

DIVINE ELECTION & HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY

“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me:
and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out” John 6:37

1. Divine Election

A. *Election means Choice.*

1. God is *sovereign* and He has, by His own will, made certain *choices* of persons, places, things, etc. to further His purposes.

B. The Election of Persons to Eternal Life

1. If Man is left to himself (to his own will), all refuse eternal life—John 5:40; 6:44; Rom. 3:11
2. God has elected (chosen) certain individuals to eternal life and because of this, they will believe the Gospel and receive eternal life—Acts 13:46-48; 1st Thessalonians 1:4-6; 2nd Thessalonians 2:13,14
3. The Father draws the elect by the Holy Spirit—John 6:44; 2nd Thessalonians 2:13; 1st Peter 1:2
4. The elect are a gift to the Son from the Father—John 6:37a; 17: 2,6,9,11,12,24

C. Various Aspects of the Nature of God's Choice

1. Election is related to *foreknowledge*—Romans 8:28,29; 1 Peter 1:2
2. Election is related to *predestination*—Romans 8:28,29; Ephesians 1:4,5
3. Election is wholly of *grace*—Romans 11:5,6; 2nd Timothy 1:9
4. Election is an absolute *sovereign act*—John 15:16,19; Ephesians 1:4,5b
5. Election is for the *glory of God*—Ephesians 1:4a,6

2. Human Responsibility

A. *Human Responsibility* implies that when one hears the gospel, *he/she is responsible to believe it or face the consequences of not believing it.*

B. Facts Related to Human Responsibility

1. Christ died for *all men*—2nd Corinthians 5:14; 1st Timothy 2:5,6; 1st John 2:2
2. God desires *all men* to be saved—1st Timothy 2:3,4; Titus 2:11; 2 Peter 3:9
3. God offers salvation to *all men*—John 3:16,17; Romans 3:22; 1st John 4:9,10,14; Revelation 22:17
4. God commands *all men* to repent and believe the gospel—Acts 17:30; 20:21
5. All who believe are forgiven, saved, and have eternal life—Acts 10:43; 13:38,39; 16:30,31; John 3:16,36a; 5:24; 6:47; 1 John 5:11-13
6. *All* who do not repent and believe will perish in the lake of fire—Luke 13:3,5; Mark 16:16b; John 3:36b,c; 2nd Thessalonians 1:7-9; 2:12
7. All who do perish will have only themselves to blame, for they would not come to Christ in simple faith and receive His free gift of eternal life—John 5:40; 2nd Thessalonians 2:10-12

3. Some Conclusions to be Drawn From These Two Truths

A. When we preach the gospel we preach #2 (Human Responsibility). After one is saved, they will learn of and rejoice in #1 (the revelation of God's Divine Election).

1. One has put it this way: “Many of our readers have doubtless heard the illustration of Christ as the door of salvation (John 10:9). The unsaved person, outside the door, sees written above it the words: ‘And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.’ He enters in response to this gracious invitation, and is saved. Inside he sees, written above the door, these words, ‘He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world.’ These words could not be seen from the outside; one must be in Christ before they are applicable.”

B. We preach #2 without putting pressure on the unsaved, knowing that it is God's work to bring a soul to salvation (John 6:44; 1st Corinthians 3:6,7).

C. Because of #1, we do not take any credit for leading souls to Christ. God gets all the glory.

D. Because of #1, we do not take any credit for our own salvation with words such as, “*I* trusted in Christ for my salvation, why can't *you*?”