

# DIVINE ELECTION



**Fellowship Bible Church**



# ***DIVINE ELECTION***

---

## **Bible Study Guide**

*From the leadership development ministry of*

**FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH MISSIONS**

# Acknowledgments

---

The lesson outlines and notes in this booklet were prepared and edited by Tim McManigle, Director of FBC Missions.

# Table of Contents

## DIVINE ELECTION

---

	Page
Chapter 1	2
Chapter 2	4
Chapter 3	5

05/25/07  
Revision 1

## Divine Election Chapter 1

### A. Election Defined

Regarding this whole subject of election and free will, let's take a close look at the terms used in Scripture. The word "election" is defined as a sovereign divine purpose that is totally independent of human merit. The word is used of Israel (**Isaiah 65:9, 22**) of the Church (**Romans 8:33; Colossians 3:12; 2 Timothy 2:10; I Thess. 1:4; I Peter 5:13**) and of Christ (**Isaiah 42:1; I Peter 2:6**). Chosen--this word is a synonym (mean the same) of the word election. Like election, the term is applied to Israel (**Isaiah 44:1**) and to the church (**Ephesians 1:4; 2 Thess. 2:13; I Peter 2:9**), and is also used of the apostles (**John 6:70; 13:18; Acts 1:2**).

- Drawing--there is a general drawing as mentioned in **John 12:32**. However, there is also what appears to a personal and an irresistible drawing which Christ mentioned (**John 6:44**).
- Calling--this is similar to drawing. No Scripture defines the divine call, with all that it means better than **Romans 8:30**.
- Divine Purpose--a word that is closely akin to election is the word purpose (**Ephesians 1:9; Ephesians 3:11**).
- Foreknowledge--this specific term means merely that God knows beforehand. It is used of Israel (**Romans 11:2**) and of the Church (**Romans 8:29**).

### B. Doctrine of Election is Spiritually Discerned, not Naturally Understood

The doctrine of election presents problems, which are actually insolvable by the human mind. Divine selection is not limited only to God choosing who will receive eternal life; because we see it everywhere in the universe. There is variety in everything God created. There are classifications among the angels. One star is bigger and brighter than another star. Men are not born of the same race with the same advantages, nor with the same abilities. Let's add this also--man's will has no part in any of this. Men do not choose their race or their life conditions, such as where they are born, rich or poor, healthy or sick, position of honor or dishonor.

However, it is very important to remember that God's attitude toward every human being is one of compassion and love. Give some thought to this: Divine election and God's love cannot be reconciled within our human understanding, and furthermore, I believe that it is so important that we give God the first consideration. Any system of religious thought, which suggests that God is limited by the thoughts, prayers, or actions of man is just plain foolishness. The order of truth is seen in the first phrase of the Bible--"In the beginning God." It is God who planned, He executed and it is He who will do His good pleasure. **Philippians 2:13; Hebrews 13:20, 21**

### **C. Conclusion**

The true system of Biblical thought begins with God and man is conformed to the plan and purpose of his Creator, not the other way around. Something else for us to give some thought to is God is never obligated in the exercise of His grace. He chooses whomever He pleases. **Romans 9:20,21** He sees absolutely no good in man which might form a basis for His blessings.

#### **Romans 3:10-18**

Something else for us to give some thought to is that Scripture makes clear that man has not chosen God. Jesus emphasized this in **John 15:16**. Even Adam, before the fall and totally free to choose, did not choose God. If that is true, then I believe we can safely say that fallen man will not of himself choose God.

## Divine Election

### Chapter 2

#### A. Free Will

Let's take a few minutes here and look at the subject of free will.

The very first exercise of free will is a created being brought sin into the universe. Lucifer, the chief of the angels, set his will against that of his Creator by saying, "I will be like the Most High." (**Isaiah 14:12-14**)

- The very first exercise of free will by man brought sin into the human race and into the world. Adam freely responded to fallen Satan's suggestion to "be as God" (**Genesis 3:5,6**). Let's give some thought to this: Both Lucifer and Adam were created perfect to live in perfect freedom within the perfect will of God. It was simply a matter of them resting, abiding and obeying the will of their Creator, but they gave up their God-given freedom by setting their will against "that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."
- For Satan, who first exercised free will, there is no hope. "The Lord said unto the serpent, 'because thou hast done this, thou are cursed'" (**Genesis 3:14,15**).
- For Adam, victimized by Satan in his innocence, the promised seed in **Genesis 3:15** was to be His Savior and Redeemer. The only problem is that fallen man is now enslaved to sin by self-will (an inward desire to do wrong), therefore, in and of himself, he will never choose his Savior (**2 Corinthians 4:4**).

