

## ***AN UNANSWERABLE DILEMMA!***

Everyone who takes the Bible seriously believes in “election”. It is a biblical doctrine! However, there are considerably different views represented on how to understand it, and no one understands it completely. Election simply means “choice”. No one can legitimately deny that election refers to God’s sovereign choice. God, in grace, chose. All the glory and praise for salvation goes to God alone! However, these realities do not cancel out human responsibility. Certainly, a GOD-CENTERED view of election must prevail, and yet all that factors in here is a deep MYSTERY.

“We follow on while he draws us, glad to obey the voice which once we had despised. But the gist of the matter lies in the turning of the will. How that is done no flesh knoweth; it is one of those mysteries that is clearly perceived as a fact, but the cause of which no tongue can tell, and no heart can guess.” -**Charles Spurgeon**, in a sermon entitled “Human Inability” – preached on 3/7/1858

“Election and predestination do not, however, take away man’s responsibility. Even though election and predestination are clearly taught in Scripture, man is still held accountable for his choices. Scripture never suggests that man is lost because he is not elect or has not been predestinated; the emphasis of Scripture is that man is lost because he refuses to believe the gospel.” -**Paul Enns in The Moody Handbook of Theology, p. 328-329**

“Even if, as Arminians believe, foreknowledge does not *cause* anything to happen, still the future will unfold as God knows it will. Yes, even for Arminians, whatever will be, will be. The truth is that neither the Calvinist nor the Arminian has a satisfying answer to this dilemma.” -**Erwin Lutzer in The Doctrines That Divide, p. 216**

“Let’s again illustrate the harmony of predetermination and free choice. Suppose you cannot watch your favorite sports event live on TV. So you videotape it. When you watch it later, the entire game and every play in it are absolutely determined and can never be changed. No matter how many times you rerun it, the final score, as well as every aspect of every play, will always be the same. Yet when the game happened, every event was freely chosen. No one was forced to play. Therefore, the same event was both determined and free at the same time.” - **Norman Geisler, Chosen But Free – p. 45**

“The same God who has ordained all events has ordained human liberty in the midst of these events, and this liberty is as surely fixed as is anything

else. Man is no mere automaton or machine. In the Divine plan, which is infinite in variety and complexity, which reaches from everlasting to everlasting, and which includes millions of free agents who act and inter-act and re-act upon each other, God has ordained that human beings shall keep their liberty under His sovereignty. He has made no attempt to give us a formal explanation of these things, and our limited human knowledge is not able fully to solve the problem.” **-Lorraine Boettner in The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination, p. 209**

“D.L. Moody used to put it very simply: ‘The elect are the ‘whosoever wills’; the non-elect are the ‘whosoever won’ts.’ This is exactly what Scripture teaches. The invitation is to all. Those who accept it are the elect. Remember, we are never told that Christ died for the elect. But what does the Word say? ‘Christ died for the ungodly.’” – **H.A. Ironside in Full Assurance, p. 92**

“C.H. Spurgeon was once asked if he could reconcile these two truths [human responsibility and God’s sovereignty] to each other. ‘I wouldn’t try,’ he replied; ‘I never reconcile friends.’”  
**-J.I. Packer in Evangelism & the Sovereignty of God, p. 35**

***“The pendulum swings, ridiculous extreme, bypassing the truth which lieth between.”***