

Essential Doctrines Of The Bible



Total Depravity

Unconditional Election

Limited Atonement

Irresistible Grace

Perseverance of the Saints

“Unconditional” = Not dependent on anything we do, e.g., without any conditions.

“Election” = Chosen to receive everlasting life

Our understanding of unconditional election determines our understanding and attitude toward God, His Word, our fellow believers, the world and redemption. “It is not too much to say that (predestination) is fundamental to the whole...Scripture.” — Dr. Benjamin B. Warfield

ARMINIANISM

Election is not taught in the Bible (say some Arminians).

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES

Matt. 24:24; 24:31; Mark 13:20; I Thes. 1:4; Rom 11:7; I Tim. 5:21; Rom. 8:33; Rom. 11:5; II Tim. 2:10; Titus 1:1; I Peter 1:1; 2:9; I Thes. 5:9; Acts 13:48; Jn. 17:9; 6:37; 6:65; 13:18; Ps. 105:6, etc., etc.

Election is taught (say others), but it is a conditional election. God foresees those who will believe and selects those He knows will accept Him. You essentially “elect yourself.”

Eph. 2:8,9; Rom. 9:16

What are the “5 Golden Links” in Rom. 8:29,30?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

You can choose to accept or reject Christ.

Jer. 10:23; 13:23	Ex. 9:13-16; 10:1,2	Rom 3:10-12
Jn. 15:16	Prov. 16:9; 21:1	Jn 5:25
I Cor. 2:14	Acts 13:41	II Thes 2:13-14

It is your decision for Christ that saves you.

Jn 3:3	I Cor 1:18	Eph. 1:4,5; 2:8,9
Rom. 5:8	Phil 2:13	Ezek. 36:24-26
II Tim 1:9	II Thes. 2:13-14(!)	Acts 13:48
Rom 9:14-18		

OBJECTIONS

God doesn't just choose one person over another.

above verses, plus:	Is. 6:9,10 (quoted <i>six times</i> in the NT)
Ps. 65:4	II Thes 2:13-14 (!!)
Eph. 1:4,5	Jn 5:21; 13:18
Rom. 9:9-13	
Mt. 11:25; 13:10,11	

It would be unjust for God to choose some and not others without regard to their actions.

Job 34:12; 18,19 (also chap. 38-41)
Rom 9:14-18

If salvation is all of God, then why would he hold unbelievers responsible?

Rom 1:18-32
Rom. 3:23

The doctrine of unconditional election means that God has foreordained some to damnation.

Prov. 16:4	2 Thes. 2:11,
I Sam 2:25	1 Pet. 2:8
Lk 2:34	Jude 4
Jn 9:39	II Pet 2:12
Jn 12:39,40	Rev. 13:8

Rom. 9:19-25

SUMMARY

Arminianism: Anyone can make a decision for Christ, and when they do, their sins are put on Him then and only then.

Scripture: The sins of His people were put on Him at the cross 2,000 years ago.

*“The Arminian view takes election out of the hands of God and puts it into the hands of man. This makes the purposes of Almighty God to be conditioned by the precarious wills of apostate men and makes temporal events to be the cause of His eternal acts. It means further that He has created a set of sovereign beings upon whom to a certain extent His will and actions are dependent. It represents God as a good old father who endeavors to get his children to do right, but He is usually defeated because of their perverse wills; nay, it represents Him as having evolved a plan which through the ages has been so generally defeated that it has sent innumerable more persons to hell than to heaven. A doctrine which leads to such absurdities is not only unscriptural but unreasonable and dishonoring to God. In contrast to all this, Calvinism offers us a **great** God who is infinite in His perfections, who dispenses mercy and justice as He sees best, and who actually **rules** in the affairs of men.*

“A man is not saved because he believes in Christ; he believes in Christ because he is saved.”

— Lorraine Boettner, *The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination*, p 101.

Question for reflection: If the fundamental Arminian assumption is true, that everyone is ultimately in control of his own destiny, then what is the issue in Rom. 9:19-21?

“I would rather err on the side of too much emphasis on God’s sovereignty than err on the side of too much emphasis on man’s ability. The one gives more glory to God, the other gives more glory to man — and leads ultimately to unbelief.”

For further study:

The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination, Lorraine Boettner, Presbyterian & Reformed Publishing Co., 1980 (also see his helpful bibliography in this volume)

The Westminster Confession of Faith and Larger Catechism

Biblical Doctrines, Benjamin Breckinridge Warfield, Baker Book House, 1991 (reprint of 1929 edition)

Institutes of the Christian Religion, John Calvin, Battles Translation, Chs. 21-24

Systematic Theology, Charles Hodge, Vol 1, Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1952

Systematic Theology, R.L. Dabney, Banner of Truth Trust, 1985

Systematic Theology, Louis Berkhof, Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1938

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