

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

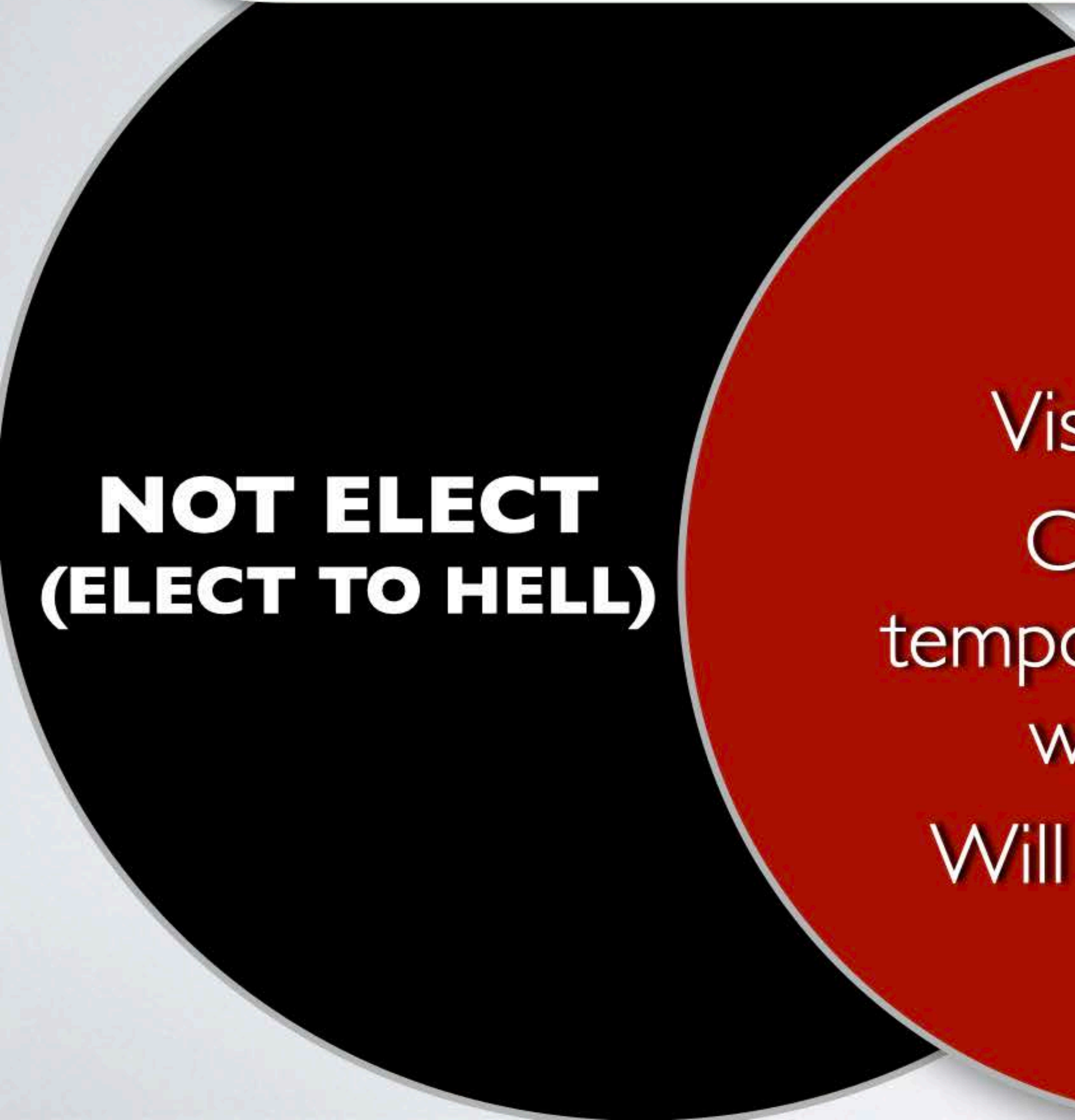


“WE ARE CONDEMNED FOR SINS WE COMMIT”



- ▶ **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.”

HOW DO YOU KNOW?



