

PROPOSITION

“The Scriptures teach that those who obey the gospel of their own freewill, and only those, become the elect of God.”



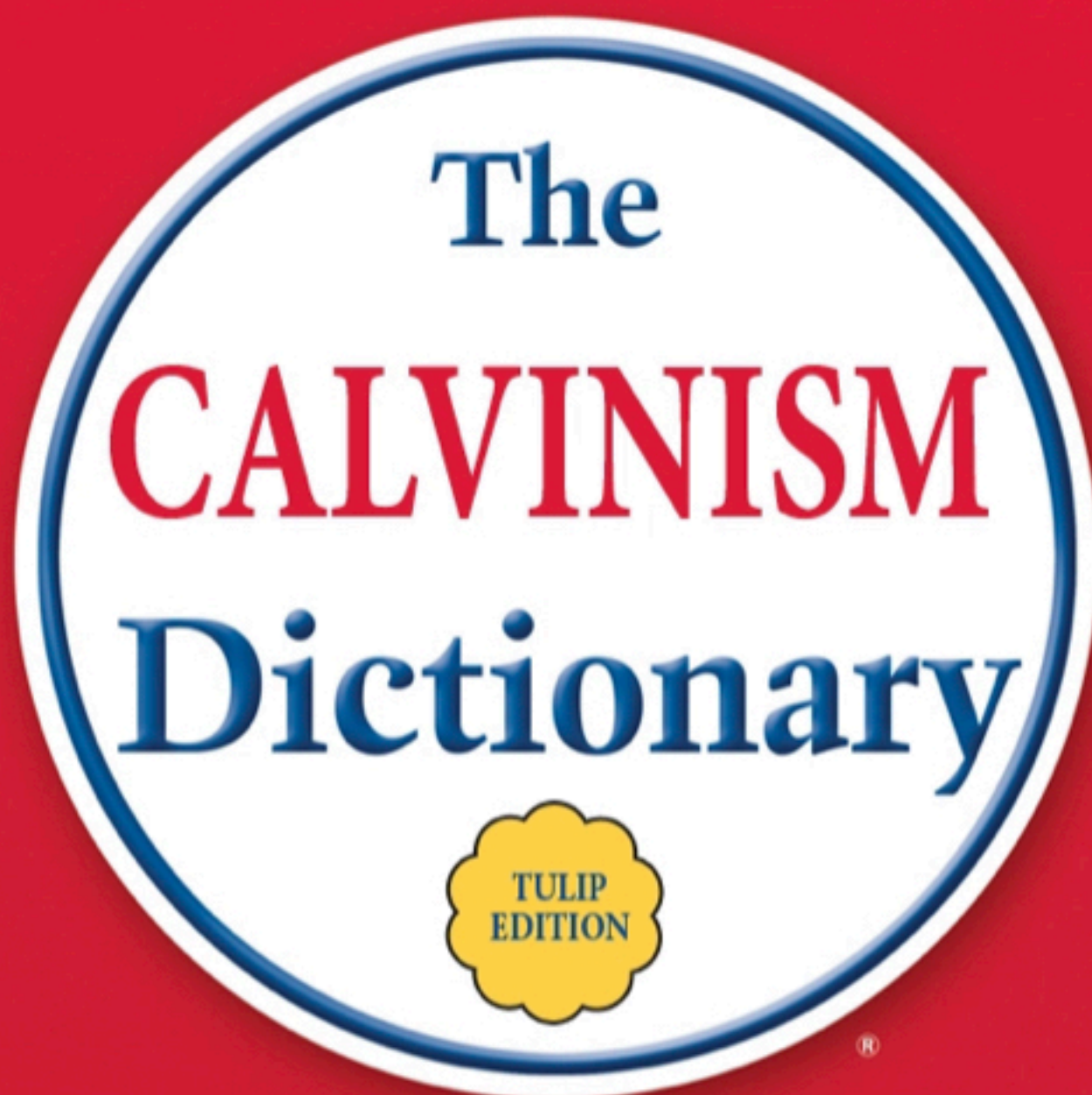
DENY: JOEL ELLIS



AFFIRM: BRUCE REEVES

THE CALVINISM DICTIONARY

BASED ON JOHN CALVIN'S
INSTITUTES OF "CHRISTIAN" RELIGION




NEW 2018 EDITION

- FREE FROM ALL ARMINIANISM & PELAGIANISM
- USED IN SEMINARIES, CHURCHES & PODCASTS
- PRINTED IN GENEVA ON PAPER FROM TREES CHOPPED DOWN BY A CALVINIST

