

# ELECTION

No (real) election	Election <sup>+</sup>	Election alone
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**2 Thessalonians 2:13** But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, **brethren beloved of the Lord** (ἀδελφοὶ ἠγαπημένοι ὑπὸ κυρίου), because **God hath from the beginning** (εἶλετο ὑμᾶς ὁ θεὸς ἀπ' ἀρχῆς) **chosen you to salvation** (εἰς σωτηρίαν) through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: **2 Thessalonians 2:14** Whereunto **he called** (ὁ ἐκάλεσεν) you **by our gospel** (διὰ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου ἡμῶν), to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

To even mention this word prompts many reactions – most of them bad!

- I don't believe in election!
- Calvinism is the enemy of soul winning! (of course election is a Biblical word and concept and **therefore** precedes any discussion of Calvinism / Arminianism!)

**2 Timothy 2:10** **Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that** they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

- A topic that is off limits – verboten!
- Anger, hatred, nearly violence!
- Dismissive, abusive language. Putting you down &/ putting you in your place!

Then one day you read the Bible!

**Mark 13:20** And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: **but for the elect's** (ἀλλὰ διὰ τοῦς ἐκλεκτούς) **sake, whom he hath chosen** (οὗς ἐξελέξατο), he hath shortened the days.

**John 13:18** I speak not of you all: **I know whom I have chosen** (ἐγὼ οἶδα οὗς ἐξελεξάμην): but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.

**John 15:16** **Ye have not chosen** (Οὐχ ὑμεῖς με ἐξελέξασθε) **me, but I have chosen** (ἀλλ' ἐγὼ ἐξελεξάμην ὑμᾶς) **you**, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

**John 15:19** If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, **but I have chosen** (ἀλλ' ἐγὼ ἐξελεξάμην ὑμᾶς ἐκ τοῦ κόσμου) **you out of the world**, therefore the world hateth you.

**1 Corinthians 1:22** For the **Jews require a sign**, and the **Greeks** seek after **wisdom**: **1 Corinthians 1:23** But we preach Christ crucified, **unto** (Ἰουδαίοις μὲν σκάνδαλον) **the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto** (Ἑλλήσιν δὲ μωρίαν) **the Greeks foolishness; 1 Corinthians 1:24** **But unto** (αὐτοῖς δὲ τοῖς κλητοῖς) **them which are called, both** Jews and Greeks, **Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.**

**1 Corinthians 1:25** Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. **1 Corinthians 1:26** For ye see **your calling** (τὴν κλήσιν ὑμῶν), brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble (εὐγενεῖς), are called: **1 Corinthians 1:27** But **God hath chosen** (ἐξελέξατο ὁ θεός) the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and **God hath chosen** (ἐξελέξατο ὁ θεός) the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; **1 Corinthians 1:28** And base things of the world, and things which are despised, **hath God chosen** (ἐξελέξατο ὁ θεός), yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: **1 Corinthians 1:29** **That no flesh should glory in his presence. 1 Corinthians 1:30** But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: **1 Corinthians 1:31** **That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.**

**Ephesians 1:4** According as **he hath chosen** (ἐξελέξατο ἡμᾶς ἐν αὐτῷ πρὸ καταβολῆς κόσμου) **us in him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

**James 2:5** Harken, my beloved brethren, **Hath not God chosen** (ὁ θεὸς ἐξελέξατο) the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

**Matthew 20:16** So the last shall be first, and the first last: **for many be called** (πολλοὶ γὰρ εἰσὶν κλητοί), **but few chosen** (ὀλίγοι δὲ ἐκλεκτοί).

**Matthew 22:14** **For many are called** (Πολλοὶ γὰρ εἰσὶν κλητοί), **but few are chosen** (ὀλίγοι δὲ ἐκλεκτοί).

**Matthew 24:22** And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: **but for the elect's** (διὰ δὲ τοὺς ἐκλεκτούς) **sake** those days shall be shortened.

