

# The Doctrines of Grace #10

Study Handout – Grace Bible Chapel

## **Calvinism – Unconditional Election & Limited Atonement**

August 25th, 2024

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**Election Definition:** The action of God in reference to men and the category of placement before Him through His great salvation. Unconditional election means God in His sovereignty determines to save some not based on anything within or by them but solely according to His own will.

### **Unconditional Election – the Calvinist view – continued from last meeting...**

- **Because of man’s condition in depravity**, salvation must be initiated completely from God.
  - Christ came to seek that which was lost (not those cooperating with His will) Matt.18:11.
  - John 13:8 “chosen” is a term in the Scripture interchangeable with election.
    - Matt. 20:16 the call goes out to all but it is only the chosen (the elect) who respond to the call.
    - Those non-elect may respond superficially, but it does not result in true salvation.
    - One must ultimately be chosen, or they will not truly be saved (John 10:26).
  - 1 Cor. 1:26 – chosen of God has nothing to do with the person’s merit.
- **Foreknowledge** – does not mean “fore saw” – in relation to God it means “fore love.”
  - Proginosko – pro (before) ginosko (knowledge).
  - Ginosko – absolute knowledge – often in Scripture indicates a relation between the person knowing and the object known (W.E. Vine) – reference to Christ 1 Pet 1:20.
    - Know – (ginosko) is an idiom for love (Matt. 7:23; 12:33; Lk. 10:22; John 8:32; 43; 55; 10:14; 10:15; 27; 14:7; 17; 16:3) “determined by context.”
    - Rom. 8:28-29 – doesn’t say he saw something about us, it was God’s initiation (the word “also” is repeated for each). He before decreed love (before determined a relationship) – we were the object.
  - 1 Pet. 1:2 – chosen – not because of obedience but chosen to be transformed.
  - Eph. 2:1-2 God must of necessity take the first step – “we are dead” (Eph 2), and not walking (living) attractively, but “according to the course of the world...in disobedience.”
  - Eph. 1:3-6 – things to notice:
    - All spiritual blessings come from God.
    - The decision for choice was made before the created world – God is carrying out what He determined.
      - kind intention of “His will” – not our “free will.”
      - according to “His good pleasure”- not our merit.
      - We do not know why He chose whom He chose, but we know there is no emphasis on anything outside of Himself.
  - Rom. 9:6-26 – Paul is answering the question – what happened to Israel?
    - Rom. 9:6 – the Word of God has not failed.
    - Goes on to explain (Rom 9:7-13) that salvation is according to sovereign grace.
    - Rom. 9:11 – God’s choice (election) is not based on anything good or better in Jacob.
  - Rom. 9:14-21 – answers the justice of God in how He chooses who will be saved.
    - “Injustice” here presupposes the context is addressing “unconditional election.”
    - All objections are silenced ultimately in vs. 20 based on who God is.
- **Practical issues:**

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