2Thess #116

The Doctrine of Election

Please keep Agnese from Michigan in prayer. She is a young woman who has been very sick lately, her mother Sara is a faithful woman of God.

As we began last lesson I mentioned that it is not extremely complicated but there is a crossroad at certain doctrines like election.

I also told you that the doctrine of election and predestination are woven closely together.

There is one go-to scripture, that explains the core concepts of the Bible and several doctrines.

So, you should put this one in your back pocket RF;

/Jhn 3:16 “For **God so loved the world**, that He gave His only Son, **so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life**.

The Gospel and the Bible itself in a nutshell, also the doctrines of election, predestination and eternal security.\

The Greek word PAS - is used for everyone, it means ALL, every person, meaning as a whole or everything and everyone.

God loves the whole cosmic system, even though it has been hijacked and brought into a culture and ideologies of evil by fallen angels, God desires for all to come to the knowledge of HIS precious SON.

/Election and predestination can be viewed as a layered concept or a multi-faceted theology. At the birth of every human being, when God breaths a soul life into that biological life coming out of the womb, they have been elected and predestined for life on this earth. They also have been elected and predestined to a divine appointment to enter into an everlasting union with Christ. That is offered, not forced upon everyone with a normal I.Q. Yet there is an acceptance or positive volition needed in the direction of Jesus Christ.\

Your free will decision to believe upon the person and work of TLJC has no divine power to carry you into the eternal state.

It is a positive nod that allows GOD the HS to do HIS work in efficacious grace. HE will wash you clean, establish a temple in your soul and carry you into salvation.

God is always calling Unbels and attempting to gain their attention through Common Grace. As well as life experiences within the good and bad environments all around us every day. Yet GOD does not force anyone.

 REPEAT

This is the core concepts of Unlimited Atonement.

You either believe this or you don’t, perhaps you believe in LIMITED Atonement?

Which would place you under the core concepts taught by Calvinism.

John Calvin had some great doctrinal teachings but he was off on several core doctrines.

In the 1500’s, Calvin helped lead early REFORMERS away from Roman Catholic dominance. Yet he and his followers became very dictatorial to the point of controlling and manipulating people to follow his teaching or face punitive measures.

After his death one of a men named Jacob Arminius arose among several other students of Calvinism and he began to stray into other aspects of doctrinal truth. That began the long- debated theologies of Calvinism vs Arminianism, a lesson for another day.

I actually touched on these two men about 4 years ago.

This is what I mean by a crossroad on certain doctrines.

Limited Atonement from Calvinism points to God’s overriding will and irresistible grace that forces people into salvation which HE ordained millions of years ago.

Again, meaning GOD chose some and rejected others.

This means free will has no place or consequence inside the plan of GOD.

 REPEAT

Yet there are some versions of Unlimited Atonement that also skew man’s free will as well.

You need to find your proper footing in this doctrine to grow in other areas of theology.

/The proper theology for Unlimited Atonement teaches us we are all born helpless and hopeless, completely depraved with an OSN. Yet we are all given a free will (freedom of thought), that free will has no divine power. All divine power and salvation come from the work of the Trinity. Once we agree, or cling to the plan of God before and after salvation, GOD does all the work. God did not create robots, HE created creatures with freedom of choice.\

This is the simple truth of what I believe and what I am confident the scriptures teach us. Starting with the original man and woman in the garden – GOD wanted us to turn to HIM with the free will HE gave us. Yet HE warns us not to choose in the other direction – free will!

GOD hates tyranny and putting free will into question - tells us, GOD was acting like a tyrant toward mankind.

Righteousness and justice do not exist under a tyrant. Neither does true freedom. REPEAT

In fact, the rebellion of Satan and the fallen angels points us directly toward free will as well.

/Isa 28:16 Therefore this is what the Lord GOD says: “Behold, I am laying a stone in Zion, **a tested stone, A precious cornerstone** *for* the foundation, firmly placed. **The one who believes** *in it* will not be disturbed.

It says the exact same thing in the Greek translation of 1Pet 2:6-7. The chosen ONE (Christ) is the one we cling onto.\

Go to Ephesians chapter one RF.

Jesus Christ was elected, the humanity of Christ will be the king in the line of David. Jesus was commissioned to be a royal high priest.

Therefore, He was elected and as members of the body of Christ in the Church Age we share in that election as well as in that royal priesthood.

This election of Christ occurred in the doctrine of the divine decree, possibly billions of years ago.

Therefore, every Believer is actually involved in this eternal commission.

/Now as we study concepts about being chosen, elected, predestined, we can look through the confident lens; that GOD looked down the corridors of time and accounted for all mistakes, sins and free will. Within HIS Divine Decree, HE worked it all together for the good of HIS plan. God did all of this without stepping all over mankind’s and angel’s free will. That shows us the Cross of Christ was the saving work of Unlimited Atonement for all of mankind.\

This type of series we are in should give a clear view on that crossroad of this doctrine.

I don’t find it difficult to see the clear pathway.

I would argue, the birth of the Nephilim shown in Gensis 6, before the flood, gives clear evidence of not only an angelic conflict but the free will of mankind and angels.

/Jhn 15:16 “**You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you** that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you. (2Thes 2:13)

This becomes a very clear and easy scripture to understand Unlimited Atonement, not a confusing one.\

The same can be said about many other scriptures that some teach as LIMITED Atonement;

/1Pet 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as strangers, 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 multiplied to you.\

Chosen (elected) by the foreknowledge in eternity past, the Divine Decree.

