



THE VOICE OF EVANGELISM INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

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PREDESTINATION AND ELECTION

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One of the many questions concerning Christianity revolves around the theological terminology better known as; predestination and election. Please accept my humble presentation of my simple understanding concerning this matter. Though we may not fully understand everything we can certainly get a grasp of the foundational meanings of these two powerful words. We want to take our Scripture text today from ***Ephesians 1:4-5, "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will"***. I suppose the great dilemma in this passage of Scripture is attempting to understand how a person can know if they are one of the elect, or even if they can be given that kind of knowledge. There are two phrases in this passage that must be examined in order to understand the much debated subject of God's election and predestination. The phrase found here in verse 4 "***he hath chosen us***": simply means that God has chosen us out of. You will question chosen out of, "***what***", and rightfully so. In this context, this word means that at some one particular time in the past, God chose individuals for salvation. Without a doubt in God's sovereignty He can rightly elect and choose whom He wills. Look with me please at ***James 2:5, "Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and***

heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him"? In this passage James makes it clear this promise is made to those that love him. Jesus himself said in ***Matthew 22:14, "For many are called, but few are chosen."*** In this verse Jesus declares that he calls many if not all: but few respond correctly to that call: therefore not everyone chooses to be a part of God's elect. If you go back and re-read the previous 13 verses in Matthew 22 you will see that all were invited to the wedding banquet but not all would attend. Because of their rejection the servant typifying the Holy Ghost went out and bade more people, but again they too would not attend. Finally in the end the fury of the king was so seething that he sent forth his armies, burned and razed their city. This was a prophetic description as to what would eventually happen to Jerusalem in 70 A.D. when Titus would destroy Jerusalem. Due to the perpetual spurning and rejecting of the Messiah, Christ could thus decree: "***many were called but few were chosen***" because they did not choose to accept his invitation. The second verb found in verse 5 means to determine beforehand or to predestinate. Whether one understands it or not, I personally believe God has predetermined or predestinated certain elements for everyone's life. However, if you are not willing and obedient, you will not receive what God has predestined for you. Obedience determines whether you receive the blessings or not. If you are willing and obedient you will receive.

The apostle Peter referred to this concept of predestination in his sermon on the day of Pentecost. Speaking of Christ we find his words in ***Acts 2:23, "Him (Jesus Christ), being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, you have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain."*** This passage of Scripture clearly demonstrates the concept of man's free will coupled with the responsibility for his own actions. God delivered up his son, and man was therefore given the choice of what they would do with Christ. They chose to crucify Him, leaving them responsible for their actions. Clearly, the teaching of the Scriptures is clear: Jesus Christ died for everyone! We understand this perspective from ***1st John 2:2, "And he (Jesus) is the propitiation for our sins (i.e., believers): and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."*** The results of Christ vicarious work on the cross clearly demonstrates it was for all mankind. Repeatedly the scriptures declare: "***whosoever believeth in him***" can obtain salvation. Let us look closely at a few scriptural examples of simply believing in Jesus for salvation: ***John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*** Looking at ***John 3:36, "He that believeth on the son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."*** Looking at ***Acts 10:43, "To him***

give all of the prophet's witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins." Remission of sins simply means to be forgiven of one's sins. Nothing in the world can atone for sin but the blood of Jesus Christ. Even in the Old Testament Elohim declared in **Leviticus 17:11, "For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul."** Reading from **Hebrews 9:22, "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission."** Last but not least look with me please at **Revelation 1:5, "Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood."** Putting one's faith in anything other than the blood of Jesus Christ is misplaced. If anything other than the blood of Jesus Christ could atone for sin; why then the shedding of Christ blood? While Christ was in the garden of Gethsemane praying He became a bloody hemorrhage before He ever went to the cross: **Luke 22: 44, "And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground."** To come to Christ, the invitation is given to everyone, and all who will hear the gospel are then made responsible and they are without excuse. They will either accept or reject Christ. If one perishes in his own sin, he is condemned as a result of his own choice. Regretfully, we live in a generation that does not want to accept responsibility for their own actions though their actions are willful. Having crossed the Jordan Joshua pled with Israel here in **Joshua 24:15, "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that**

were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." In the end our lives are ultimately lived by our personal choices! The apostle Paul declared in **Titus 2:10-11, "Not purloining (keeping back), but showing all good fidelity (or faithfulness); that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things. For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men."** As we reflect on our personal salvation experience as a believer, it should be noted that only God knows the point at which a person receives Christ as their personal Lord and Savior for salvation. At that moment in time the believer is then fulfilling God's purposes for their lives, resulting in the believer becoming one of God's elect. The apostle Peter fully understood the fact of free will: look with me please at **2nd Peter 1:10, "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, he shall never fall."** The key word here is *diligence*, in making your calling and election in Christ. Having embraced Christ wholeheartedly you will never fall eternally. In closing look with me please at **2nd Peter 2:21-22, "For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire."** Peter understood the power of free will and that a person can be delivered from the pollutions of this world and then choose to return to the world and bondage for a second time. The apostle Jude fully understood election as well found here in **Jude 12, "Trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots."** Jude declares these were once redeemed souls because they had fruit but their fruit ultimately withered: then there was no fruit, and ultimately they became twice dead. What does it mean

to be twice dead? We all were once dead in our trespasses but Christ redeemed us. However, if we return to a life of sin we become dead the second time in our transgressions: therefore we are twice dead. Before you get on the bandwagon and believe emphatically your hell proof I encourage you to do a thorough examination of the Holy Scriptures. It's your choice!! We invite you to get our newest book entitled

"Israel's Significance to Christianity", along with two one hour CDs or DVDs!" The book and CDs are \$17 postage-paid and the DVDs are \$20 postage-paid. Regretfully, there is a plethora of anti-Semitism in the world. That malicious spirit will continue to grow exponentially here in the time of the end. The reason I wrote this book was so everyone could fully understand four simple principles:

- 1: salvation is of the Jews,
- 2: it was Jewish men who gave us the Word of God,
- 3: Christ will ultimately return to Jerusalem at His second advent,
- 4: all Gentiles are brought in through the Abrahamic covenant.

I want to encourage you to continue to pray for our nation and our president. The conference in Branson MO. is all but sold out as of this writing. I look forward to seeing many of you there and having the opportunity to shake your hand, hug your neck, and minister to you on Sunday morning. It is with great joy to introduce to you: Stephon, Jazmine, and Lilly Wood who have come on board to work with The V.O.E. They will be a blessing to us all. We are anticipating great things in the coming days: therefore we earnestly covet your prayers.

Serving With You All,

Pastor / Evangelist David W. Lankford