- **FREE WILL:** not actually free, but confined to God's decree
- **SOVEREIGNTY:** determinism i.e., meticulous control of everything
- **FOREKNOWLEDGE:** result of causation
- **ELECTION:** unconditional, individual
- **ACCOUNTABILITY:** doesn't require ability

CALVINISM - SUGAR COATING THE CONSEQUENCES

- 
- Cloaks determinism with more palatable terms, using “freewill terminology,” ... *(which contradicts their theology)*
 - ▶ “God permits, allows,” etc.
 - ▶ “Man is responsible for his sin ...”
 - ▶ “God is not the author of sin ...”

“God has foreordained all things that shall come to pass...”

1. How can someone who believes in unconditional election be assured they are among the elect?
2. Prior to his sin, was it possible for Adam to have genuinely chosen obedience or disobedience while God remained fully sovereign?
3. If election is unconditional, how can God hold people morally accountable for choices He decreed they would make?
4. Why will the non-elect be condemned to hell for all eternity?
5. Is being chosen of God a spiritual blessing?

LACK OF ASSURANCE IN UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

HOW CAN YOU KNOW?

Divine Election and Reprobation - Lesson 2b



SPEAKER

Joel Ellis

Recorded: April 24, 2024
Series: The Canons of Dort
Bible Text: Romans 9:33

- “Assurance given in different measures but noticing fruit” (30:12)
- “You can know you are chosen” ... “but if you don’t see the fruit, you may still be elect.” [ibid]
- “Assurance doesn’t come to all people in the same way” (30:58)
- “You are elect if you believe in God, seek to be obedient, desire the word of God, or mourn over sin.” [ibid]

LACK OF ASSURANCE IN UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

HOW CAN YOU KNOW?



- Can you be elect but NOT know you are elect?
- Can you believe you are elect but NOT be?
- Can you believe you have saving faith in Jesus but it be a false faith?
- Can you bear what you perceive to be evidential fruit of election but be wrong and have false fruit?
- Can you believe the Holy Spirit has regenerated you, and is working in your life, but be wrong and not be elect?

LACK OF ASSURANCE IN UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

HOW CAN YOU KNOW?



- While Calvinists claim assurance, in reality, their doctrine makes assurance impossible.
- Calvinists admit that some appear elect (profess faith, show fruit, preach truth) and yet later fall away — only to be redefined after the fact as “never truly elect.”
- If election is unconditional, secret, and particular, no one can know they are elect until they have persevered unto death — and by that point, assurance is irrelevant.

GOD'S GLORY & WILL

- ▶ Calvinism affirms that God Himself brings about (causes) evil for His glory.
- ▶ God, according to this perspective, is seen as most glorious as the first cause of evil.

- ▶ The Bible affirms God brings about good by redeeming men from the spiritual consequences of their evil choices.
- ▶ God is seen as most glorious because of His redemptive grace in overcoming evil.

“YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND CALVINISM” ??



- ▶ **Calvinists are in denial of the logical conclusions of their theology.**
- ▶ **Calvinists dismiss contradictions by appealing to mystery which the Scriptures do not afford.**
- ▶ **Calvinists interpret Scripture through their theological lens.**

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HIGHER VIEW OF SOVEREIGNTY?



Genesis 3:6 (NASB95)

⁶ When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

- Did Adam and Eve have libertarian freewill prior to the fall?
- If so, was God Sovereign prior to the fall?
- Did God unchangeably foreordain the first sin?
- Did Adam and Eve's human nature prior to the fall logically necessitate the first sin?

“YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND CALVINISM” ??