**Matthew 24:24** For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive **the very elect** (τοὺς ἐκλεκτούς).

**Matthew 24:31** And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together **his elect** (τοὺς ἐκλεκτούς **αὐτοῦ**) from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

**Luke 18:7** And shall not God avenge **his own elect** (τῶν ἐκλεκτῶν αὐτοῦ), which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

**Romans 8:33** Who shall lay any thing to the charge of **God's elect** (ἐκλεκτῶν θεοῦ)? It is God that justifieth.

**Romans 16:13** Salute Rufus **chosen** (τὸν ἐκλεκτὸν ἐν κυρίῳ) **in the Lord**, and his mother and mine.

**Colossians 3:12** Put on therefore, **as the elect** (ὡς ἐκλεκτοὶ τοῦ θεοῦ) of God, **holy** (ἅγιοι) **and beloved** (ἠγαπημένοι), bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; **Colossians 3:13** Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. **Colossians 3:14** And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

**2 Timothy 2:10** Therefore I endure all things **for the elect's** (διὰ τοὺς ἐκλεκτούς) **sakes**, **that** they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

**Titus 1:1** Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of **God's elect** (ἐκλεκτῶν θεοῦ), and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;

**1 Peter 1:1** Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, **to the strangers scattered throughout** (ἐκλεκτοῖς παρεπιδήμοις διασπορᾶς) Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, **1 Peter 1:2** **Elect** according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

**1 Peter 2:4** To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but **chosen** (ἐκλεκτόν) of God, and **precious** (ἔντιμον),

**1 Peter 2:6** Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, **elect** (ἐκλεκτόν), **precious** (ἔντιμον): and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

**1 Peter 2:9** But ye are a **chosen** (γένος ἐκλεκτόν) **generation**, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him **who hath called** (καλέσαντος) you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

**Revelation 17:14** These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are **called** (κλητοί), and **chosen** (ἐκλεκτοί), and **faithful** (πιστοί).

**Acts 9:15** But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a **chosen** (σκευὸς ἐκλογῆς) **vessel** unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

**Romans 9:11** (For the children being **not** yet born, **neither** having done any good or evil, **that** the purpose of God **according to election** (ἢ κατ' ἐκλογὴν) might stand, not of works, **but** of him **that calleth** (ἀλλ' ἐκ τοῦ καλοῦντος);)

**Romans 11:5** Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant **according to the election of grace** (κατ' ἐκλογὴν χάριτος).

**Romans 11:7** What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; **but the election (ἡ δὲ ἐκλογή)** hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded

**Romans 11:28** As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching **the election (τὴν ἐκλογήν)**, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes. **Romans 11:29** For the **gifts (τὰ χαρίσματα)** and **calling (ἡ κλήσις τοῦ θεοῦ)** of God are without repentance.

**1 Thessalonians 1:4** Knowing, **brethren beloved (ἀδελφοὶ ἠγαπημένοι ὑπὸ θεοῦ)**, your **election (τὴν ἐκλογήν ὑμῶν)** of God.

**2 Peter 1:10** Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your **calling (τὴν κλήσιν)** and **election (καὶ ἐκλογήν)** sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

**John 6:37** All that the Father giveth (Πᾶν ὃ δίδωσίν μοι ὁ πατήρ) me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

**John 6:44** No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. **John 6:45** It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me. **John 6:65** And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except **it were given (δεδομένον αὐτῷ) unto him** of my Father.

**John 17:2** As thou hast given him power over all flesh, **that he should give (δώσει)** eternal life to **as many as thou hast given (πᾶν ὃ δέδωκας αὐτῷ) him**. **John 17:3** And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

**John 17:6** I have manifested thy name unto the men **which thou gavest (οὓς δέδωκας) me** out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.

**John 17:9** I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for **them which thou hast given me (ὧν δέδωκάς μοι)**; for they are thine.

**John 17:11** And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name **those whom thou hast given (ὧ δέδωκάς μοι) me**, that they may be one, as we are.

**John 17:12** While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: **those that thou gavest (οὓς δέδωκάς μοι) me** I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition (ὁ υἱὸς τῆς ἀπωλείας); that the scripture might be fulfilled.

