

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

Proposition Defined

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

- **“Scriptures”** The sixty six books of the bible
- **“teach”** to instruct or impart knowledge
- **“those who obey the gospel”** faith that submits to the terms of pardon.
- **“of their own freewill”** humanity’s ability to either accept or reject God’s appeal to be reconciled through faith in Christ.
- **“and only those”** no more and no less.
- **“become the elect of God.”** enter into Christ’s body.

WHY THIS MATTERS

**God's
sincere
redemptive love
for all men.**

His Righteousness /
Faithfulness / LOVE

A sincere call
available to all
men

God's Impartiality

**God's
sovereign decree
that all men have
freewill.**

To freely receive
His grace and His
faithful promises.

To live in the
assurance of
salvation.

THE LOGICAL CONSEQUENCES OF CALVINISM

Calvinism Is BASED Upon **UNBIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS**

**GOD
DOES NOT
REDEEMPTIVELY LOVE ALL MEN**

GOD ARBITRARILY SAVES A FEW & CONDEMNS MOST

LIMITED ATONEMENT / JESUS DID NOT DIE FOR ALL

DIRECT & IRRESISTIBLE OPERATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT UPON THE ELECT

UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

MANKIND'S TOTAL INABILITY

Unbiblical Concept of GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

THE NATURE OF GOD IS THE STARTING POINT

WE BEGIN WITH TWO OPPOSING VIEWS OF GOD!

THE GOD OF CALVINISM

In order for God to be **SOVEREIGN**, He must **DETERMINE (ORDAIN)** whatsoever shall come to pass.

MUST APPEAL TO MYSTERY

THE GOD OF SCRIPTURE

SOVEREIGNTY

Biblically defined does not deny free will, but rather decrees men have free will.

COMPREHENSIVE TRUTH

FREE WILL (LIBERTARIAN / GENUINE)

- Adam possessed **the genuine ability to choose otherwise** — to obey or disobey.
- God's sovereignty is understood not as determining every act, but as *permitting* free creatures to make real choices within His providential purpose.
- God remains sovereign because He created, sustains, and can bring about His purposes even through free human choices.
- God's sovereignty includes allowing that freedom.

HIGHER VIEW OF SOVEREIGNTY?



“God is so divinely sovereign that He can fulfill His will and endow humanity with libertarian free will.”

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).

“HE CHOSE US IN CHRIST”

- God's election in Christ must be understood as the choosing of the body of Christ.
- Only as members of that body do individuals share in the benefits of God's gracious choice.

“HE CHOSE US IN CHRIST”

Ephesians 1:4–5 (NASB95)

⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵ He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

- Christ serves as the sphere and means of our election.
- Individuals are not unconditionally elected and then put in Christ; those in Christ are elect (Isa. 42:1; 1 Pet. 2:6,9).
- Individuals share in the election of Christ IN HIS BODY.
- Before the foundation of the world, God made His sovereign choice: those **in Christ** would be His people.

“HE CHOSE US IN CHRIST”

**Isaiah 42:1
(NASB95)**

**¹ “Behold, My Servant,
whom I uphold; My
chosen one in whom My
soul delights. I have put
My Spirit upon Him; He
will bring forth justice to
the nations.”**

“HE CHOSE US IN CHRIST”

1 Corinthians 12:12 (NASB95)
¹² For even as the body is one and *yet* has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. ... ²⁷ Now you are Christ’s body, and individually members of it.

“*So also is Christ*” – a synecdoche for the body.

You are elect if you are a member of the body of Christ – You are NOT of the elect if you are NOT in the body of Christ.

“HE CHOSE US IN CHRIST”

Ephesians 1:5
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Predestined — προορίζω - proorizō

- Means properly “to set bounds before;” and then to “pre-determine.”
- It is originally a geographical term, but is also applied to any thing determined or demonstrated.
- Here the word is used to point out God's fixed purpose or predetermination to bestow upon those who are “IN CHRIST” the blessing of the adoption through belief of the truth (Eph. 1:5,13).



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To the saints
& faithful IN
CHRIST

“HE CHOSE US IN CHRIST”

THE BLESSED
CLASS

THE CHOSEN
CLASS

THE
ADOPTED
CLASS

THE
ACCEPTED
CLASS

Ephesians 1:1–6 (NASB95)

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, **To the saints** who are at Ephesus and *who are **faithful in Christ Jesus***: ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blessed** us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* **in Christ**, ⁴ just as He **chose** us **in Him** before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵ He predestined us to **adoption** as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, **which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved**.

“HE CHOSE US IN CHRIST”

THE BLESSED
CLASS

THE CHOSEN
CLASS

THE
ADOPTED
CLASS

THE
ACCEPTED
CLASS

Ephesians 1:7–12 (NASB95)

⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness
 Ephesians 3:6,10,11 the riches of His grace ⁸ which He
 lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight ⁹ He made known to us
 the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which
 He purposed in Him ¹⁰ with a view to an administration suitable
 to the fullness of the times, *that is*, the summing up of all things
 in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him ¹¹
 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined
 according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel
 of His will, ¹² to the end that we who were the first to hope in
 Christ would be to the praise of His glory.