A Calvinist Who “UNDERSTANDS Calvinism” :

"Foreordination means God's sovereign plan, whereby he decides all that is to happen in the entire universe. Nothing in this world happens by chance. God is in back of everything. **He decides and causes all things to happen that do happen** ... He has foreordained everything "after the counsel of his will" (Eph. 1:11): **the moving of a finger, the beating of a heart, the laughter of a girl, the mistake of a typist — even sin.**"

(E. Palmer, "The Five Points of Calvinism", p. 30, [2010])

- ▶ However, it is asserted we do not understand Calvinism when we quote such statements, and point out the logical consequences.
- ▶ Is it about our failure to understand Calvinism, or the Calvinist's rejection of the logical consequences of his theology?

HIGHER VIEW OF SOVEREIGNTY?

“... how foolish and frail is the support of divine justice afforded by the suggestion that evils come to be, not by His will but by His permission... It is a quite frivolous refuge to say that God otiosely permits them, when Scripture shows Him not only willing, but the author of them... Who does not tremble at these judgements with which God works in the hearts of even the wicked whatever He will, rewarding them nonetheless according to desert? Again it is quite clear from the evidence of Scripture that God works in the hearts of men to incline their wills just as he will, whether to good for His mercy's sake, or to evil according to their merits.”

John Calvin, *The Eternal Predestination of God*, 10:11

HIGHER VIEW OF SOVEREIGNTY?

“God... brings about all things in accord with his will. In other words, it isn't just that God manages to turn the evil aspects of our world to good for those who love him; it is rather that He Himself brings about these evil aspects for his glory and his people's good. This includes—as incredible and as unacceptable as it may currently seem—God's having even brought about the Nazis' brutality at Birkenau and Auschwitz as well as the terrible killings of Dennis Rader and even the sexual abuse of a young child...”

Mark Talbot, edited by John Piper and Justin Taylor, *Suffering and the Sovereignty of God*, (Wheaton, Ill: Crossway Books, 2006) 41-42

DesiringGod.org

“All the Good that Is Ours in Christ: Seeing God's Gracious Hand in the Hurt Others Do to Us”

HIGHER VIEW OF SOVEREIGNTY?



“Again I ask: whence does it happen that Adam’s fall irremediably involved so many peoples, together with their infant offspring, in eternal death unless because it so pleased God? The decree is dreadful indeed, I confess. Yet no one can deny that God foreknew what end man was to have before he created him, and consequently foreknew because he so ordained by his decree. And it ought not to seem absurd for me to say that God not only foresaw the fall of the first man, and in him the ruin of his descendants, but also meted it out in accordance with his own decision.”

(John Calvin, Institutes of Christian Religion, Book 3, Chapter 23, Paragraph 7)

HIGHER VIEW OF SOVEREIGNTY?



“The first man fell because the Lord deemed it meet that he should.”

(John Calvin, Institutes of Christian Religion, Book 3, Chapter 23, Paragraph 8)



“God, from all eternity, did, by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will freely, and **unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass...**

(Westminster Confession of Faith Article 3.1 - Of God’s Eternal Decree)

1. How can someone who believes in unconditional election be assured they are among the elect?
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CALVINISM - CONTRADICTIONARY & INCONSISTENT

Divine Election and Reprobation - Lesson 2b



SPEAKER
Joel Ellis

Recorded: April 24, 2024
Series: The Canons of Dort
Bible Text: Romans 9:33

“Some people have said, ‘I believe in predestination, but I reject the idea of double predestination.’ Which is a truly incoherent statement.” (41:40-50)

- “To make one choice is to make the other. If you choose to save some, but not all, you are choosing not to save all. You are choosing not to save those whom you have passed over” (42:18-25).
- “God did not make them wicked. He did not lift the hood of their heart and tinker with it in order to make them sinners, they have freely chosen rebellion, He is choosing to leave them in that condition” (42:26-38).

CALVINISM - CONTRADICTORY & INCONSISTENT

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- “Yes, your neighbor first made the choice, but his decision has consequences” (43:00)
- “God is not the reason that anyone is lost, sin is the reason people are lost” (43:22)

Romans 9:11–13 (NKJV)

¹¹ (for *the children* not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, ... ¹³ As it is written, “*Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.*”

CALVINISM - CONTRADICTORY & INCONSISTENT

“God, from all eternity, did, by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will freely, and **unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass:** yet so, **as thereby neither is God the author of sin,** nor is violence offered to the will of the creatures; **nor is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away,** but rather established.”

