

Election

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Election. Election is the truth that believers in Christ were elected, or chosen, by God for blessing. *“According as he has chosen us in him before the world’s foundation”* (Eph. 1:4). Election is the choice of one out of many. God’s sovereign choice was made *“before the world’s foundation”*, and therefore it has nothing to do with works. The truth of election is not intuitive. If God had not revealed it to us, we would never know. From man’s perspective, we choose God. But when we learn more about our salvation, we discover that He chose us! We see this in John 1:45 and 48, where Philip told Nathanael *“We have found him, etc.”* (John 1:45). In their experience, it was they that had found Christ. But later Jesus revealed that, *“Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee”* (John 1:45). If we refuse to see things from God’s perspective, we will not understand the truth of election. Election is a truth that we should not proclaim in preaching the Gospel. It is a family secret, for our security and enjoyment. In the gospel we should emphasize man’s responsibility and the sinner’s need. It has been explained like this: a sinner comes through the doorway of salvation; and on one side it reads, *“Whosoever will may come”*, but when he gets in, the other side reads, *“chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world”*. Election and predestination are not the same. Election has to do with the person, predestination has to do with the place. A jeweler chooses a rough diamond (election), all the while having the final product in mind, after all the cutting and polishing has occurred (predestination). This is because God has a purpose in election. Election is not arbitrary - God is not capricious - He has a purpose! Nor were you chosen as a replacement for something that did not work out. His purpose, from a past eternity, was to conform you to the image of His Son!