

THE DOCTRINE OF ELECTION

Eph. 1:3-7

-- WHAT SHALL
WE DO ABOUT IT?

Intro: This doctrine, that God chooses those who are saved
(past, present, future) is a doctrine that we are hear-
ing less and less about. Some believers pay no attention to it;
others have never even heard about it. Still others would
rather leave it alone because it presents some problems to their
minds which they cannot solve.

One reason for the neglect of this truth is that it has come
along with the neglect of the great truths of the Scripture
generally. People are not taught the great doctrines of Scrip-
ture. Consequently, they do not look at things from a doctrinal
standpoint; they look at things from the practical point-of-view.

Election is closely tied in with other great doctrines:

- 1) The doctrine of God.
- 2) The doctrine of divine sovereignty, omnipotence.
- 3) The doctrine of omniscience.
- 4) The doctrine of divine providence -- Romans 8:28, 29!

Neglect of doctrine has caused the people of God in our day to
do two things:

- 1) They have neglected many, many truths which could have been
a blessing to them. Cf. Luke 19:41, 42,
"And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and
wept over it, saying, If thou hadst known, even thou,
at least in this thy day, the things which belong
unto thy peace! But now they are hidden from thine
eyes."
- 2) They have turned to many other things which are contrary to
the Word of God -- emotionalism, tongues, false ideas of
prayer, neglect of Scripture generally.

Believers should be in agreement that every doctrine of the Word
is important. What, then, should we do about election?

I. BELIEVE IT!

We say this for two reasons:

A. Because it is clearly taught in the Word of God.

See Eph. 1:3-7; John 15:16; Col. 3:12-14; 1 Pet. 1:1 2.
We cannot argue with Scripture.

Ill.: I heard a testimony of a man who started out by
by rejecting part of the Word and he eventually
got to the place where he rejected all of it.

B. Because, with the Word, believing is the way to under-

standing.

Cf. John 11:4, 40; 20:24-29.

We do not say that we will believe if God can prove it to us, nor if we can understand all that we would like to know about it. NO, WE BELIEVE IT BECAUSE IT IS IN THE WORD, AND THIS LEADS TO UNDERSTANDING.

II. WE SHOULD DO WITH IT WHAT THE WORD INDICATES THAT WE SHOULD DO.

In this way we can profit from it while the Lord is giving us greater understanding.

Let me point out what I mean from the Word itself -- starting with Eph. 1:3-7.

A. It should lead us to worship the Lord.

Paul says, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." How many believers are there who have never done this? Would we take credit for our own salvation? See also 1 Pet. 1:1, 2 and then to vv. 3-6a.

B. It should make us marvel at the character of God.

What kind of a God must He be to be able to do this! We foolishly assume that we have learned most of the things which we are supposed to know about the Lord when really we haven't even gotten a good start!

C. Let us be comforted by it and draw assurance from it.

Cf. Rom. 8:33, 28-32.

Every believer at some time or another needs the comfort of this great truth, but they may not have it. The doctrine of election is one of the most comforting doctrines in the Word of God.

D. Let us act like we are the elect of God.

Cf. Col. 3:12, 13; It is because of what we are that we are to be and do what Paul tells us in this passage. If we do not believe that we are elected by God for salvation, we lose one of the greatest incentives for holy living.

E. Get busy serving the Lord.

Cf. John 15:16; Eph. 2:10; Acts 13:44-48 (especially the last verse).

The doctrine of election does not only have to do with our salvation initially, but it has to do with our lives and our service.

In our service even the works we do are involved and so are the possibilities of blessing. Apart from the doctrine of election it would be utterly impossible for us to win anybody to the Lord -- so great is the depravity of the human heart. YOU CANNOT MINIMIZE THE DOCTRINE OF ELECTION WITHOUT ALSO MINIMIZING THE DOCTRINE OF HUMAN DEPRAVITY.

Concl: Before we leave this tonight, let us see how this great truth applies to our Lord Jesus Christ. See 1 Pet. 1: 18-21.

In Rev. 13:8 our Lord is referred to as "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

Can we understand how this could be -- that our salvation should be all planned, decreed of God, before creation itself?

We would be foolish to say that we could. One reason we believe that the Bible is the Word of God is that we cannot understand it all. But we can believe it, and rejoice in it, and profit from it, even though we may not be able to understand it all.

I want to deal more with this, but before we get to that will you begin right now to treat this doctrine the way the Word of God teaches us to treat it. If you do, you will not only have the blessing of God but you will enter more and more into an understanding of this great unchanging truth of Scripture.