



SOTERIOLOGY

Election

I. Introduction

A. The Bible clearly speaks of election.

1. Names were not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world (Rev. 17:8). Implies there are names written in Book of Life.
2. There was an election before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4).

3. This election was not based on the will of man (Rom. 9:16).
4. This election was not based on the work of man (2 Tim. 1:9).
5. This election is wholly of God (Jn. 15:16).

B. Some people strongly object to the doctrine.

1. “It conflicts with human freedom.”

2. “It’s fatalistic.”

3. “It’s not understandable.”

4. “It just can’t be true!”

C. The dilemma

1. For believers to say, “This can’t be true because I can’t understand it,” is the height of arrogance and absurdity.

2. Do we say the same thing about God's trinity, eternality, omniscience, omnipresence, omnipotence, etc.?

D. The solution

1. We must accept that the Bible does speak of election.
2. We must allow ourselves to be driven to the word of God for illumination.
3. We must admit to our inability to completely understand the doctrine of election.

II. Definition of Election

God has chosen certain individuals to salvation and predestined them to be conformed to the character of His Son Jesus Christ.

III. The Major Viewpoints of Election

A. Foresight election

God elects on the basis of foreseen faith.

B. Corporate election

The church is elect

C. Individual, pre-temporal election

God chose a certain number of people to receive His special grace and salvation.

IV. New Testament Terminology for Election

A. The idea of choosing

2 Thessalonians 2:13 – “God from the beginning chose you for salvation”

B. The idea of ordaining or appointing

Acts 13:48 – The Gentiles appointed to
eternal life believed

C. The idea of foreordaining or predestination

1. Ephesians 1:5 – Predestined to adoptions as sons
2. To determine or ordain beforehand

D. The idea of foreknowing

1. Romans 8:29-30 – Those He foreknew He also predestined, called, justified, and glorified
2. God's active consciousness of all that is to come to pass

V. The Basis for Election

A. Negatively

We have already stated that election is not based upon man's will or man's work (see Introduction).

B. Positively

1. According to grace

Romans 11:5-6 – “a remnant according to the election of grace”

2. According to the good pleasure and purpose of a sovereign God

Ephesians 1:5, 11 – “good pleasure of His will”; “counsel of His will”

3. According to the foreknowledge of God

1 Peter 1:2 – “Elect according to the foreknowledge of God”

a. Foreknowledge is not foreseen faith.

4. Foreknowledge does have two basic usages in the Bible:

1) Prior knowledge of future events

Acts 2:23 – Jesus was put to death by “determined counsel and foreknowledge of God”

2) Previous knowledge of persons

1 Corinthians 8:3 – If anyone loves God,
he has been known by Him

C. Summary and conclusion: “Foreknowledge,” when used of people, does not refer to foreseen faith.

1. Not foreknowledge of obedience, but unto obedience

2. Foreknows persons, not just events

- 3) Even if God's choice were based on foreseen faith, this would solve no problem.
- 4) The only faith which God can "foresee" is the faith which results from God's sovereign determination to "draw" (Jn. 6:44).