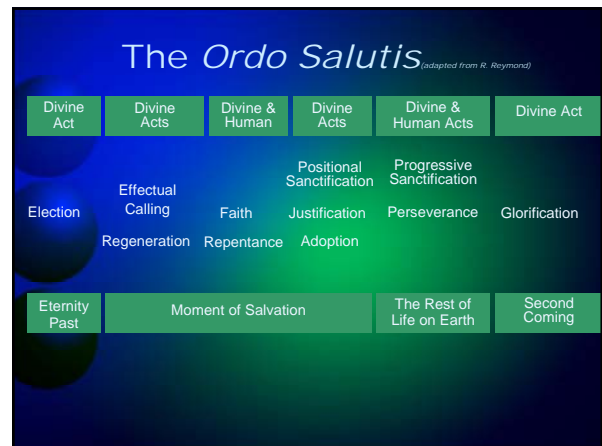


Chosen by God

The Biblical Doctrine of Election



- ## Presuppositions
- It was God's decision to provide salvation.
 - There are only a limited number of ways God could have chosen to distribute salvation.
 - To save none
 - To save all
 - To save some

- ## Definitions
- Berkhof: "that eternal act of God whereby He, in His sovereign good pleasure, and on account of no foreseen merit in them, chooses a certain number of men to be recipients of special grace and of eternal salvation."
 - Grudem: "an act of God before creation in which he chooses some people to be saved, not on account of any foreseen merit in them, but only because of his sovereign good pleasure."

- ## Key Components
- Eternal
 - Definite
 - Unconditional

- ## The Biblical Proof
- Deut. 7:7-8 - "The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but because the LORD loved you."
 - John 15:16 - "You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain."
 - Acts 13:48 - "When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed."
 - Rom. 8:29-30 - "For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified."

The Biblical Proof

- Rom. 11:5-6 – In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious choice.
- Rom. 11:7 – What then? What Israel is seeking, it has not obtained, but those who were chosen obtained it, and the rest were hardened.
- Eph. 1:4-5 - He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will.
- 1 Th. 1:4-5 - knowing, brethren beloved by God, *His* choice of you; for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.
- 1 Th. 5:9 - God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

The Biblical Proof

- 2 Th. 2:13 - But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.
- 2 Tim. 1:9 - who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity.
- 1 Pet. 1:1 - Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen
- Rev. 13:7-8 - All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.
- Rev. 17:8 - those who dwell on the earth, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come.

The Basis of Election

- Conditional
 - Thiessen: a "sovereign act of God in grace whereby He chose in Christ Jesus for salvation all those whom He fore-knew would accept Him."
 - Arguments against:
 - » Rom. 8:29_ does not teach what they claim.
 - » [Matt. 11:20-24](#)
 - » [Luke 10:10-13](#)
 - » Arguments for unconditional election

The Basis of Election

- Unconditional
 - God's choice in eternity past of certain people to be saved is based solely on His own sovereign pleasure and on no condition in the person He chooses.
 - 2 Tim. 1:9 – [God] has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity.
 - [Romans 9](#)

Objections

- Fairness (14-18)
- Human Freedom (19-23)
- Double Predestination
 - If God chooses some for salvation, that must mean that he chooses others for hell.
 - What the Bible teaches is that he chooses some, and simply passes over others.

Reprobation

- "The sovereign decision of God before creation to pass over some persons, in sorrow deciding not to save them, and to punish them for their sins, and thereby to manifest his justice."
 - Rom. 9:17 - For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I raised you up, to demonstrate my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed throughout the whole earth."
 - Rom. 9:22 - What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction?
 - Rom. 11:7 - What Israel is seeking, it has not obtained, but those who were chosen obtained it, and the rest were hardened;
 - 1 Pet. 2:8 - they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.

Important Distinctions

- Election
 - actively chooses
 - with delight
 - the cause lies in God Himself
 - the ground is God's grace
- Reprobation
 - passes over
 - with sorrow
 - the cause lies in the sinner
 - the ground lies in God's justice

The Results of Election

- Develops humility.
- Encourages evangelism (2 Tim. 2:10).
- Provides comfort (Rom. 8:28).
- Promotes personal holiness (Eph. 1:4; Col. 3:12).
- Demands praise (Eph. 1:5-6, 12; 1 Th. 1:2, 4; 2 Th. 2:13).