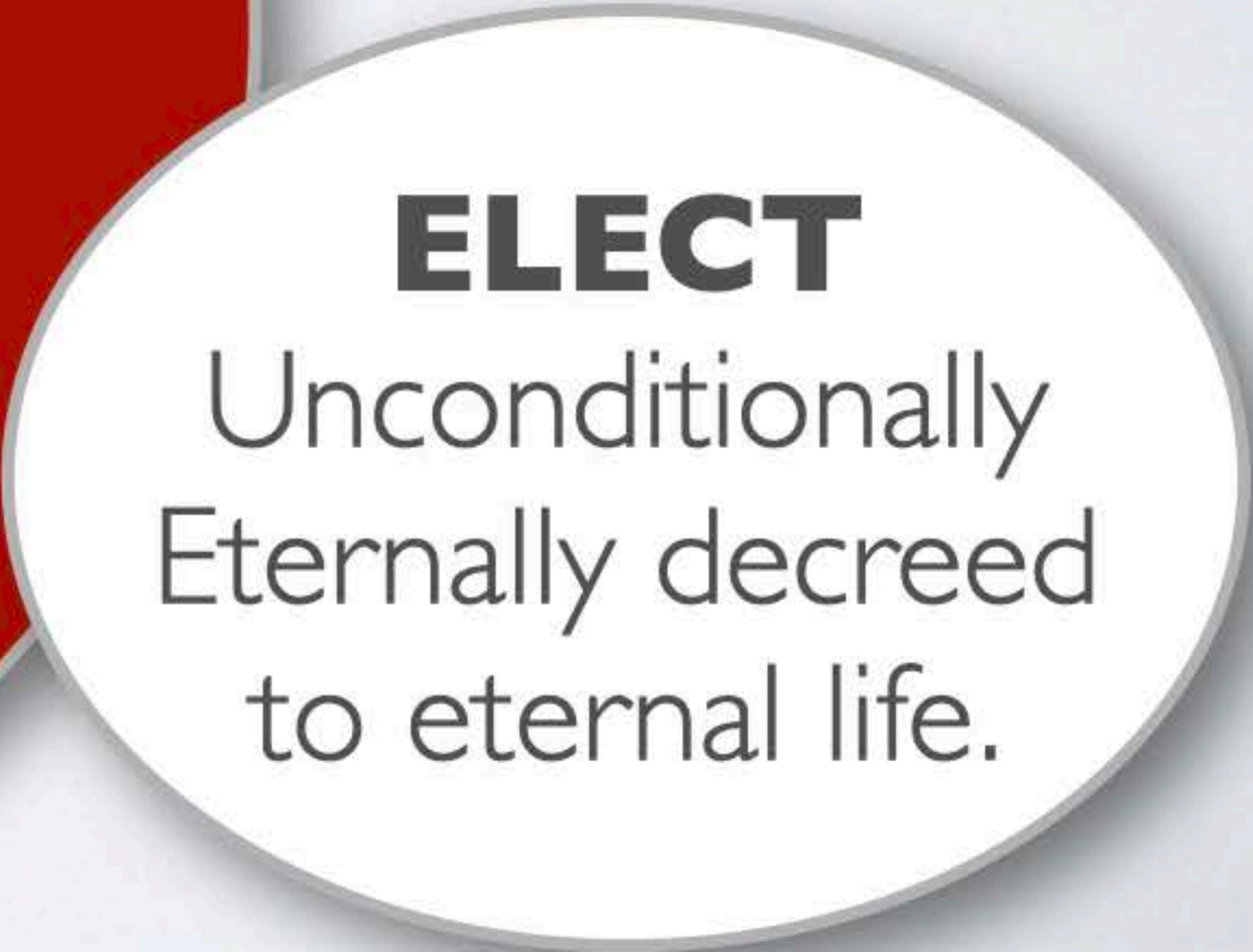
**NOT ELECT
(ELECT TO HELL)**



ELECT

Visible church
Conditional,
temporarily in union
with Christ.
Will FALL AWAY

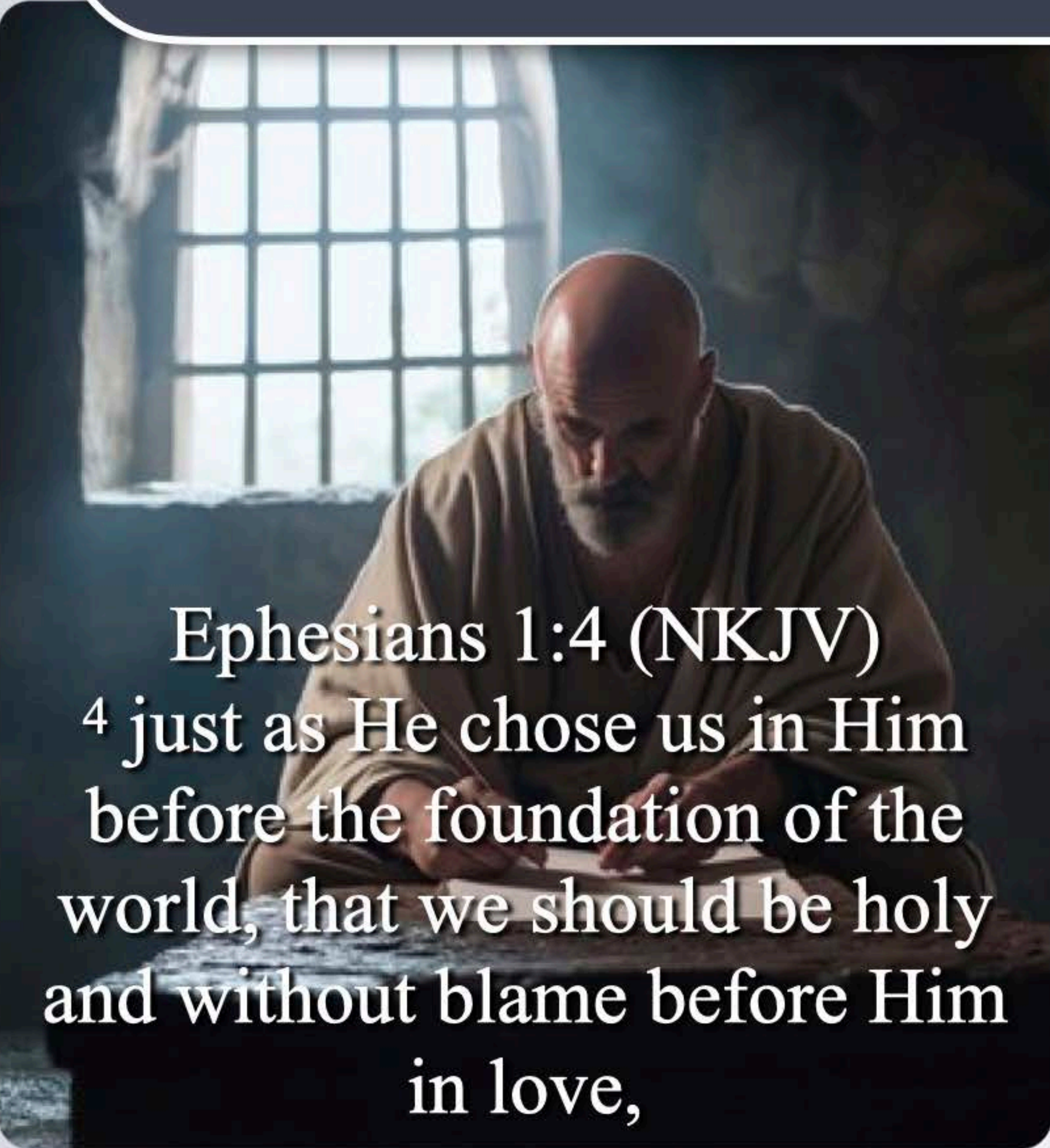
“Those who persevere are the elect ones and that's how we identify them That's how we know who the elect are.”



