

The Scriptural Truth about Unconditional Election

The Balanced View – it is God’s Will for all to be saved – 2 Pet. 3:9; 1 Tim. 2:3-4. **God has no conditions for giving salvation (it’s FREE), but there is a condition for receiving salvation (it’s FAITH).** An important Biblical concept to understand is that there is a difference in God’s Knowledge and God’s Will. It is God’s Will for all to be saved, but at the same time God knows who will accept Jesus and who will reject Jesus (Mat. 7:13-14).

The Subtle Deception about Unconditional Election

The Extreme View – **To the Hyper-Calvinist, Unconditional Election means that there are no conditions for giving or receiving salvation.** Everything depends upon the mere will of God. If some are damned and some are saved it is because God created some for Eternal Life and some for Eternal Death. They believe that faith is a gift only for the elect. Rom. 12:3 – *God hath dealt to **EVERY MAN THE MEASURE OF FAITH!***

Two things you must understand:

1. There is a difference between Corporate Election and Individual Election.

Rom. 9:11-13 – What about Jacob and Esau? These two not being born, one was hated, one was loved. Parallel passage in the Old Testament, Gen. 25:23, the reference is to two nations, not two people – this is Corporate Election, not Individual Election. Regardless of the Corporate Election, individuals must accept Christ (Rom. 11:26, “*And so all Israel shall be saved,*” is referring to Israel as a remnant) – Israel as a Nation is part of the Elect, but they still must accept God’s grace by faith to be saved! Mal. 1:2-3 – Jacob and Esau had already been born when the Lord was speaking to Malachi. The word hate means to love less. God chose Jacob and not Esau because He knew of the Edomite nation that would come out of Esau. Gen. 18:19. We all have a Free Will choice, but God knows what our choice is going to be long before we do!

2. The Relationship between God and Time.

Past, Present, and Future are all Present to God! He is Omniscient and Eternal! **Foreknowledge** – God knows everything throughout all time – He created time! He lives in the Eternal NOW! John 8:58 – Jesus didn’t say, “before Abraham was, I was,” but rather, “*before Abraham was, I AM.*” He knows the end from the beginning – that’s what foreknowledge is (Isa. 46:10). When we read that we were chosen in Him before the foundation of the world, we must realize that the Holy Ghost has stated this issue from our perspective. Since God lives in the Present Tense, there is no time difference from the moment He chose me, and the moment I chose Him. Since God is Sovereign, He is able to count things done, even when they have not yet been done! Rom. 8:30 is written with nearly every word in Past Tense – *whom he justified, them he also glorified* – **So, if you have been justified, in God’s sight, you are already glorified!** God gave man the ability to choose between options. It’s not “The Elect **must** be saved and the non-elect **cannot** be saved,” but, “the Elect **will** be saved and the non-elect **won’t** be saved.” The conclusion is that **WHOSEVER WILL** can be saved! Acts 16:31 – Paul and Silas didn’t say to the jailer, “Well, I’m sorry, but if you’re not one of the Elect you cannot be saved, and it is impossible for us to know if you are one of the Elect.” No, Paul and Silas said, “*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and THOU SHALT BE SAVED, and thy house.*” This truth remains true today! AMEN.

The Subtle Deception about Limited Atonement

The Extreme View – **Question: For whom did Christ die?** The Elect (Extreme) OR All Humanity (Biblical). **The Hyper-Calvinist will say** that “if Christ died for all men and all men are not saved, then the cross of Christ is of no effect.” Their Contention – if Christ died for the sins of the whole world, then the whole world would be saved. Their Conclusion – the rejection of limited atonement leads to Universalism (the teaching that all human beings will ultimately be saved).

The Scriptural Truth about The Atonement

The Balanced View – Let’s consider the atonement from 3 different angles:

1. **The Intention of the Atonement:** What was the intention of God in providing an Atonement? Heb. 9:26; 2 Cor. 5:19; Isa. 53:6. **Answer:** to provide an acceptable sacrifice and satisfaction for sin that is sufficient enough for the salvation for ALL HUMANITY!
2. **The Extent of the Atonement:** For whose sins did Christ die? John 1:29; John 3:16-17 – they’ll say that John is referring to *the world* of believers or *the world* of the elect – but *the world* means mankind, it means all humanity – Jesus defines it in John 3:18-19. Christ died for ALL sins – 1 John 2:1-2; 2 Cor. 5:14-15; Rom. 5:11. **Atonement** – the voluntary, substitutionary death of Jesus Christ on the cross, which satisfied the righteous demands of a holy God as a payment for all sin. Only occurs one time in the New Testament. When we accept the Lord Jesus Christ, we exchange our sin for His righteousness (2 Cor. 5:21). We are AT-ONE with God! **Propitiation** – satisfies God’s righteous demands. **Substitution** – He died in our place! There is nobody that is outside of the love of God! So, for whose sins did Christ die? For the sins of ALL HUMANITY. **It is unlimited in its extent and availability. Heb. 2:9.**
3. **The Application of the Atonement:** The atonement has been made available to all humanity by the death of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary, BUT it is only applied to those who believe. **It is unlimited in its availability, but it is limited in its application. Rom. 3:24-25.** The atoning blood of Christ that propitiates, that satisfies the righteous demands of a holy God, is only applied to those that exercise faith in His blood! God has created the New Jerusalem with exact dimensions (Rev. 21:16), but He created Hell with no dimensions, and Hell enlarges herself daily (Isa. 5:14). Why is this? Because it is His Will for everyone to go to Heaven, and there is enough room for all to go – and Hell was only created for the devil and his angels (Mat. 25:41).

Some have said that GRACE is God’s Riches At Christ Expense. Some have said that Grace is the unmerited favor of God. Some have said according to Tit. 3:5, it is God’s mercy to the undeserving. Now all these things apply, and all are good definitions, but the greatest definition of grace is simply **anything that God has done for man!** For whatever He has done for us has been done by His grace. John 12:32-33; Tit. 2:11-12. The grace of God that is a SAVING grace is also a SCHOOLING grace! When one is saved by the grace of God, that same grace sets us a classroom in their heart and teaches them to deny *ungodliness and worldly lusts*, and to *live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world*. **If a person doesn’t have SCHOOLING grace, then they haven’t received SAVING grace.**

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