**John 17:24** Father, I will that they also, **whom thou hast given (οὓς δέδωκάς μοι) me**, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, **which thou hast given (ἣν ἔδωκάς) me**: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

By the time you are finished with the texts alone – you know you must believe something! You can no longer blow this off or change the subject!

No (real) election	Election+	Election alone
Conditional election	Unconditional election	Unconditional election
No (real) predestination	Single predestination	Double Predestination
Symmetrical You choose!	Asymmetrical He chooses and <u>therefore</u> you choose!	Symmetrical He chooses
Treated as unfallen / neutral	Treated as fallen	Treated as created

## I. Election alone view

This view, in my experience, is not very common.

**It is probably most common in practice: que sera, sera!**

What does this view look like in practice? No tears, no prayer, no begging God, no witnessing, no missions, no missions giving (maybe a tip), certainly no sacrifice, no going out of my way.

Also no stories of reaching people, no burden, no testimony of much labor....

**Romans 10:1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.**

**2 Corinthians 11:21** I speak as concerning reproach, as though we had been weak. Howbeit whereinssoever any is bold, (I speak foolishly,) I am bold also. **2 Corinthians 11:22** Are they Hebrews? so am I. Are they Israelites? so am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? so am I. **2 Corinthians 11:23** Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. **2 Corinthians 11:24** Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. **2 Corinthians 11:25** Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; **2 Corinthians 11:26** In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; **2 Corinthians 11:27** In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. **2 Corinthians 11:28** Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

### **In theory:**

This appeals only to a small group of highly intellectual people who tend to intellectualize all of life!

## II. No real election / conditional election

Election causes a visceral, deeply emotional response for some – irrational, red flags, bull after you, rage....

Rarely will this group deal with texts. Name-calling and black-balling are more common. This group, with very few exceptions, never admits to being Arminian!

### **Views:**

#### **1. Chosen in Christ**

**This is also called corporate election**

**Ephesians 1:4** According as he hath chosen us **in him** before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

This sounds good, in fact, very good! It has the ring of Bible about it. However, this is not exactly as it sounds!

In Christ is a category / box

No one is in the category / box.

You choose to get in the category / box!

So God chooses you “in Christ” because you chose / choose to get in Christ

#### **2. Chosen to good works**

**Ephesians 1:4** According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, **that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:**

**John 15:16** Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, **that ye should go and bring forth fruit**, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

**Ephesians 2:8** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: **Ephesians 2:9** Not of works, lest any man should boast. **Ephesians 2:10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

**This view has several problems:**

**A. A deficient view of salvation**

Salvation means only Justification to them – nothing else! In Scripture, salvation involves Justification, Sanctification & Glorification.

All whom God chooses to salvation he also chooses good works for them to do.

**John 15:16** Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

**Ephesians 2:4** But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, **Ephesians 2:5** Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) **Ephesians 2:8** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: **Ephesians 2:9** Not of works, lest any man should boast. **Ephesians 2:10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

**Romans 8:28** And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God (τοῖς ἀγαπῶσιν τὸν θεόν), to them who are the called according to his purpose (τοῖς κατὰ πρόθεσιν κλητοῖς οὖσιν) . **Romans 8:29** For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. **Romans 8:30** Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

**B. A deceptive view of election - even to good works.**

This is a bit of the “bait & switch” technique.

God chooses you for good works.

You choose whether you will do them.

So again, your choice is determinative!

**C. A superficial reading of text**

**3. Chosen according to foreknowledge**

God looks down the tunnel of time (or all time is present to God) and [fore]knows what c you will make. God then choses those He [fore] knows / [fore] sees will choose Him.

**Romans 8:29** For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

**1 Peter 1:1** Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, **1 Peter 1:2** Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

All 3 views are Arminian views. All 3 views are often mixed up together.

All 3 views are common among Independent, Fundamental Baptists – but are commonly called “Biblicist”

It is OK to hold one of these views (I think they are not Biblical) but they should be called what they are!

