:1-2
    - Revelation 13:8

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## Foreknowledge in Romans 8:29

“For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.” (Romans 8:29, ESV)

- **CONDITIONAL ELECTION VIEW:** God looks down the corridors of time and sees who will believe. These are the elect..BUT
  - Rom 8:29 speaks of what God will do, not people
  - Bible never speaks of faith as reason God chooses
  - Leave the possibility that no one will believe

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## Encouragements from Election

- Decision of God to save a certain specific group and conform them to the image of Christ
- Election is placed “before the foundation of the world” (Eph 1:4).
- Unconditional in that it is based on God’s sovereign divine will and not on what people will do.
- Election is in Christ (see Eph 1:3-7).
- Election is presented as a comfort. (see Rom. 8:28-30).
- Election is a reason to praise God (see Eph. 1:5-6, 12).
- Election is an encouragement for evangelism-- (2 Timothy 2:10)
- Election is a reason for not being too hard on ourselves when people refuse to believe.

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## Predestination vs. Double Predestination

- Predestination is clearly in Scripture—Rom 8:29, 30; Eph 1:5, 11
- Involves election to life for some
- God is sovereign over all; therefore, it is incorrect to think His sovereignty does not extend to the non-elect. Unbelievers and their fate is linked to God’s decree.
- **THEREFORE:** Must be some sense in which the destiny of the non-elect is predestined

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...but how?!?!?

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### Predestination vs. Double Predestination

- Certainty of predestination for both the elect and non-elect
- BUT: The means of certainty does not have to be the same
- REPROBATION = conditional, based on what sinners have done and deserve
- ELECTION - unconditional, based on unmerited favor and grace
- COMBINED: Rom 6:23

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### Predestination vs. Double Predestination

- Romans 6:23:
- “For the wages of sin is death...”
  - Conditional, based on what sinners have done and deserve
- “but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
  - Unconditional, based on unmerited favor and grace

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