

## UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION! GRACE CONCEIVED ”

**TEXT: II Thessalonians 2:13**

### INTRO:

#### **A. The Scripture is FULL of GOD'S CHOICES!**

1. God's choice of one nation over and above other nations (Deut. 7:6).
2. God's choice of one tribe over and above all other tribes in a nation (Deut 18:1-5; Psa. 78:67-68).
3. God's choice of one individual over and above other individuals (Psa.78:70-72; I Sam. 16:1, 10-13).
4. God's choice of a place over and above all places (Psa. 132:13; I Kings 11:13).
5. God's choice of some angels over and above other angles (I Tim. 5:21)
6. God's choice of individuals unto "salvation" over and above others individuals (Eph. 1:3-4; II Thess. 2:13; II Tim. 2:10).

#### **B. In this lesson we want to look at the doctrine of the "unconditional election" of "individuals" unto "salvation".**

1. By "Unconditional Election" I mean that God of his own purpose has from eternity, determined to save a definite number of individuals from among mankind, not for or because of any merit or work of theirs, nor because of any foreseen goodness or act of repentance or faith, but solely and simply for God s'own good pleasure.

#### **C. This blessed doctrine of unconditional election is a controversial subject.**

1. Many see it as a great evil.
  - a. They view it as a "hindrance" to witnessing, salvation, and godly living!
2. Many question the doctrine of election, as they did in Paul's day (Rom. 9:14, 19).
  - a. They do not believe it is "fair", "just", or "right"!

#### **D. The scripture is the ONLY source of the TRUTH concerning the matter.**

1. The scripture presents to us the doctrine of sovereign, personal, undeserved, unconditional election.
2. Though many question it - The scripture presents it as right and just (Rom. 9:14-24).
3. Though many see it as a great evil, the scripture presents it as a GREAT blessing (Psa. 65:4; Eph. 1:3-4).
4. Without election there would be no need for witnessing and no hope of salvation or godly living!

### I. WHAT UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION IS NOT!

#### **A. Election is not salvation, but "unto" salvation.**

1. There was a "time" when each of the elect was "lost".
2. Election is Gods choice of some "unto" salvation (II Thes. 2:13, 14; Eph. 1:4; Rom. 8:29, 30).

#### **B. Election is not a respect of persons (Rom. 9:18-24).**

1. Fame, wealth, wisdom, position, etc., did not cause God to have respect for some and then elect them (Job 34:19).
2. All being ungodly, none could have been saved had He not shown grace to some.

#### **C. Election is not "salvation regardless"**

1. But unto salvation through the redemption of Christ, applied by the Spirit through the gospel. (John 6:37; Rom. 10:17; I Thes. 1:4, 5; II Thes. 2:13, 14; Acts 13:48).
2. Election is not "abstract"; it is "IN CHRIST" (Eph. 1:3-4).

#### **D. Election is not an enemy of righteousness.**

1. But through its appointed means election causes those once ungodly to live godly (Eph. 1:4; I Thes. 1:4-10).

#### **E. Election is not based on foreseen faith or works (Rom. 9:11-16; 11:5, 6; Deuteronomy 7:7-8).**

1. But it produces faith and works (Phil. 1:6; II Tim. 1:9; Eph. 2:8-10; Acts 13:48; I Cor. 3:5; Rom. 12:3; Eph. 4:7; Acts 5:31; II Tim. 2:25).

#### **F. Election is not of the Jews only (Rom. 9:24; 11:5-8, 11, 12, 25; John 11:52).**

**G. Election is not merely to service, but to salvation.** (II Thes. 2:13, 14; II Tim. 2:10).

**H. Election is not fatalism, but is the work of God** (I Thes. 1:4; Rom. 8:28, 30).

**I. Election is not anti-missionary.**

1. Election gives the foundation for missions (John 6:37; 17:20,21; II Tim. 2:10; Isa. 55:11; II Pet. 3:9, 15)

**J. Election is not of man.**

1. Some say, "God votes, the devil votes, and man votes. "
2. The Bible teaches that election is not of the devil and man, but "of God." (I Thes. 1:4; John 10:16; I John 4:10, 19).

**K. Election is not of reason, but of Revelation.**

1. At first, it does not appeal to man's reason, but when man accepts God's Word, it is seen to be the only thing that could be "reasonable." (Matt. 20:15.)

## II. WHAT UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION DOES NOT DO!

**A. Election does not destroy the responsibility of man.**

1. Men are responsible for whatever light they have.
  - a. Men are responsible in conscience (Rom. 2:15)
  - b. Men are responsible in nature (Rom. 1:19, 20)
  - c. Men are responsible in the written law (Rom. 2:17,27)
  - d. Men are responsible in the gospel (Mark 16:15, 16)
  - e. God has not lost his ability to command, just because man has lost his ability to obey.

**B. Election does not make God unjust.**

1. God blessing a great number of unworthy sinners with salvation does no injustice to the rest of the unworthy sinners.
2. If a governor pardons one convict, he does no injustice to the rest (I Thes. 5:9).

**C. Election does not destroy man's so-called "free will."**

1. The will of man is his desire, wish or choice.
  - a. His choice is sin (John 3:19, 20; 5:40; 3:11; 2:2, 3; 4:17-19; Jer. 17-9; 13:23 etc.)
  - b. Man "freely" chooses sin and by God's grace the elect freely choose Christ (Ps. 65:4; 110:3; John 6:44, 65; Acts 13:48)

**D. Election does not exclude the use of means to bring men to salvation.**

1. The Same God that chose individuals to salvation also chose the means to accomplish their salvation (II Thes. 2:14; Eph. 1:5, 13; II Tim. 2:10; I Pet. 1:2.).

**E. Election does not discourage convicted sinners, but welcomes them to Christ.**

1. "Let him that is athirst come " (Rev. 17:17).
2. The God who convicts is the God who saves.
3. The God who saves is the God who has elected men unto salvation.

**F. Election does not shut the door of salvation.**

1. Election opens that door for all those who eventually come to Christ (John 6:37, 44, 63, 65; 10:9; 14:6).

**G. Election does not hinder gospel preaching.**

1. Election assures the success of gospel preaching (Isa. 55:11; John 10:27; 6:37, 45; 17:20, 21; Acts 15:14; 16:14; 18:27; II Tim. 2:9, 10).

**H. Election does not discourage prayer.**

1. To the contrary, it drives us to God, for He alone can save!
2. True prayer is the Spirit's prompting; and thus will be in harmony with God's will (Rom. 8:26).

## CON: WHAT THIS DOCTRINE SHOULD DO TO US!

**A. It should stop the boasting of man** (Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 9:11; II Tim 1:9; 1 Cor. 1:31).

**B. It should cause us to praise God for HIS elective work.**

1. His work on our behalf (Eph. 1:3), and his work on the behalf of others (2 Thess. 2:13).