## **Problems:**

**A. If God [fore] knows / sees your choices, could you be free to make a different choice / another**

**B. What's the point of all the text & language?**

**So:**

**God elects those He knows will elect themselves!?**

**God chooses those He knows will choose themselves!?**

**C. The question of what is foreknown – what am I going to do or who?**

**Romans 8:28** And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. **Romans 8:29** For **whom** he did foreknow (οὓς προέγνω), he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. **Romans 8:30** Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

**Romans 11:2** God hath **not** cast away his **people** which he foreknew (ὄν προέγνω). Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying,

**1 Peter 1:1** Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, **to the strangers scattered** (ἐκλεκτοῖς παρεπιδήμοις διασπορᾶς) throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, **1 Peter 1:2** Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father (κατὰ πρόγνωσιν θεοῦ πατρὸς), through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

**D. The Biblical definition of foreknow / foreknowledge**

**Acts 2:23** Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel (τῇ ὀρισμένῃ βουλή) and foreknowledge of God (προγνώσει τοῦ θεοῦ), ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

**Acts 26:5** Which knew me from the beginning (προγινώσκοντές με ἄνωθεν), if they would testify, that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.

**Romans 8:28** And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. **Romans 8:29** For **whom** he did foreknow (οὓς προέγνω), he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. **Romans 8:30** Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

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**1 Peter 1:20** Who verily was foreordained (προεγνωσμένου μὲν πρὸ καταβολῆς κόσμου) before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

**2 Peter 3:17** Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before (προγινώσκοντες), beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.

**The word “know” in relationship to people:**

**Genesis 4:1** And Adam **knew** (יָדָעַ) Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.

**Genesis 4:25** And Adam **knew** (יָדָעַ) his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew.

**Genesis 18:16** And the men rose up from thence, and looked toward Sodom: and Abraham went with them to bring them on the way. **Genesis 18:17** And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; **Genesis 18:18** Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? **Genesis 18:19** For **I know** (יָדָעַ) **him**, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

**Exodus 2:23** And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage. **Exodus 2:24** And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. **Exodus 2:25** And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God **had respect** (יָדָעַ) unto them.

**Jeremiah 1:3** It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, unto the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah the son of Josiah king of Judah, unto the carrying away of Jerusalem captive in the fifth month. **Jeremiah 1:4** Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, **Jeremiah 1:5** Before I formed thee in the belly **I knew** (יָדָעַ) **thee**; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

**Hosea 13:4** Yet I am the LORD thy God from the land of Egypt, and **thou shalt know** (יָדָעַ) **no** god but me: for there is no saviour beside me. **Hosea 13:5** **I did know** (יָדָעַ) **thee** in the wilderness, in the land of great drought.

**Amos 3:1** Hear this word that the LORD hath spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying, **Amos 3:2** You only **have I known** (יָדָעַ) of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.

**Matthew 7:21** Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. **Matthew 7:22** Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? **Matthew 7:23** And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew** (οὐδέποτε ἔγνων ὑμᾶς) **you**: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

**John 10:14** I am the good shepherd, **and know** (γινώσκω τὰ ἐμά) **my sheep**, **and am known** (καὶ γινώσκομαι ὑπὸ τῶν ἐμῶν) **of mine**.

**1 Corinthians 8:3** But if any man love God, the same **is known** (ἔγνωσται ὑπ' αὐτοῦ) **of him**.

**1 Corinthians 13:12** For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now **I know** (γινώσκω) in part; but then **shall I know** (ἐπιγνώσομαι) even as also **I am known** (ἐπεγνώσθην).

**Galatians 4:8** Howbeit then, **when ye knew** (οὐκ εἶδότες θεόν) **not God**, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods.

**Galatians 4:9** But now, **after that ye have known** (γνόντες θεόν) **God**, **or rather are known** (μᾶλλον δὲ γνωσθέντες ὑπὸ θεοῦ) **of God**, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?

**2 Timothy 2:19** Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord **knoweth** (ἔγνω) them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.