

DIVINE ELECTION AND THE GOSPEL

HUMAN AND  
DIVINE IN  
SCRIPTURE

1 Tim. 1:3-12; 2:10

Intro: Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer has summarized the problem that we face here as being threefold:

- 1) That, if men are elect, they do not need the Gospel preached to them. *They will be saved anyway.*
- 2) That, if men are not elect, it is useless to preach the Gospel to them. *They could not be saved if they wanted to,*
- 3) That, in preaching the Gospel to the non-elect, we cannot be sincere.

*It all leads to a kind of ~~subtle~~ fatalism.*

These are the objections that are usually raised against the doctrine of divine election as it relates to preaching the Gospel to people without Christ.

*We must avoid extremes:*

- 1) Those who reject it.
- 2) Those who hold to limited atonement. *E.g. Calvin, Pink*

What are some of the answers?

I. BEGIN WITH THE SCRIPTURES -- RECOGNIZE THAT IT TEACHES BOTH DOCTRINES. *The doctrine of salvation is so vast, so inexhaustible and in many respects incomprehensible*

A. Divine election: Eph. 1:3, 4. *that we can only marvel and keep penetrating into its depths*

B. World evangelism: Acts 1:8; Mark 16:15.

C. God's attitude toward the world: John 3:16; 2 Pet. 3:9.

D. The inclusiveness of the death of Christ: 1 John 2:1, 2; 2 Cor. 5:18, 19.

II. CONTINUE BY CONSIDERING THE CHARACTER OF GOD.

A. Would God contradict Himself?

*Cf. Eph. 1:11*

*Phil. 2:13*

*Heb. 13:20, 21*

B. Would God be insincere?

C. Would He tell us to do things when there is really no point to them? *Cf. Luke 5:1-11.*

D. Would God make Himself limited by: *1) what man understands.*

III. ADMIT CERTAIN THINGS TO YOURSELF.

*2) what man would He make His will dependent on man's will and/or wants to do.*

A. Admit that there are some things that God knows which you do not know. *Revelations in NT about OT not found in OT show God has not revealed every thing*

B. Admit that there are some things that God knows which you cannot know.

C. Recognize that those things which seem to be contradictory to us may not be so in actual fact. *Cf. miracles*

Related Scriptures: Isa. 55:8-11; 1 Cor. 2:9, 10; 2 Cor. 4:3, 4.

D. Recognize that God has a right to do whatever He wants to do, and in whatever way He wants to without explaining it all to us. *Cf. Rom. 9:20*

## IV. LISTEN TO WHAT YOU AND OTHERS SAY ABOUT YOUR SALVATION.

- A. In the first place, you take no credit for it; *you give*  
cf. Eph. 2:8,9; Tit. 3:5; 1 Cor. 15:10. *the credit to God.*
- B. Secondly, you can see that certain conditions prevailed in bringing you to Christ over which you had no control.  
cf. *Saul of Tarsus.*
- C. Thirdly, you know that you were not saved until you wanted to be.
- D. Fourthly, you know that there is never anyone who wants to be saved, but who cannot be saved.
- E. Fifthly, you know that when men reject Christ and the Gospel they are not under any impression that they are being forced to reject something that they want.
- F. Sixthly, you know that it was important for you to understand the Gospel before you were saved.
- G. Seventhly, you know that you had to trust Christ for yourself before you were saved.

Note: Stand back and look at these and you will see that your experience is a strange combination of the very things the Word of God teaches when it speaks of the decrees of God in salvation and man's response to the preaching of the Gospel.

## V. THE CONCLUSIONS THAT WE CAN DRAW.

- A. We must acknowledge that salvation is a divine work, not a human work -- from start to finish.
- B. We must recognize that the decrees of God include all that is necessary for the fulfillment of those decrees. In salvation this would include:
  - 1) The preaching of the Gospel (which includes individual witnessing).
  - 2) Praying for the lost.
  - 3) Making sure that people understand the Gospel.
  - 4) Urging people to accept Christ.
- C. We must look upon this as encouraging truth which inspires service.

*Since God has chosen men for salvation, He has also ordained the means by which they will be saved.*

- 1. It means that God is working to carry out His own plan.
- 2. It means that some people are going to be saved.
- 3. We must preach to all because we do not know who the

elect are.

4. It means that God can lead us in our witnessing and in our praying so that our ministry can be effective.

Concl: While the above does not answer all of the questions, perhaps it does give us enough to see that there is, ever from our point-of-view, not the wide gap that there appears to be when we first look at these truths.

Therefore, let us believe BOTH! Maintain a balance with the Word of God. Only then can we be right, and only then can the truth of God profit us in our lives and in our service.