

UNDERSTANDING THE "U" IN TULIP

Selected passages

I. INTRODUCTION:

- A. **Total depravity:** Man is helpless to accomplish his own salvation. Man is dead within his trespasses and sin.
- B. **Unconditional election:** God does not choose you based on any conditions. God would elect some for eternal life and condemn others to eternal death.
- C. **Limited Atonement:** Jesus only died for those whom He knew were chosen by God the Father.
- D. **Irresistible grace:** If God wants to save someone, that person will not be able to "resist" or "reject" the grace of God. They will be saved no matter what.
- E. **Perseverance of the saints:** If you're truly born again, you will persevere and not permanently turn away from the faith. You cannot lose your salvation.

II. THE UNDERSTANDING OF "UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION" WITHIN A BIBLICAL RESPONSE:

- A. Their definition of "Unconditional election": The Synod of Dort affirmed that the reason some are saved is because God elected them to eternal life; others are condemned to eternal death. Because salvation rests wholly with God, no one can say he chose Christ because he is wiser than others; he did so because God had chosen him and quickened him that he might believe.
- B. The choice scripture used by Calvinism to support unconditional election: (*Romans 9:13-18; Luke 14:26*)
- C. Three points concerning predestination and election:
 - 1. Predestination and election cannot violate the free moral agency of man: (*John 15:16; John 6:44; John 1:12; Rev. 22:17; Gen 2:16-17*)
 - 2. Predestination and election operate in conjunction with God's foreknowledge: (*Rom. 8:29-30; 1 Peter 1:1-2; Eph. 1:4; 2 Thes. 2:13*)
 - 3. Predestination and election are only mentioned in Scripture regarding Believers, not Unbelievers. God does not prejudge some to Hell because that would be inconsistent with His nature as revealed in Scripture. (*John 3:16; 2 Peter 3:9*)

III. Application:

- A. Out of all the points of calvinism it can easily be said that "unconditional election" truly shows a God that is inconsistent with His very Word and points to a unmerciful and unloving God.