(Westminster Confession of Faith Article 3.1 - Of God's Eternal Decree)

- If God has “freely, and unchangeably **ORDAINED WHATSOEVER COMES TO PASS,**” How can **GOD NOT** be the “**AUTHOR**” of whatsoever comes to pass?
 - ▶ Including **EVERY SIN**, and every choice a sinner makes?
 - ▶ Including every wicked thought and intention?
- **WHO MAKES THE FIRST CHOICE?**

CALVINISM - CONTRADICTION & INCONSISTENT



**Joel Ellis Class Material:
Westminster Confession of
Faith: *Of Free Will* (WCF 9.1-5)**



3. “Our view is referred to as compatibilism since human choice and divine sovereignty are compatible.

- Human beings make unforced choices according to their desires, but God sovereignly ordains all.”

Only libertarian free will is compatible with God’s gracious reign, justice, and redemptive love.

To say “human beings make unforced choices ... but God (meticulously) sovereignly ordains all,” is a blatant contradiction.

CALVINISM - CONTRADICTORY & INCONSISTENT



Joel Ellis Class Material:
Westminster Confession of Faith: *Introduction to God's Eternal Decree (WCF 3.1-2)*

“God, from all eternity, did, by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will freely, and **unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass ...**”

(Westminster Confession of Faith Article 3.1 - Of God's Eternal Decree)

BUT SOMEHOW GOD IS NOT THE AUTHOR OF SIN?

(1) that God has predetermined **all things that happen**, (2) that this predetermination (plan) is eternal, (3) that there is **nothing too large or small to be excluded from this predetermination**, (4) that **this does not make God the author of sin**, (5) that **God does not force men to do what they do not want to do** (in the way of sin), (6) that **this does not destroy ‘freedom’ or cause-and-effect relationships** (rather, it is the very basis upon which these exist), and finally, (7) that this sovereign plan of God is **not ‘conditioned upon’ anything foreseen by him** (which would make God dependent upon something outside himself).”

–G. I. Williamson, *The Westminster Confession of Faith for Study Classes* 2nd ed., 39-40.

CALVINISM - CONTRADICTION & INCONSISTENT



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BUT SOMEHOW GOD IS NOT THE AUTHOR OF SIN?

1. GOD HAS FOREORDAINED EVERYTHING THAT WILL EVER HAPPEN (cf. Psa. 115:3; 135:6; Eph. 1:11)

- God is able to know and predict the future **because He has determined what the future will be.** Isa. 46:8-11

2. HUMAN BEINGS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS

- God's decree to **allow** people to do evil **in no way changes their responsibility.** Matt. 18:6-7; Psa. 50:16-21

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BUT SOMEHOW GOD IS NOT THE AUTHOR OF SIN?

2. GOD DOES NOT VIOLATE THE HUMAN WILL (Jas. 1:13-15)

- Sin is the un-coerced, freely chosen act of individuals based on their own desires. **It doesn't come from God.**
- If God had not **ordained sin**, it never could have occurred. **But He neither causes nor coerces it in any way.**

CALVINISM - CONTRADICTION & INCONSISTENT



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BUT SOMEHOW GOD IS NOT THE AUTHOR OF SIN?


3. GOD EMPLOYS REAL, SECONDARY CAUSES

- Secondary causes are the efficient reasons for specific effects ... **God ordained the Fall, but circumstances actually caused it.**
- **God ordains sin and evil** for His greater purpose, but **He ordains secondary causes to bring it about.**
- **It is inadequate only to say God permits evil; He does permit it through means, but His decree is not passive.**

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“WE ARE CONDEMNED FOR SINS WE COMMIT”

