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### **Election and Predestination**

The first relates to salvation, whereas the latter relates to that which follows or accompanies salvation. The sovereignty of God relative to the salvation of man? Various views are held on this subject. Some hold that God decides absolutely who shall be saved and who shall be lost. The holders of this view believe God cannot be considered sovereign unless He makes every decision that is made and unless the entire universe is at all times doing His will.

Others believe this to be a harsh view, not consonant with the love of God. They hold that salvation is all of God, and therefore none can be saved except by a sovereign act of God bringing it about, without reference to any fact or feature about the person himself. Yet it is the grace of God which operates to save any, and He is not obligated to save all. Hence His love is expressed in the salvation of some, while His sovereignty is expressed in not saving all.

Others believe that as God gave man in the garden of Eden the choice to obey or disobey His commandments, so now He has given man the choice of submitting to Christ, (receiving Him by faith as Lord and Savior), or of refusing to do so. We are told in 1 Peter 1:2 that God made His choice (or "election") on the basis of His foreknowledge. He did not have to wait until man's choice was made, to be able to make His selection.

Had God reserved the choice for Himself, we are told that He would have chosen every one. 1 Timothy 2:4 says that God ". . . desires all men to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth." 2 Peter 3:9 states this truth negatively: "The Lord is...longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." But while God gives man the power of choice, He, in His sovereign right, has set the terms on which He will receive man: "The obedience of faith" (Rom 16:26). See John 3:16, 18 and 36. God is sovereign and establishes the rules.

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