God knew the day you would become born again and saved – the day you finally accepted HIS appointment for you.

Notice the power is not in free will, the true power is in the sanctifying work of God the HS.

God’s grace blessing of free will is needed to accept what HE desires for you.

That way GOD can never be viewed as a tyrant.

Eph 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are at Ephesus and *are* faithful in Christ Jesus:

The term at Ephesus is not in the original context – this was a circular letter designed to go out to all the Apostle Paul’s congregations.

[Eph 1:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/2/s_1098002) Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Grace is the sole property and essence of God – grace is eternal, not the human viewpoint of grace – God’s grace.

/[Eph 1:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/3/s_1098003) 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,**

HAS BLESSED US -God does everything in eternity past. Everything is Christ dependent (positional truth) and GOD knew who would become positive toward HIS precious SON.\

Accuracy in the theology of Unlimited Atonement never has to compromise mankind’s free will, or the justice and righteousness of GOD.

It all flows naturally uninterrupted.

[Eph 1:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/4/s_1098004) just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

Notice we are chosen (elected) in HIM – again, speaking to the positional truth of who we are once we accept the appointment from God the Father.

/ Positional truth explains both election and predestination. Jesus Christ was elected by God the Father, so Christ is elected. In electing Christ, God the Father gave Him a destiny. We share the election of Christ as Bels, we share the destiny of Christ; therefore, we are pre designed, foreordained by the benefit of a divine union with Christ. True Christianity is a relationship: a unique union with Christ, not a religion.\

Positional truth exists in two categories: retroactive and current.

Retroactive simply means everything TLJC has ever represented or ever accomplished is credited to our account. We share in who HE is and always will be. We are identified with TLJC in HIS persecutions and HIS death and burial. Then the current positional truth we now live in, points to HIS resurrection and eternal glory as well as HIS seat at the throne of heaven.

 REPEAT

[/Eph 1:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/5/s_1098005) **He predestined**(*proorizō* ) **us to adoption** as sons *and daughters* **through Jesus Christ to Himself**, according to the good pleasure of His will,

The aorist tense - points to something already accomplished, set into place, ordained prior to arrival. Yet it was all CHRIST dependent – in HIM.\

PROD-REEZ-O, to be pre-determined, to decide or to ordain in advance or acknowledge ahead of time.

TLJC agreed to this in eternity past.

[Eph 1:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/1/6/s_1098006) to the praise of the glory of His grace, with which He favored us in the Beloved.

Favored us in CHRIST, the beloved SON of God.

God’s grace is not dependent upon human merit or human free will. God’s grace gives and loves because of who and what HE is - not because of who and what we are or what we do.

Jesus Christ is the trigger point of all of this. Once we acknowledge the truth of the person and work of Christ and grab hold of HIS saving grace, then we share in a divine union never to be broken.

Remember that election is simply sharing the election of Jesus Christ. God the Father elected, the humanity of Jesus Christ, for a destiny and we share in that.

/God’s grace plan was never to interfere or manipulate HIS creation (angels and humans). To allow free will, meant impurity would open up into sin and evil at some point. Everything and everyone outside of the righteousness and justice of the Triune God is impure. To solve and resolve this problem, because GOD can never engage in fellowship with impurity (sin and evil), HE developed a perfect grace plan. Jesus Christ agreed to be the sacrifice and legal payment for the plan.\

Rebellion and impurity began in eternity past with the angels and Satan was their leader.

God having all knowledge, knew this and allowed their freedom to have a rebellion. Mankind is also rebellious because part of the grace plan was that mankind would inherit the nature of Adam….born in sin.

This is called the angelic conflict, which all hinges upon the perfect work of Jesus Christ. Free will does matter, it was factored in from the Divine Decree within the scope of this spiritual conflict.

There is no supernatural power in free will, the power is all from the grace of GOD in action.

/God in eternity past, allowed the sins of fallen man, in order to resolve the angelic conflict and address rebellion once and for all time. We were created as a lower race than angels, with the same basic circumstances – free will in perfection (man in Garden – angels in Heaven). God allows Satan and his army a wide berth of attacks and power for a period of time. When the dust finally settles, there will be no question of the justice, righteousness, grace and love of God.\

All angels fell…therefore there was a time, possibly billions of years ago, that they were offered forgiveness and salvation.

The ones who continued in rebellion with Satan, remained upon the rock we now call earth.

The earth may well be millions of years old and there were probably structures and evidence of an angelic culture here long before us.

The reshaping and molding of the earth as seen in Gensis chapter one – began a new era and the beginning stage of this spiritual conflict. That rebellion and conflict began before we were ever created – we are welcomed in to help resolve the issue.

/God made it abundantly clear only the pure, blood sacrifice of HIS perfect LAMB (Jesus Christ) could atone for the impurity and sin of fallen man. That sacrifice of Christ, would bring reconciliation between God and mankind. The righteousness of Christ passed the judicial process in heaven and was given out of God’s grace to ALL humanity. When a person rejects that grace gift in the end they stand upon their own merits and righteousness.\

Only the righteousness of Christ can pass into heaven.

All Bels have the righteousness of Christ not because of free will or human effort, because of GOD’s grace plan.

It is a grace gift that you can accept or refuse – just as the grace gift of free will was given for you to make choices.