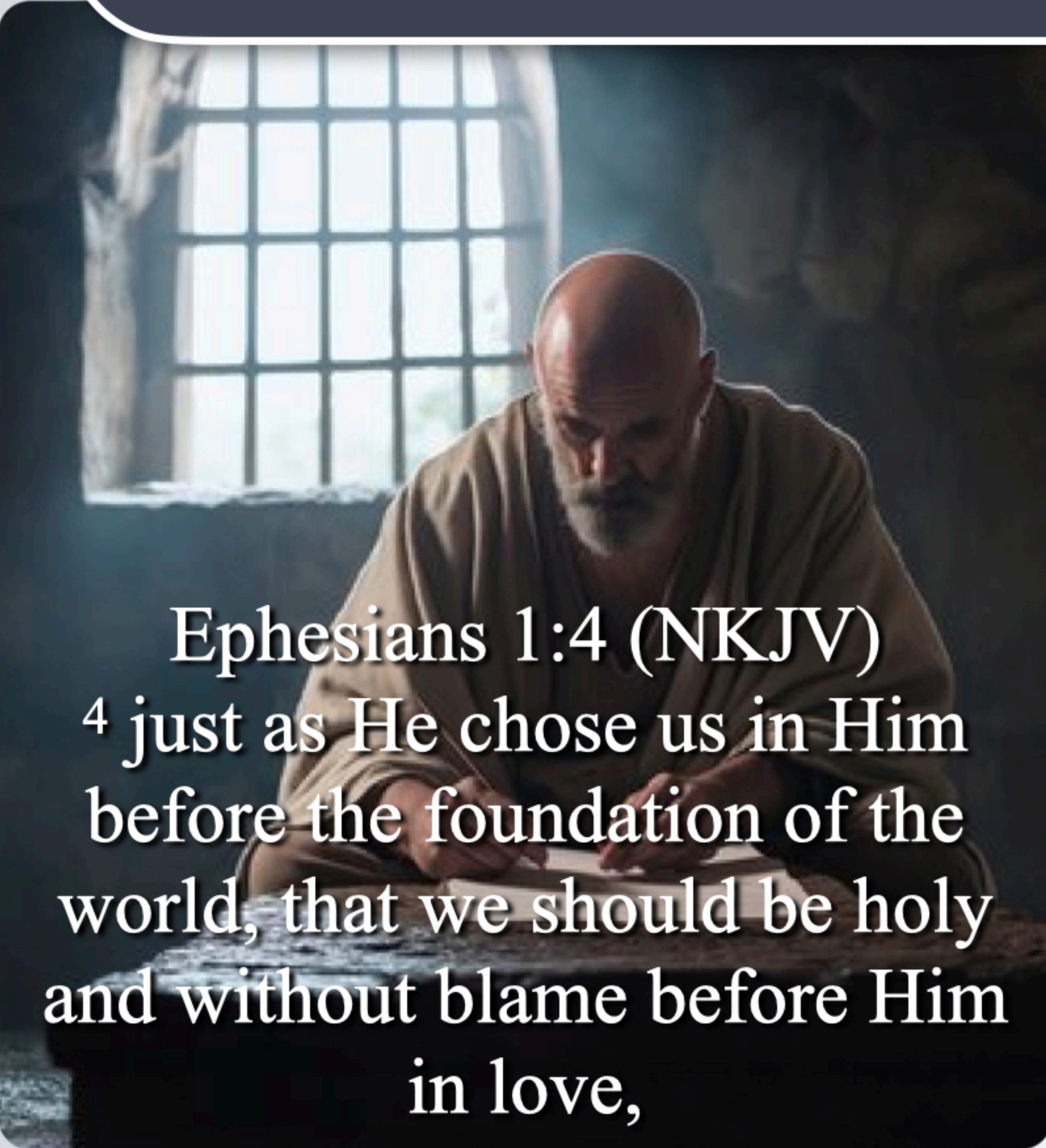
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- ▶ **Calvinist:** “We sin because we are born sinners.”
 - ▶ **Calvinist:** “We are born sinners because we inherit the guilt of Adam’s sin.”
 - ▶ **Calvinist:** “We sin because we could not do otherwise.”
 - ▶ **Calvinist:** “We sin because God foreordained we must do so.”
 - ▶ **Calvinist:** “We are condemned because of God’s decree.”

