

Elder Bobby Willis



Romans 9:11, "...that the purpose of God according to election might stand..."

The belief concerning what election is or what it is not, never ceases to amaze me. There seems to be as many theories, opinions, or ideas as there are those who express their own private interpretation of what election consists of. These various thoughts and expressions did not come to the surface yesterday; they have been around practically as long as humanity.

One such idea is that Election means this: God is waiting upon man to accept Him as Lord and Saviour so that He (God) can then elect him to receive eternal life. Another opinion declares: God knows all things, therefore He knows who will and who won't accept Him, therefore He (God) elected all those He knew would accept Him as Saviour. There are other thoughts which vary to some degree in all directions, but for the sake of space we will deal only with these two plus one. We will discuss it shortly.

The first idea results in a weak God that must depend upon man to do the accepting (or in this case - the saving). Otherwise, God is so dysfunctional that He cannot work the work of Salvation until man has first worked. That contradicts scripture: I John 4:19 says, **"We love him, because he first loved us."** And, **"all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?"** (Daniel 4:35)

The second opinion again declares that God's love is dependent upon our righteous works which He witnessed due to His foreknowledge. His giving of eternal life is actually the consequence of our righteous behaviour which we would at some point in time commit. This is the WORKS System personified. Have they not read Ephesians 2:8-9? **"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."** By the way, Galatians 2:16 says **"that a man is not justified by the works of the law..."** It goes on to say, **"for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified."**

How then are we saved and where does election come in? Notice Titus 3:5, **“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.”** This grace is an unmerited favor which is bestowed on us who are undeserving of its saving power. How much so? The grace of God embodies His election (choice) of those He loved from before the foundation of the world. Some may deny this, but if they do, they are denying the Word of God. Salvation of those loved by God is **“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,...”** (Ephesians 1:4-5)

Therefore, election did not take place because of our righteousness or because of the false idea of God’s dependance on man to accept Him, but rather it is according to the **“good pleasure of his will...”** When did God love His children which He elected to Salvation in Christ Jesus? Read those two verses in Ephesians 1:4-5 again: from **“...before the foundation of the world...”**

Surely we would be deserving of His grace. Not So! Ephesians 2:1 declares it plainly, **“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;...”** That clarifies our sinful condition. So how did we come to be in that number which God loved and elected to eternal life and which Jesus died for on the cross of Calvary? Notice closely John 6:37 as it reads clearly, **“...of all which he (God) hath given me (me is Jesus) I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.”** Now, Jesus just said that He wasn’t going to lose any that God had given Him. That means that all who were chosen in Christ Jesus (elected), were washed in the blood of the Lamb of God.

Have you ever stopped to think how weak Jesus would be if He lost just one that God had given Him to redeem? That would mean Jesus failed to do the will of God. However, the sweet promise is that He (Christ) will raise up all those who God loved and gave to the Son in the Covenant of Redemption. No dependence on man! No waiting to see what man might do before the election took place! No choice being made after creation! Your election (choice of God) was because He loved you before you were and before you were lovable (see Jeremiah 1:5). The wonder of election is that God in His mercy, loved any of humanity at all. We all, because of sin, are deserving of eternal torment.

With this being said, pay close attention to Revelation 1:5. **“And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,...”** By this comes saving grace by the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. To Him be the praise for the truths of the electing love of our Father which is in Heaven. **“Think About It!”**

