

Week 8 - Unconditional Election

Free For Life

How do you feel when someone gives you a surprise gift and expects nothing in return?

Part One: How Understanding Election Leads To Thankfulness

Ephesians 1: 3-14 (NIV)

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹ he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

What is Unconditional Election?

As the word "unconditional" implies, this view states that Jesus' salvation comes with no conditions attached. God elects people for salvation by His own sovereign choice and not because of some actions they perform or condition they meet. Those who come to Christ become His children by His will, not by theirs.

? How does Ephesians describe our salvation through Christ?

? Verses 11 and 12 are hard to parse. How would you rephrase them in everyday language?

? What has the Lord shown us in these verses that should lead us to have a thankful heart?

? How can an increased understanding of election help us be thankful for what the Lord has done for us through the Cross?

Part Two: How Understanding Election Leads To Humility

1 Corinthians 1: 26-31 (NIV)

²⁶ Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸ God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before him. ³⁰ It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. ³¹ Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

? What does Paul say about why God chooses to save people?

? How does Paul’s statement run counter to modern society’s philosophy on living a good life?

? Unconditional Election means that God has chosen to save us even though we don’t deserve it. How does that make you feel?

? God chose us when we didn’t deserve it. How should this free us to glorify Him and love others better?

For Discussion and Accountability

? How have I taken my election for granted, and how should God’s desires for my life move me towards kindness, compassion and repentance?

? How am I sometimes tempted to earn my salvation? What feels so important that I need to do it in order to be a good/just person? What is the Gospel’s response to that?