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“HE CHOSE US IN CHRIST”

■ “He chose us in Him”

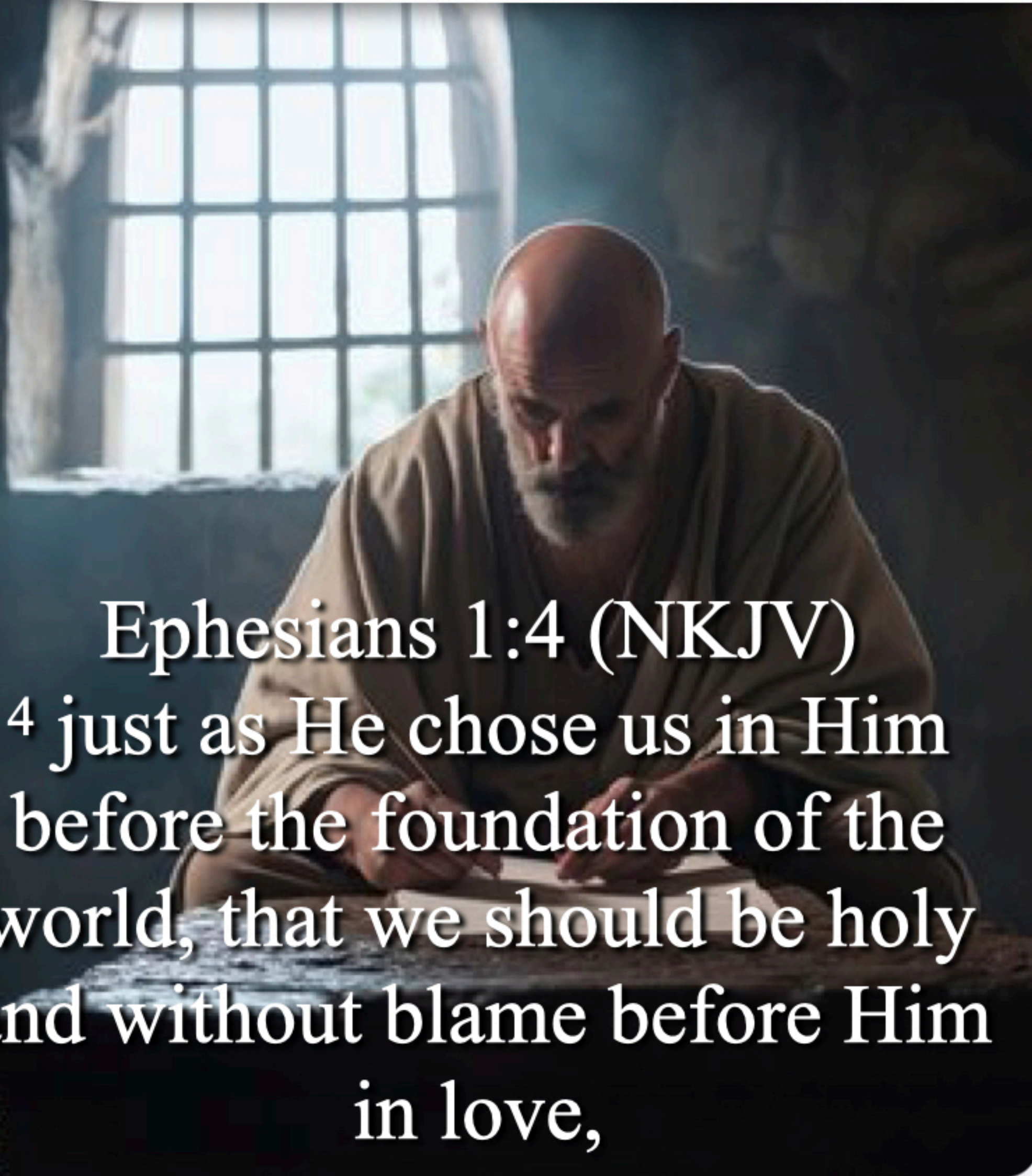
- ▶ Paul does NOT say, “just as He chose us *“to be”* in Him! It says He chose us **“IN HIM!”** Big difference!
- ▶ Individuals are NOT unconditionally elected and then put in Christ; those in Christ are God’s chosen people (Isa. 42:1; 1 Pet. 2:6,9).