#### B. Man's Personal Responsibility for Sin

- Again, **John 16:15**. Nevertheless, it appears that in some way God still holds fallen man responsible for his blindness and rebellion, which really means that we can't blame Satan and we can't blame Adam...(**Romans 9:30-32**). Interesting verse--**Romans 11:20**. I want to say this, fallen man has neither the freedom of will, nor the inclination of mind to turn to God (**Romans 3:10-11**).
- Let's take a look at what Jesus says about all this in the book of John (**John 5:39, 40; John 6:44**). Here's an interesting thought--when a lost sinner does turn to the Lord and receive Him as his Savior by faith, in his own mind he has done this of his own free will--but that is not the way it actually is. What really happens is that God, through the Holy Spirit, has prepared and enabled him to believe (**Romans 9:15, 16**).



- Look with me at **Ephesians 1:4-6**. **Ephesians 1:11**, notice God's free will, not man's. Even after salvation, man comes to realize the awful truth of **Romans 7**, that even as a believer we do not have free will. Even when we want to do good, evil is present with us (**Romans 7:15, 19**). What a tragedy it would be for God to allow fallen man free will (**Jeremiah 17:9**).
- Let me ask this question--did man of his own free will choose to crucify Jesus (**Acts 4:26-28**)? How encouraging it is for us to know and count upon the fact that "it is God who worketh in us both to will and to do of His good pleasure" (**Philippians 2:13**).

When man is exercising his will he thinks that he has total freedom to choose. Often times he directs his course by circumstances but God orchestrates our circumstances. Man is often motivated by emotions, but God is able to control every human emotion. Man prides himself that he is governed by superior judgment, but God is able to influence every thought of the human mind. Body - soul - spirit.

### C. Conclusion

Many people may not like the sovereignty of God, but I love it, because I know enough of my natural bent and will to be sure that if left to myself I would have gone straight to hell.

Salvation belongs to the Lord (**Psalm 3:8; Exodus 14:13, 14; 2 Chron. 20:17**). It is God that chooses and elects His people. He calls them by His grace; He quickens them by His Spirit, and keeps them by His power. It is not of man. Again, **Romans 9:16**.

## Divine Election

### Chapter 3

#### A. Satan's Free Will

In our last lesson, we looked at free will. Let's now ask: does Satan have free will? Although Satan was created with free will, he used that freedom to oppose God's will and thereby lost it. From his fall in and from heaven, until his final fall into the lake of fire, the enemy is enslaved and controlled by God (**Job 1:12; 2:6; Matthew 8:28-32**). Although a terrible antagonist, Satan is nonetheless a defeated foe. His doom was announced in Eden (**Genesis 3:15**); his doom was sealed at Calvary (**Colossians 2:15; Hebrews 2:14**), and his doom will be finalized in the lake of fire (**Revelation 20:10**).

- Through the years it has been sad to see so many otherwise gifted leaders attempt to lock horns with Satan in a so-called "deliverance ministry." In time, they inevitably go down in defeat, whether it be physical, mental, moral, or spiritual. The problem is that they are attempting to function in the wrong dispensation, in a past era. Today, we believers are to rest in our position in the ascended Lord Jesus Christ, and resist Satan, by faith (**I Peter 5:8, 9; Ephesians 4:27; James 4:7; Colossians 2:9, 10; Ephesians 6:10-13**).

#### Satan, An Instrument to Accomplish God's Will

Not a hair of the child of God can fall without God's permission. Satan is nothing more than an instrument to accomplish God's will; he can do no more than God permits. If trials come in our lives we know that the sovereign Almighty God is between us and them. They will merely accomplish for us His purpose (**Romans 8:28, 29**).

#### B. God's Sovereignty

- This is God's universe; all created beings are the work of His hands and therefore He can dispose of them as He chooses. Why do we think it's strange or unreasonable that He determines the course and destiny of human history?
- Let me say this--God may give some latitude, freedom to men, but their sphere of freedom is never outside the larger sphere of His eternal purpose. No greater example of election could be found than **Genesis 12:1-3**. Notice all the "I wills" which form the unconditional covenant with Abraham. Abraham was the elect of God--many men lived in Abraham's day, but God chose him.

## C. Conclusion

In His early ministry Christ revealed the truth of divine election (**Luke 4:25-27**). Another interesting Scripture regarding this whole subject of election is **Romans 9:17, 18**. Scripture seems to be very clear, certain individuals are chosen by the Lord. **Romans 16:13**--chosen to salvation (**2 Thess. 2:13**), chosen in Him before the foundation of the world (**Ephesians 1:4**), predestined to the adoption of sons (**Ephesians 1:5**), elect according to the foreknowledge of God (**1 Peter 1:2**), vessels of mercy which He hath before prepared unto glory (**Romans 9:23**). There can be no question but that these passages clearly reveal an act of God by which some are chosen, but not all. Hidden word election is the implied truth, which we cannot ignore, and that is that others are not chosen, but are passed by. Election cannot be understood in any other light than that others--the non-elect--are passed by. God's purpose is not merely to give salvation to those who may believe, but it determines who will believe. Divine election was accomplished in eternity past. All things which related to human history were determined by God before man was created. Four passages make this clear (**Ephesians 1:4; 2 Timothy 1:9; Acts 15:18; 2 Thess. 2: 13,14**).

