**Election**

**February 15-16, 2017**

*If we respond to Christ’s invitation in a positive way, we can honestly say that we chose to respond to Christ while also saying that it was (in ways we cannot fully understand) ordained by God. If we can’t fully understand how these to two things can be true at the same time, then* ***we must acknowledge that there is a mystery here****. -Grudem*

***Election****: is an act of God before creation in which he chooses some people to be saved, not on the account of any forseen merit in them, but only because of his sovereign good pleasure. – Grudem*

*Many people view this doctrine as unfair, but before jumping to conclusions it is important to see where this definition, and therefore doctrine, comes from.* This study will look into this in greater detail.

What does Election mean to you? What do you think of the definition given above? Does it make you uncomfortable or are you excited to talk about it? What are you hoping to get out of this study?

*Note: this is a topic with much controversy and debate behind it. There may a tendency to get into philosophical/theoretical debates with little look into the scriptures. It with strong emphasis that we encourage you to dig into the Scriptures, let the scripture and the Spirit guide the discussion.*

He has chosen us, it was done out of his purpose, and therefore we should have assurance of our faith and its effects

Romans 8: 26-37

Ephesians 1: 3-14

Ephesians 2: 8-10

2 Timothy 1: 8-9

What does it mean to be called according to His purpose? What does it mean that He predestined us for adoption to himself according to the purpose of his will? What do the words: foreknew, predestined, called, justified, and glorified mean to you (Romans 8 29-30)? Do these verses give you greater confidence in your own faith and what it means? What is the result of being called, accepting the invitation, and therefore being adopted?

Our evangelism is *with* purpose as we are hopeful that whom He has called will respond to Him (He calls, we respond).

Acts 13:46-48: God commands us to be ministers of his word so that salvation may come to the ends of the earth.

1 Thessalonians 1: 2-7: the gospel was taken with Power of the Spirit, and they accepted the invitation.

2 Timothy 2: 10-13: Recognize the sacrifice that comes with evangelism to the elect, and see that there is still free-will

How do these verses talk about *how* we should go, and what *sacrifices* there may be? What do these verses reveal about the Power of the Holy Spirit? What was the response like for those who heard and accepted the message? After reading these verses, what have you learned that has changed how you will go and share the gospel?

We must remain humble before the Lord and His will

Romans 9: 19-24: *Our response to these words in Romans reveals a lot about our hearts and our willingness to submit to our sovereign Creator. -Grudem*

What it is your response to these verses in Romans 9? Do they leave you frustrated or discomforted at all? Are you humbled in reading them?

The Lord loves and wants all to come know him

1 Timothy 2: 1-6

2 Peter 3:9

Ezekiel 33:11
Matthew 11: 27 -30

Do these verses provide a greater assurance/comfort to recognizing God as all-loving? How does this change how you view those who do not yet know Him, how can it change your prayer life?

Conclusion

How have your views on Election been changed, strengthened, or gained greater depth of understanding? From this study do you believe you have a greater understanding for God’s purpose of Election, or are you more confused? What did this teach you about who God is? What did this teach you about your own faith? What did this teach you about ministering and praying for others?

Scripture References are below, see next page.

References: Quotations used from: *20 basics every Christian should know- Wayne A Grudem.*

**Election Scripture References (ESV)**

**February 15-16, 2017**

**Romans 8: 26-37**

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because[g] the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. 28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good,[h] for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be[i] against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.[j] 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;

 we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Ephesians 1: 3-14**

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee[d] of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it,[e] to the praise of his glory.

**Ephesians 2: 8-10**

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

**2 Timothy 1: 8-9**

8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, 9 who saved us and called us to[a] a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,

**Acts 13: 46-48**

46 And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. 47 For so the Lord has commanded us, saying,

“‘I have made you a light for the Gentiles,

 that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’”

48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed

**1 Thessalonians 1: 2-7**

2 We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, 3 remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 4 For we know, brothers[b] loved by God, that he has chosen you, 5 because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. 6 And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

**2 Timothy 2: 10-13**

Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. 11 The saying is trustworthy, for:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

12 if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he also will deny us;

13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful—

for he cannot deny himself.

**Romans 9: 19-24**

You will say to me then, “Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?” 20 But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, “Why have you made me like this?” 21 Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? 22 What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, 23 in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory

**1 Timothy 2: 1-6**

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 3 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man[a] Christ Jesus, 6 who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. 7 For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

**2 Peter 3:9**

9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you,[a] not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

**Ezekiel 33:11**

11 Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

**Matthew 11: 27-30**

All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. 28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”