Ephesians 1:4 (NKJV)

⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

“HE CHOSE US IN CHRIST”



Ephesians 1:4 (NKJV)
⁴ just as He chose us in Him
before the foundation of the
world, that we should be holy
and without blame before Him
in love,

**Election is a spiritual blessing
that is found only in Christ.**

**No spiritual blessing is
enjoyed prior to being raised
up with Christ and seated in
the heavenly places with Him.**

**INCLUDING “ELECTION”
(Eph. 2:4–7, 12–13).**

“HE CHOSE US IN CHRIST”

OUTSIDE CHRIST

Lost Without Hope

NO spiritual blessings

NOT chosen

NOT children of God

NOT accepted

NO redemption

NO forgiveness

NO heavenly Inheritance

Baptized Into

Rom. 6:3-6

Gal. 3:26,27

Acts 2:38,47

INSIDE CHRIST

Saved / Hope

ALL spiritual blessings

Chosen

A child of God

Accepted

Redeemed

Forgiven

A Heavenly

Inheritance

INDIVIDUAL ELECTION IS CONDITIONAL

Spiritual Israel

Ephesians 1:1-14

Galatians 3:16-29

Jesus

Isaiah 42:1

Jacob

Isaac

Abraham

Romans 11:17-23

- Those who stand by faith must not be haughty, but fear [20]
- Those standing by faith must continue in His goodness [21,22]
- If they did NOT continue in His goodness – they would be CUT OFF [22]
- Those who have been cut off would be grafted in AGAIN - if they did not continue in unbelief [23]

INDIVIDUAL ELECTION IS CONDITIONAL

Phrases in Romans 11	Contextual Interpretation	Calvinistic Reinterpretation
“some of the branches were broken off”	True believers can become unbelievers and be lost.	Outward members of God’s people were excluded.
“but you stand by your faith”	You remain saved by continuing belief.	You remain in the visible community by faith/profession.
“otherwise you also will be cut off”	You can lose your salvation.	You can lose covenant membership or be shown false.
“if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in”	Apostates can be restored.	Jews (as a people) can be restored when they believe.

INDIVIDUAL ELECTION IS CONDITIONAL

Concept	Contextual Interpretation	Calvinistic Reinterpretation
Root	Blessings in Christ	??????
Branches	Individual believers	Visible covenant members (church)
Grafted in	Receiving salvation	Inclusion in the church
Cut off	Losing salvation	Losing covenant status (temporarily saved)
Continue in faith	Condition of salvation	Evidence of unconditional election
Warning	Threat of apostasy	Means God uses to ensure perseverance

“ELECT ACCORDING TO FOREKNOWLEDGE”

This Text Affirms Corporate/Class Election (cf. 1 Peter 2:4-10)

1 Peter 1:1–2 (NASB95)

¹ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen ² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

- God **foreknew** that He would save all those in Christ (1:10-12,17-21; 2:4-10; Eph. 1:3-13; 3:1-11; Rom. 16:25,26).
- This text affirms class election, NOT individual unconditional election (1 Peter 2:4-10).

“ELECT ACCORDING TO FOREKNOWLEDGE”

This Text Affirms Corporate/Class Election (cf. 1 Peter 2:4-10)

1 Peter 2:9–10 (NASB95)

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for *God's* own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

- Only those in Christ are within the chosen sphere, [race / nation / priesthood / people] (2:4-10; Eph. 1:3-13).
- They were not chosen, NOW THEY ARE (Eph. 2:12,13; Rom 9:25; 11:30-32; 16:7).

“ELECT ACCORDING TO FOREKNOWLEDGE”

This Text Affirms Corporate/Class Election (cf. 1 Peter 2:4-10)

Romans 16:7 (NASB95)

⁷ Greet Andronicus and Junias, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners, who are outstanding among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.

