

We Believe
Article V. God's Purpose of Grace

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

Election is the _____ purpose of God

"If not for the doctrine of _____, _____ would be saved."

"In the broad sense, election refers to the fact that God chooses (or elects) to do everything that He does in whatever way He sees fit. When He acts, He does so only because He willfully and independently chooses to act. According to His own nature, predetermined plan, and good pleasure, He decides to do whatever He desires, without pressure or constraint from any outside influence." - Steven Lawson

God does what He wills according to His own nature and pleasure in:

1. _____
2. The choosing of _____ in the OT
3. _____ and the _____ in the NT.

WHAT ELECTION IS NOT:

Election is not salvation, but _____ salvation.
(2 Thes. 2:13, 14; Eph. 1:4; Rom. 8:29, 30.)

Election is not a _____ of persons. *Rom. 9:18-24.*

Election is not _____ of means.
(2 Thes. 2:14; Eph. 1:5, 13; II Tim. 2:10; I Pet. 1:2.)

Election is not "_____ regardless," but unto salvation through the redemption of Christ, applied by the Spirit through the gospel. (*John 6:37; Rom. 10:17; I Thes. 1:4, 5; II Thes. 2:13, 14; Acts 13:48.*)

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Election is not based on _____ faith or works, but it _____ faith and works. *Rom. 9:11-16; 11:5, 6; Phil. 1:6; II Tim. 1:9; Eph. 2:8-10; Acts 13:48; I Cor. 3:5; Rom. 12:3; Eph. 4:7; Acts 5:31; II Tim. 2:25.*

Election does not _____ the door of salvation, but _____ that door for all those who come to Christ. *John 6:37, 44, 63, 65; 10:9; 14:6.*

Election is not a _____ to gospel preaching, but assures the gospel of _____. *Isa. 55:11; John 10:27; 6:37, 45; 17:20, 21; Acts 15:14; 16:14; 18:27; II Tim. 2:9, 10.*

Election is not _____, but is the work of God. *I Thes. 1:4; Rom. 8:28, 30.*

Election does not destroy man's so-called "_____." The will of man is his desire, wish or choice. His choice is sin. *John 3:19, 20; 5:40; 3:11; 2:2, 3; 4:17-19; Jer. 17-9; 13:23; etc.* Man "freely" chooses sin and by God's grace the elect freely choose Christ –*Ps. 65:4; 110:3; John 6:44, 65; Acts 13:48.*

Election does not destroy the _____ of man. Men are responsible for whatever light they have, be it conscience (*Rom. 2:15*), nature (*Rom. 1:19, 20*), written law (*Rom. 2:17-27*), or the gospel (*Mark 16:15, 16*). Man's inability to do righteousness no more frees him from responsibility than does Satan's inability to do righteousness.

Election is not _____, but gives the _____ for missions. *John 6:37; 17:20, 21; II Tim. 2:10; Isa. 55:11; II Pet. 3:9, 15.*

Election does not _____ convicted sinners, but welcomes them to Christ. "Let him that is athirst come" (*Rev. 17:17*). The God who convicts is the God who _____. The God who saves is the God who has elected men unto salvation. He is the same God who invites.

Election does not discourage _____. To the contrary, it drives us to God, for He it is who alone can save. True prayer is the Spirit's prompting; and thus will be in harmony with God's will. *Rom. 8:26.*

Election is not of reason, but of _____. At first, it does not appeal to man's reason, but when man accepts God's Word, it is seen to be the only thing that could be "reasonable." *Matt. 20:15.*

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