ELECT

Unconditionally
Eternally decreed
to eternal life.

“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,

■ “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).

“HE CHOSE US IN CHRIST”

Christ & The Church 1:22,23; 2:16,19-22; 3:9-11;5:32;

God's Wisdom (1:8)

Good Pleasure (1:5,9)

God's Eternal Purpose (1:9,11)

Mystery of His Will (1:9)

**THE BLESSED
IN CHRIST**
Chosen
Holy
Blameless
Adopted
Accepted

INDIVIDUAL ELECTION IS CONDITIONAL



■ INDIVIDUAL ELECTION IS CONDITIONED ON FAITH IN CHRIST

- ▶ To save some of them (9:1,2; 10:1-17; 11:1, 14, 15, 24, 26, 31).
- ▶ They were cast away, broken off, cut off, (lost) (11:7-10, 14, 17, 20).
- ▶ Their acceptance, i.e., being grafted in again (saved), was conditioned on their faith in Christ (11:20, 23, 24).

INDIVIDUAL ELECTION IS CONDITIONAL

Romans 11:16–24 (NASB95)

¹⁶ If the first piece *of dough* is holy, the lump is also; and if the root is holy, the branches are too. ¹⁷ But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, **were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree,** ¹⁸ do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, *remember that* it is not you who supports the root, but the *root supports* you.

- Those who partake of the seed promise are saved by faith (11:16,17; Gal. 3:16, 26-29).
- The “rich root” refers to the covenant promise made to Abraham regarding Christ (Rom 4:16–18).
- Paul’s metaphor presupposes that those who had actually participated in salvation had now been broken off due to their unbelief (John 15:1-10).

INDIVIDUAL ELECTION IS CONDITIONAL

Romans 11:16–24 (NASB95)

¹⁹ You will say then, “Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.”

²⁰ Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear; ²¹ for if God did not spare the natural branches, He will not spare you, either.

²² Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God’s kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off.

- The contrast between **unbelief** and **faith** defines the entire passage.
- Faith is both the means of entrance into, and the condition of remaining in Christ.
- Paul’s warning to “fear” shows a genuine possibility of being cut off from the Lord.

INDIVIDUAL ELECTION IS CONDITIONAL

Romans 11:16–24 (NASB95)

²³ And they also, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. ²⁴ For if you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these who are the natural *branches* be grafted into their own olive tree?

- Neither perseverance, nor being cut off, is inevitable, but conditioned on continued faith or unbelief (11:23).
- The text does not say, “because you are elect, you will fear,” but if you do not fear, you will be cut off.
- The “natural branches” were part of God’s covenant people and yet were “not spared.”

INDIVIDUAL ELECTION IS CONDITIONAL

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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

HIGHER VIEW OF SOVEREIGNTY?

“God... brings about all things in accordance 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?

Esther 4:14 (NASB95)

14 “For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father’s house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?”

- **God in His sovereignty can grant men free will and still be sovereign (Gen. 2,3).**
- **God can and does reign over a world of free creatures and without fail accomplishes His will and purposes (Acts 17:24-28).**
- **God is sovereign over the universe without having to micromanage human decisions (Gal. 6:7,8).**

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