GOD ELECTED A “PEOPLE GROUP”

- “A spiritual house” (2:5)
- “An elect race” (2:9)
- “A royal priesthood” (2:9)
- “A holy nation, a people” (2:9)

ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE

“MAKE YOUR CALLING AND ELECTION SURE”

Class Election

Ephesians 5:27 (NASB95)

²⁷ that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

INDIVIDUALLY CHOSEN “IN HIM”

- “God’s eternal purpose in grace” is that we should be holy and blameless.
- While the election of the body of Christ is laid out in Ephesians 5:27 ...
- The “fulfillment individually” is found in Colossians 1:22-23, “if we continue in the faith.”
- From this passage, it should be understood that our election status as individuals is contingent upon our perseverance in the faith.

“MAKE YOUR CALLING AND ELECTION SURE”

Corporate/ Class Election

2 Peter 1:10 (NASB95)

¹⁰ Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;

INDIVIDUALLY CHOSEN “IN HIM”

- “if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast,” (Col. 1:22,23 - NASB95).
- “but Christ was *faithful* as a Son over His house—whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.” (Heb. 3:6, cf. 14; 4:11 - NASB95).

“MAKE YOUR CALLING AND ELECTION SURE”

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INDIVIDUALLY CHOSEN “IN HIM”

²⁶ For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries. ²⁸ Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on *the testimony of* two or three witnesses. ²⁹ How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean **the blood of the covenant** by which he was sanctified, and has **insulted the Spirit of grace?**
(Hebrews 10:26–29 - NASB95)

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¹⁰ Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;

INDIVIDUALLY CHOSEN “IN HIM”

²⁰ For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. ²¹ For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them. ²² It has happened to them according to the true proverb, “A dog returns to its own vomit,” and, “A sow, after washing, *returns* to wallowing in the mire.”

(2 Peter 2:20–22 - NASB95)

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¹⁰ Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;

INDIVIDUALLY CHOSEN “IN HIM”

¹¹ Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, ... ¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, ¹⁵ and regard the patience of our Lord *as* salvation;
(2 Peter 3:11-18 - NASB95)

“MAKE YOUR CALLING AND ELECTION SURE”**Corporate/
Class Election****2 Peter 1:10
(NASB95)**

¹⁰ Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;

**INDIVIDUALLY CHOSEN
“IN HIM”**

¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, ¹⁸ but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. (2 Peter 3:11-18 - NASB95)

LOGICAL CONSEQUENCES OF UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

**God Does NOT
Redemptively
Love All Men**

The large majority of men are born “foreordained” to eternal destruction

**1 Timothy 2:3–4
(NASB95)**

³ This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

LOGICAL CONSEQUENCES OF UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

**God Does NOT
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Love All Men**

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2 Peter 3:9 (NASB95)
9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

LOGICAL CONSEQUENCES OF UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

**God Does NOT
Redemptively
Love All Men**

The large majority of men are born “foreordained” to eternal destruction

Ezekiel 18:23,32 (NASB95)

²³ “Do I have any pleasure in the death of the wicked,” declares the Lord God, “rather than that he should turn from his ways and live?”

³² “For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies,” declares the Lord God. “Therefore, repent and live.”

LOGICAL CONSEQUENCES OF UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION**God Is A
Respecter Of
Persons**

Chooses one sinner
and condemns many
others arbitrarily and
capriciously

Romans 2:9–11 (NASB95)

⁹ There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, ¹⁰ but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹¹ For there is no partiality with God.

LOGICAL CONSEQUENCES OF UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION**God Is Unjust**

Condemns men for what He predetermined they do, without them having freewill to do otherwise

**2 Corinthians 5:10
(NASB95)**

¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

THE LOGICAL CONSEQUENCES OF CALVINISM

Calvinism Is BASED Upon **UNBIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS**

**GOD
DOES NOT
REDEMPTIVELY LOVE ALL MEN**

The MAJORITY of men are born “foreordained” to eternal destruction.

Chooses some sinners & condemns the MAJORITY arbitrarily.

Condemns men for what He predetermined that they do, without them having libertarian freewill to do otherwise - EVEN EVERY SIN!

“The first cause of EVIL is God Himself!”

Unbiblical Concept of GOD’S SOVEREIGNTY