

Ephesians 1:3-14
“Secure in Christ”
Dr. Cliff McManis

I. My salvation was planned in eternity past by the good

Pleasure of the Father (1:3-6)

A. Our salvation was His choice

“He chose us...” (1:4)—this is “election”

B. Our salvation was His plan

“He predestined us...” (1:5)

C. Our salvation has an eternal purpose

“to the praise of His glory” (1:6, 12, 14)

II. My salvation was accomplished in history because of the

Price of Jesus’ death (1:7-8)

A. Jesus purchased our salvation

“we have redemption (1:7)

B. Jesus paid the ultimate price

“through His blood” (1:7)

III. My salvation will be completed in the future because of the

Presence of the Holy Spirit (1:9-14)

A. The Holy Spirit enlightens us

“He made known to us the mystery” (1:9)

B. The Holy Spirit enables us

“you were sealed in Him” (1:13)

Today we address the doctrine of “election.” This is probably the most complex and misunderstood teaching in the Bible. Christians have debated it for 1,900 years...the debate continues. Here are a few thoughts to consider while trying to study, think and pray through the truth and implications of this very important biblical teaching:

- * This word is used almost 30 times in the Bible and is translated as “elect” or chosen.
- * The emphasis of this word is on God’s sovereign will, volition and power, not ours.
- * “Election” is taught all through the Bible.
- * “Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (Matthew 25:34)
- * “For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth” (Deuteronomy 7:6)
- * “No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him” (Jn 6:44).
- * “You did not choose Me but I chose you and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit (John 15:16)
- * “the Lord said...‘he is a chosen instrument of Mine to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel’ ” (Acts 9:15)
- * “And 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” (Acts 13:48)
- * “But we should always give thanks to God for you...because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation (2 Thessalonians 2:13)
- * “God...saved us...not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity” (2 Timothy 1:9)
- * In Matthew 24:31 and 1 Peter 1:1 Scripture calls believers “elect”
- * “Election” is a mystery—Deuteronomy 29:29; Isaiah 55:8-9; Romans 11:33
- * John Calvin did not invent “election”—God did!
- * “Election” is a blessing, nothing to fear or despise
- * We do not know who is elect; only God does
- * Election is possible because God is all-knowing and all-powerful
- * Election describes God’s perspective in salvation—faith describes the human perspective; the two complement one another perfectly
- * Do not distort and water down election by trying to make it more logical and palatable through finite human logic and speculation
- * Nowhere does the New Testament say that God elected some before the foundation of the world to go to hell
- * “Election” is not the gospel
- * It is not uncommon that many Christians ‘discover’ the real meaning of “election” later on in their lives as they mature in the Scriptures
- * The doctrine of election is often called the “doctrines of sovereign grace”
- * Election is the **U** in Calvin’s **TULIP**
- * Christians have been arguing about election for 1,900 years
- * Today, those who reject election are called “Arminian”; those who believe it are called “Calvinists”