## OBJECTIONS REGARDING THE DOCTRINE OF ELECTION

In his Systematic Theology, Dr. Augustus H. Strong has presented the usual objections to election and refuted them in a manner so brief and yet so conclusive that it seems well to restate his material here. A part only of his argument in each instance is here quoted.

**(a)** It is unjust to those who are not included in this purpose of salvation. Answer: Election deals, not simply with creatures, but with sinful, guilty, and condemned creatures. That any should be saved, is a matter of pure grace, and those who are not included in this purpose of salvation suffer only the due reward of their deeds. There is, therefore, no injustice in God's election. We may better praise God that He saves any, than charge Him with injustice because He saves so few.

**(b)** It represents God as partial in His dealing and a respecter of persons. Answer: Since there is nothing in men that determines God's choice of one rather than another, the objection is invalid. It would equally apply to God's selection of certain nations, as Israel, and certain individuals, as Cyrus, to be recipients of special temporal gifts. If God is not to be regarded as partial in not providing a

salvation for fallen angels, He cannot be regarded as partial in not providing regenerating influences of His Spirit for the whole race of fallen men...depending on one's will.

### **Chosen by God**

(Below are just a few verses that speak on God's sovereignty of election)

In reading through these scriptures may God guide you to believe we have been wholly chosen by Him for His purposes. We are certainly totally unworthy, but it is He who makes us worthy. As it is He who draws us to himself to where we have no choice but to chose Him.

**Matthew 22:1-14** For many are called, but few {are} chosen. (verse 14)

**Matthew 24:22** And if those days had not been cut short, no one would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

**Matthew 24:31** And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet blast, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

**Mark 13:20** And if the Lord had not cut short those days, no one would be saved. But because of the elect, whom he chose, he has cut them short.

**Luke 18:7** Won't God give justice to his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night?

**Luke 19:10** For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

**John 6:44** No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.

**John 10:27-28** My sheep listen to my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. 10:28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish;

- John 15:16**     You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.
- John 15:19**     If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.
- Acts 1:2**         ...until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.
- Acts 22:14**     “Then he said: ‘The God of our fathers has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth
- Romans 8:28-33**     8:28 And we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose, 8:29 because those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. 8:30 And those he predestined, he also called; and those he called, he also justified; and those he justified, he also glorified. 8:33 Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.
- Romans 9:13**     Just as it is written, "JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED."
- Romans 9:15-16**     For He says to Moses, "I WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHOM I HAVE MERCY, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOM I HAVE COMPASSION." <sup>16</sup>So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.
- Romans 9:18**     So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires.
- Romans 11:5**     In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious choice.

**II Corinth. 12:18** But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.

**II Corinth. 1:22** Now, He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God; <sup>22</sup>who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.

**Galatians 1:15** But when God, who had set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, was pleased <sup>16</sup>to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood...

**Ephesians 1:4-5** ...just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him In love <sup>5</sup>He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will...

**Ephesians 1:11** ...also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will...

**Philippians 2:13** for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

**Colossians 1:13** For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son...

**Colossians 3:12** So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience...

**1 Thess. 1:4** ...knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you;

**2 Timothy 2:10** For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.

**James 1:18** In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

- Titus 1:1** Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness...
- 1 Peter 1:1-3** Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen<sup>2</sup> according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.
- <sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,<sup>4</sup> to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you...
- 2 John 1** The elder to the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in truth; and not only I, but also all who know the truth...
- Revelation 17:14** "These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful."
- Genesis 18:19** For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.
- Exodus 33:19** And He said, "I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the LORD before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion."
- Deuteronomy 7:6** For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth.

- Psalm 18:35** You have also given me the shield of Your salvation, And Your right hand upholds me; And Your gentleness makes me great.
- Psalm 65:4** How blessed is the one whom You choose and bring near to You to dwell in Your courts we will be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, Your holy temple.
- Psalm 106:5** ...that I may enjoy the prosperity of your chosen ones that I may share in the joy of your nation and join your inheritance in giving praise.
- Isaiah 41:8** "But you, O Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, you descendants of Abraham my friend,<sup>9</sup> I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, 'You are my servant'; I have chosen you and have not rejected you.
- Isaiah 43:20** The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the desert and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen...
- Isaiah 65:9** I will bring forth offspring from Jacob, And an heir of My mountains from Judah; Even My chosen ones shall inherit it, And My servants will dwell there.
- Isaiah 65:22** They will not build and another inhabit, They will not plant and another eat; For as the lifetime of a tree, so will be the days of My people, And My chosen ones will wear out the work of their hands.
- Jeremiah 1:5** Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, And before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations.