“HE CHOSE US IN CHRIST”

THE BLESSED CLASS

Ephesians 3:1–12 (NASB95)

⁹ and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things;

THE CHOSEN CLASS

Ephesians 2:12–13 (NASB95)

¹² *remember* that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

THE ADOPTED CLASS

THE ACCEPTED CLASS

“according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,” (3:11)

“HE CHOSE US IN CHRIST”

Ephesians 3:11 (NASB95)

“according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,” (3:11)

**THE
BLESSED IN
CHRIST**

**THOSE WHO
WERE NOT,
BUT NOW
ARE!**

US

- Community (2:12)
- Reconciled IN One body (2:16)
- Fellow citizens (2:19)
- Household of God (2:19)
- A holy temple in the Lord (2:21)

“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

“HE CHOSE US IN CHRIST”

Ephesians 1:13 (NASB95)

¹³ In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,

Conditioned Upon Having Heard & Believed The Truth

- “In whom you also” (“*you also were included in Christ*” [NIV]) (1:22,23; 2:11-13; cf. Col. 1:18-23; 1 Pet. 2:10)
- “Having heard [ASV]” – They were included into God’s chosen people, (*in Christ*), after they heard and believed the truth (*Eph. 4:21; 2 Thes 2:13,14; James 1:18-25; Romans 1:16,17*)

**THE
BLESSED IN
CHRIST
THOSE WHO
WERE NOT,
BUT NOW
ARE!**

“HE CHOSE US IN CHRIST”

Ephesians 1:4 (NASB95)

⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

God Chose Before The World:

- The type of person (Matthew 5:3-12)
- The obedient - becoming members of the chosen family (Galatians 3:26,27; Hebrews 5:8,9)
- Those who make their “Calling and Election sure” (2 Peter 1:5-10)

**THE HEAD
& CLASS**

“The body of
Christ, i.e.
the church”
Eph. 1:22,23

“HE CHOSE US IN CHRIST”

Ephesians 1:4 (NASB95)

⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.

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.

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“HE CHOSE US IN CHRIST”

God Chose Before The World:

- God **planned** it before the world began (Ep 1:4; 3:11)
- Those **in Christ** would be His elect; holy, and blameless people (Ep 1:4; 5:27)
- Believers would be adopted as sons **in Christ** (Ep 1:5; Gal 3:26,27), i.e. the means & conditions.
- This plan is according to **God's good pleasure** (Ep 1:5,10-13)

PREDESTINED

SPHERE

STATUS

PURPOSE

“HE CHOSE US IN CHRIST”

God Chose Before The World:

- Those in Christ's body, i.e. church, (1-13; 2:16; cf. Rom 16:13)
- By grace through faith (2,7,13; 2:8-10)
- Baptized into the family of God (5,7,13; cf. Acts 2:38,41; Gal 3:26,27)
- Forgiveness - grace, peace – inheritance, adoption, eternal life (3)
- The faithful in Christ (1,4,5,13)

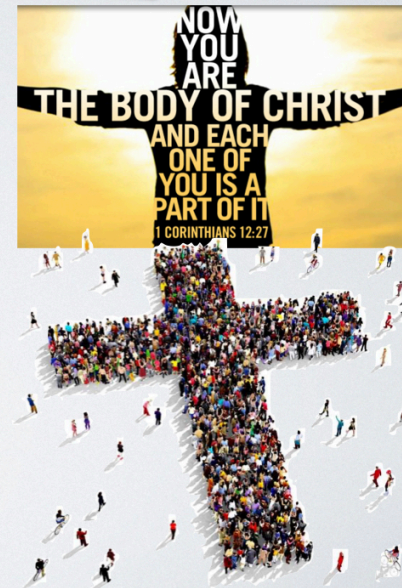
Where?

How?

When?

What?

Who?



“HE CHOSE US IN CHRIST”

Ephesians 1:3 (NASB95)

³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,

■ “IN CHRIST” = UNION, RELATIONSHIP

- ▶ Our election is “**IN CHRIST,**” **NOT** “**To be in Christ!**”
- ▶ Those **IN CHRIST** experience **EVERY** spiritual blessing.

In Christ
 Saved / Hope
 ALL spiritual blessings
 Chosen
 A child of God
 Accepted
 Redeemed
 Forgiven
 A Heavenly Inheritance

“HE CHOSE US IN CHRIST”



Ephesians 1:13 (NASB95)

¹³ In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,

Ephesians 3:10,11 (NASB95)

¹⁰ so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church ... ¹¹ *This was* in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,

- Individuals are not unconditionally elected and then put in Christ.
- They are in Christ, (Isa. 42:1), and therefore elect!
- The church is the unique body of Christ, corporately and eternally conceived.
- Individuals share in the election of Christ IN HIS BODY.
- Before the foundation of the world, God made His sovereign choice: Those IN CHRIST would be His people.

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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



- The condition of ethnic Jews being part of God's elect people was faith in Jesus Christ (11:1,2; 7:25).
- God has always chosen the faithful, the remnant, as His people (11:3-5; 9:6,27).
- Those within Israel who respond in faith, rather than seeking justification through the works of the Law, were presently participating in God's "election of grace" (11:5-7; cf. 9:30-33; 10:1-3, 21).

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.”

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- The claim that the phrase “not spared,” applies only to national or external privileges, and not to salvation itself, is false (11:14, 20-22; cf. 9:1-5).
- The warning is directed to the Gentile believers who were standing by faith.
- Paul sees their participation in the promises of salvation as being conditioned on their continued faith in Christ.

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.

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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.

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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.

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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