

THE ORDER OF SALVATION

PART 1

ELECTION

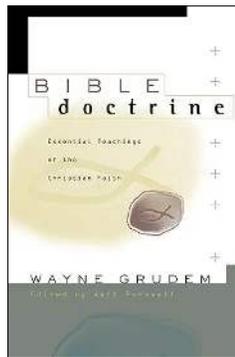
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To me, the doctrine of election (and subsequently reprobation) is one of the hardest doctrines to teach.

- 1) I can only affirm what Scripture teaches.
- 2) Scripture affirms both predestination and man's free choice at the same time. How this works I do not know.

Acts 2:23 ▾ New International Version ▾

²³ This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.



Bible Doctrine: Essential Teachings of the Christian Faith
by Wayne Grudem

THE ORDER OF SALVATION

1. Election (God's choice of people to be saved)
2. The gospel call (proclaiming the message of the gospel)
3. Regeneration (being born again)
4. Conversion (faith and repentance)
5. Justification (right legal standing)
6. Adoption (membership in God's family)
7. Sanctification (right conduct of life)
8. Perseverance (remaining a Christian)
9. Death (going to be with the Lord)
10. Glorification (receiving a resurrection body)

ELECTION

Election is 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.

DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT TEACH PREDESTINATION?

Paul and Barnabas preached to the Gentiles in Pisidian Antioch

Acts 13:48 ∨ New International Version ∨

48 When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.

DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT TEACH PREDESTINATION?

Those God predestined he called

Romans 8:29-30 ∨ New International Version ∨

29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. **30** And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT TEACH PREDESTINATION?

God chose believers before the beginning of the world

Ephesians 1:4-6 ∨ New International Version ∨

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 for adoption to sonship 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.

DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT TEACH PREDESTINATION?

God did not choose us because of anything we have done

2 Timothy 1:9 ∨ New International Version ∨

⁹ He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,

HOW DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT PRESENT THE TEACHING OF ELECTION?

In the distant past, God foreknew and predestined
In the recent past, God called and justified
In the future, God will give glorified bodies AS A COMFORT TO BELIEVERS

Romans 8:29-30 ∨ New International Version ∨

²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

HOW DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT PRESENT THE TEACHING OF ELECTION?

AS A REASON TO PRAISE GOD

Ephesians 1:5-6 ∨ New International Version ∨

⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship 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.

HOW DOES THE NEW TESTAMENT PRESENT THE TEACHING OF ELECTION?

AS AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO EVANGELISM

2 Timothy 2:10 ∨ New International Version ∨

¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

MISUNDERSTANDINGS OF THE DOCTRINE OF ELECTION

ELECTION IS NOT FATALISTIC OR MECHANISTIC

In fatalism, human choices and human decisions do not make a difference. No matter what we do, things are going to happen as they have been previously ordained. In a mechanistic system, things have been determined by an impersonal force long ago and the universe functions in a mechanical way.

MISUNDERSTANDINGS OF THE DOCTRINE OF ELECTION

We are not fatalistic creatures, but real people with real choices

John 3:18 ∨ New International Version ∨

18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

MISUNDERSTANDINGS OF THE DOCTRINE OF ELECTION

We are not mechanistic creatures, but genuine people who can make choices

Matthew 11:28 ∨ New International Version ∨

28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

MISUNDERSTANDINGS OF THE DOCTRINE OF ELECTION

ELECTION IS NOT BASED ON GOD'S FOREKNOWLEDGE OF OUR FAITH

Some will say that God predestines some to be saved by looking into the future and seeing who will believe in Christ and who will not.

MISUNDERSTANDINGS OF THE DOCTRINE OF ELECTION

Scripture never speaks of our faith as the reason God chose us

Romans 11:5-6 ∨ New International Version ∨

⁵ So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace.

⁶ And if by grace, then it cannot be based on works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.

OBJECTIONS TO THE DOCTRINE OF ELECTION

WE DO NOT HAVE A CHOICE IN WHETHER WE ACCEPT CHRIST OR NOT

Romans 10:9-10 ∨ New International Version ∨

⁹ If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

God causes us to choose Christ voluntarily

OBJECTIONS TO THE DOCTRINE OF ELECTION

UNBELIEVERS NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO BELIEVE

John 5:39-40 ∨ New International Version ∨

³⁹ You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, ⁴⁰ yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

Those who reject Christ do so voluntarily

OBJECTIONS TO THE DOCTRINE OF ELECTION

ELECTION IS UNFAIR

Romans 9:20-21 ∨ New International Version ∨

²⁰ But who are you, a human being, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed say to the one 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 special purposes and some for common use?

It would be perfectly fair for God not to save anyone

OBJECTIONS TO THE DOCTRINE OF ELECTION

THE BIBLE SAYS THAT GOD WILLS TO SAVE EVERYONE

2 Peter 3:9 ▼ New International Version ▼

⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

At the same time, God allows man to have free will

THE DOCTRINE OF REPROBATION

Reprobation is 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.

THE DOCTRINE OF REPROBATION

Jude 4 ▼ New International Version ▼

⁴ For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

ELECTION & REPROBATION

- The cause of election lies with God
- Election is a reflection of God's grace
- The cause of reprobation lies with the sinner
- Reprobation is a reflection of God's justice