

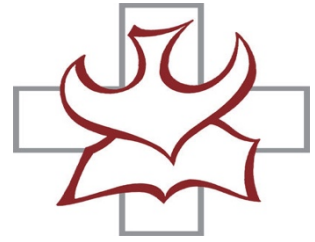
Doctrine of Election

The Book Of Ephesians Summer Sermon Series

Eph 1:3-14 Rom 8:28-39 John 6:37-40

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Do you *ever wonder* how much God loves you?

Do you ever *have doubts* about God's love and care in your life?

Or on the other side of the coin, have you ever thought about *how vast* God's love for you really is?

In the *Doctrine of Election*, God teaches us about His personal love for each one of us. The *Doctrine of Election* teaches us how high and wide and long and deep is the love of God in the Lord Jesus Christ.

St. Paul *wastes no time* in the Book of Ephesians to teach us the *Doctrine of Election*. He begins in the 4th verse of the book!!

God chose us in Christ before the creation of the world, so that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love, He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His Will, to the praise of His glorious grace, with which He has blessed us in the Beloved.
Ephesians 1:4-6

The *Doctrine of Election* is God personally at work in your life! God knows you so well and cares about you so much that before He created the world He **chose** you, He “predestined” you, He “elected” you, **by name, by grace, and in Christ** to be His very own! Before God created the heavens and the earth and everything in them, **HE KNEW YOU AND LOVED YOU!** He chose you to be His very own and to live with Him forever before He created the sun, the moon, and the stars! The *Doctrine of Election* teaches us that God personally selected you, He “picked you”, He “set you aside” to be a part of His Family **by name, by grace, and in Christ!** This is God personally at work in your life! This is just the beginning of how wide and long and high and deep God's love and care is about you!

The *Doctrine of Election* begins before the Creation of the World;

but God's love for you continues *throughout* earth history!

God knew that you would be conceived and born with Original Sin; and that you would actually commit sin in your thoughts, words and deeds throughout your lifetime. He knew that if He didn't intervene and do something, you would be **trapped in our guilt, die in your sin, and be lost forever.**

So God sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to redeem you from your sin. **Jesus' life makes you holy; Jesus' death pays for your sin; and Jesus' resurrection gives you eternal life.** His life, death and resurrection gives you peace and reconciles you to the Father! Jesus does the work so that you can live with God forever! What happened nearly 2000 years ago was part of God's plan for your life; and it shows how much God personally loves you and cares about you! He sent His only Son to be your Savior! The life, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ is part of your Election to eternal life!

Now, jump ahead 2000 years. At a certain point in history, you were born. At some point in your lifetime, God brought you the Gospel Good News about Jesus and His life, death, and resurrection. For most of us this was Holy Baptism when we were infants; for others of you the Lord brought the Word of the Gospel to you first, then you were Baptized. Either way it is God the Holy Spirit calling you to faith and giving you trust in Jesus as your Savior. And not only does the Holy Spirit call you to faith, but He remains with you and is **continually and actively** at work through the Word of God and Holy Communion to keep you strong in the faith throughout your lifetime. That is why weekly worship and dedicated Bible study is so important to us: those are the places where the Holy Spirit works to keep you strong in your faith throughout your lifetime.

This is all part of God's overarching plan in your life: it's all part of how wide and long and deep and wide God's love is for you! *Not only* did He call you to faith before the Creation of the world, and *not only* did He send His Son to be your Savior from sin, *but He also* called you to faith in your

lifetime through the Holy Spirit at work through the Gospel! **God's personal love and care for you is vast and overwhelming!**

The final part of God's election in your life has yet to happen. A day is coming when you will die and you will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. *“Though you die, yet shall you live,”* Jesus promised (John 11:25). Immediately at death, your soul is with Christ in Heaven! And then on the Last Day, God will raise your dead body from the ground and glorify it. You will live forever in the Kingdom of Heaven in both body and soul --- *exactly how God planned it before the Creation of the world!*

The Doctrine of Election is God's grand scheme for your eternal salvation!

God's personal love and care for you extends *from* eternity, *through* Earth's history, and *back into* eternity! It includes Election, Redemption, Baptism, and Eternal Glory! **God's personal love and care for you is vast and overwhelming!**

The *Doctrine of Election* is meant to give you **absolute assurance** of your salvation! It is meant to remind you that salvation is 100% God's work in

Baptism *revealed* your Election,
Faith *confirms* your Election, and
Death *seals* your Election
as you enter into the
GLORY OF HEAVEN!

your life! It is meant to strengthen you, comfort you, and fortify you in your faith! The *Doctrine of Election* keeps you focused on the Lord Jesus Christ, on His Word and His Meal as you live each day in the Christian faith! The *Doctrine of Election* empowers you to remain steadfast and faithful in your faith.

The Doctrine of Election is God's grand plan for your eternal salvation! It includes God the Father choosing you by name, by grace, in Christ before the Creation of the World; it includes your Redemption by the life, death and resurrection of the Son of God Jesus Christ; it includes God the Holy Spirit bringing you to Holy Baptism and keeping you in the faith throughout your lifetime; and finally, it will culminate with you living

forever in the glory of Heaven! The Doctrine of Election shows you how wide and long and high and deep God's love is for you!

Two final thoughts on the *Doctrine of Election*:

1. This doctrine teaches us that God is working a grand plan in your life. That means that whatever He decides to allow to happen to you is part of the plan. Whatever cross you are carrying, whatever pain you will have to endure, whatever hardship comes your way --- it is all part of God's plan to get you safe and sound into Heaven. The *Doctrine of Election* gives you a perspective on any suffering you may have to go through. You can be confident that it is all part of God's loving and caring plan for you and that He will make it **ALL** work for your eternal good. You can patiently endure and remain faithful with confident faith in God's promises as you carry your cross and go through difficulties in life. You are one of God's Elect; He is working a grand plan in your life! His love for you is wide and long and high and deep!
2. The *Doctrine of Election* highlights that our salvation is 100% God's work through the Lord Jesus Christ. We never have to wonder if "we did enough" to please God; or fear that our "sins will be used against us". The *Doctrine of Election* highlights that our salvation is 100% God's work through the Lord Jesus Christ. It is purely out of God's love and mercy; we are saved by grace alone! it has nothing to do with your own work, effort or merit!

St. Paul leads off the Book of Ephesians by teaching us the *Doctrine of Election*. It teaches us how high and wide and long and deep is the love of God in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Today, may you be absolutely assured of God's love and care for you personally; and may you live a holy and godly life focused on Christ and His Word until you enter the Kingdom of Heaven! AMEN!