

Supplement: Election *(God's Eternal Connection Plan)*

Introduction: No Accidents

A. Eternal Election/Predestination is a Biblical Teaching...

1. The Scriptural Evidence

Eph 1:3–6 ³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

NOTE*: The doctrine of Elect is mentioned in a number of places: Mk 13:20,22,27; Lk 18:7; Col 3:12; 2 Tm 2:10; Tt 1:1; 1 Pe 1:1,2; 2:9; Ro 8:28–30; 2 Th 2:13; 2 Pe 1:10; 2 Tm 1:9; Ro 11:5,6; Romans 9-11, Matthew 22:14; Mt 24:22,24,31.

NOTE**: The Scriptures define Election as the act of God on His Christians by which He from eternity conferred on them the favor of coming to faith. He brings them to faith for Christ's sake by the means of grace and preserves them in faith until they stand before him. All of this he did, not because of anything we did or in us, but because he is love and the fact that this was his good pleasure and will.

2. From the underlined parts of that definition, comment on who the doctrine is intended for, when this election took place, the three ways God fulfills this plan in time, and why he does this?

B. Eternal Election/Predestination was given for the comfort of Christians alone...

1. It proclaims that our personal faith was his plan, not the result of chance.

Eph 1:4 For he chose us in him (Christ) before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

2. It brings absolute certainty of our salvation because God is faithful and will not change his plans.

Ps 33:11 But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purpose of his heart through all generations.

3. Once again, it brings absolute certainty of our salvation because God's plans cannot fail.

Mt 24:24 – For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive the elect – if that were possible.

NOTE*: This doctrine does not lead us to believe that once you're saved, you're always saved. Consider 2 Pe 1:10, "Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall..." Comments?

NOTE**: Very simply, this doctrine teaches that Christians may confidently trust in God to preserve them in the faith through this life, because God has from eternity elected them unto salvation.

C. WARNING!!! Any speculation beyond the Scriptural teaching of the doctrine of Eternal Election/Predestination will lead to false teaching. Explain why each of the following ideas, which are examples of this, are incorrect.

1. Examples...

- a. Double Election: Since some were elected to heaven, all others were elected to hell.
- b. Election in View of Faith: God elected those whom he knew would come to faith and not reject. They are those who rejected less than others.
- c. All Are Elect: God elected all people to be saved.
- d. God Could've Elected Everybody:
- e. I Wonder Which Nonbelievers Are Elect?

2. Answers

- a. That contradicts the Scripture - God "wants all men to be saved..." (1 Tm 2:4).
- b. That contradicts Romans 3:10 "There is no one righteous not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God." Romans 11:6 "And if by grace, then it is no longer by works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace." This also doesn't explain how Paul who hated Christ more than most became a Christian (Acts 9).
- c. That contradicts Matthew 22:14 "For many are invited, but few are chosen." In other words, God invites (wants) all to be saved, but only a few are chosen (elected).
- d. This contradicts 1 Timothy 2:4 (see letter answer "a") because it implies that God chose not to elect all people or doesn't want all people to be saved. It attempts to blame God for a person's damnation. Consider Paul's answer to this idea in Romans 9:19-23a "One of you will say to me: 'Then why does God still blame us? For who resists his will?'²⁰ But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? 'Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, "Why did you make me like this?"'²¹ Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?²² What if God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath—(ripe) for destruction?²³ What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy..." In other words, we aren't allowed to question God about election. Instead, we are to stand in awe of his grace that all have been shown mercy ("many are invited") and that any were elected for eternal life ("few were chosen").
- e. This very question contradicts Scripture because the Bible nowhere speaks of election in connection to an unbeliever. It may allow for false hope and the idea that a Christian could relax when it comes to getting the gospel message out.

NOTE: Even mentioning the doctrine of the elect to a nonbeliever would end up being a horrifying thing to hear if they were to think about it. How comforting would it be to hear "many are invited but few are chosen" (Matthew 22:14), if you didn't have faith in Christ? You could only assume you were not part of "the few."

3. Illustration: A One-sided Coin

D. Concluding Questions/Remarks on the Doctrine of Eternal Election/Predestination:

1. **Why are some saved?** (Antecedent will of God – Ephesians 1:3-6 [See 1st passage].)
2. **Why are others not?** (Consequential will of God – John 3:18 "...Whoever does not believe stands condemned...")
3. **Illustration: The Governor's Pardon**