

Election and Predestination

If some are chosen by God, than does that not mean that there is nothing the others can do about it anyway?

The Bible teaches that God chose certain individuals to belong to Christ before the world began. This is what is meant by election. He elected or chose certain men and woman to be saved (Eph 1:4).

The Bible also teaches that God decreed that those who would be saved would be adopted as sons in His family and would eventually be conformed to the image of His Son. This is what is meant by predestination. He foreordained those whom He elected to a place of honor and glory (Eph 1:5; Rom 8:29).

Nowhere does the Bible teach that God chose certain people to be damned. The fact that some are chosen to be saved does not mean that some are chosen to be lost. If anyone is lost, it is because he has failed to put his faith in the Lord. It is his own fault, not God's.

The same Bible that teaches election and predestination teaches that man has been given a free will. He can use that will to be saved or to be lost (Jn 3:36).

God makes a genuine offer of salvation to all men everywhere (Jn 5:24). Anyone who truly repents and receives Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior will be saved.

The two truths of God's election and man's responsibility are found in John 6:37: "All that the Father gives Me shall come to Me; and him that comes to Me I will by no means cast out." The first part of the verse teaches election. The last part teaches man's responsibility.

It is wrong to say that because God has chosen some to be saved, there is nothing a person can do about it. God commands all men everywhere to repent (Acts 17:30). If they do this and trust the sinner's Savior, they will be saved.

There is only one way to know whether a person is elect—that is by the manner in which he responds to the gospel (1 Thes 1:4, 5). Those who accept it as the Word of God and receive it into their lives demonstrate in this way that they are among God's chosen ones. Those who reject the message prove that they were never chosen by God.

The doctrine of election should not cause anyone to complain against God (Rom 9:19-24). If all men received what they deserved, they would all go to hell, because they are all sinners. Does not God have the right to show mercy to some of those who would have perished anyway?

It is impossible for the human mind to fully understand how God can elect some and still give man a choice in the matter. Even if we cannot understand these truths, we should believe them. Those who study the Bible must be willing to give God credit for understanding things which they cannot understand.