

Election and Evangelism

2 Timothy 1:8–9

2 Timothy 2:8–10

2 Timothy 1:8–9 (NKJV)

⁸ Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, ⁹ who has saved us and called *us* with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.

2 Timothy 2:8–10 (NKJV)

⁸ Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel, ⁹ for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, *even* to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained. ¹⁰ Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

The Bible is a book of evangelism. It is saturated from Genesis to Revelation with the purpose of God to make His Glory known through the salvation of sinners from the Judgement of God.

The Mission of Jesus was clearly stated in His words

Luke 19:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Luke 5:32 (NKJV)

³² I have not come to call *the* righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

God’s purpose in choosing Paul was that He would be a missionary/ church planter and turn sinners from darkness to light.

Pauls on testimony of what Christ has called him to do.....

Acts 26:16–18 (NKJV)

¹⁶ But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which

you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. ¹⁷ I will deliver you from the *Jewish* people, as well as *from* the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, ¹⁸ to open their eyes, *in order* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

God also gave the assurance of the success of his mission

Acts 28:28 (NKJV)

²⁸ "Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it!"

Acts 28:30–31 (NKJV)

³⁰ Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, ³¹ preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence,.....

Paul was set apart for this purpose.

Romans 1:1–5 (NKJV)

1 Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated to the gospel of God ² which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, ³ concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, ⁴ and declared *to be* the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. ⁵ Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name,

Pauls Passion was clear

Romans 9:1–3 (NKJV)

9 I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, ² that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh,

Romans 10:1 (NKJV)

10 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.

Paul knew the need for evangelism

Romans 10:11–15 (NKJV)

¹¹ For the Scripture says, “*Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.*” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³ For “*whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.*”

¹⁴ How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent?...

Yet both Jesus and Paul taught Sovereign Election.

Jesus said

John 15:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

John 6:37 (NKJV)

³⁷ All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

John 6:44 (NKJV)

⁴⁴ No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 6:64–65 (NKJV)

⁶⁴ But there are some of you who do not believe.”

For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him.

⁶⁵ And He said, “Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.”

John 13:17–18 (NKJV)

¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

¹⁸ “I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, ‘*He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me.*’

John 17:6 (NKJV)

⁶ “I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.

Matthew 13:10–11 (NKJV)

¹⁰ And the disciples came and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in parables?”

¹¹ He answered and said to them, “Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.

Matthew 25:34 (NKJV)

³⁴ Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

John 3:3 (NKJV)

³ Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

John 3:7–8 (NKJV)

⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Paul is exactly the same.

He wrote 13 of the N.T. books, and was clearly a teacher of Sovereign Election

Ephesians 1:4–5 (NKJV)

⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Romans 8:30 (NKJV)

³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called;...

Romans 8:33 (NKJV)

³³ Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? ...

Romans 9:11–13 (NKJV)

¹¹ (for *the children* not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls), "... ¹³ As it is written, "*Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.*"

Romans 9:23 (NKJV)

²³ and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory,

Romans 11:4–5 (NKJV)

⁴ But what does the divine response say to him? "*I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.*" ⁵ Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

Romans 11:7–8 (NKJV)

⁷ What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded. ⁸ Just as it is written:

*"God has given them a spirit of stupor,
Eyes that they should not see
And ears that they should not hear,
To this very day."*

2 Thessalonians 2:13 (NKJV)

¹³ God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,

2 Timothy 2:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

1 Thessalonians 1:4 (NKJV)

⁴ knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God.

2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

⁹ who has saved us and called *us* with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

It is clear that both Paul and Jesus, and if time permitted, the rest of the N.T. and O.T. authors believed in Sovereign Election and the need to preach the gospel to the world of sinners

But some say that if you believe in Sovereign Election it will kill evangelism

That belief in the one will of necessity eliminate the need for the other.

The Argument is made, that if God has already chosen who will be saved....then why evangelize, why have missions at all

God will do what God will do and there is no changing it. All your passion and zeal and programs are useless in evangelism, because it is fixed, the number is set.... the people are already chosen.

Also, the argument is made that if God has chosen who will be saved already and there is not changing it, then there is no need to pray for the salvation of the lost.

They will be saved wether you pray or not.

So in summary,

No need to preach the gospel to sinners and no need to pray for sinners to be saved because God has already chosen who will be saved.

The answer to this is very simple.

1. God has chosen who will be saved.... Absolutely.
He chose before the foundation of the world
He wrote their names in the Lambs book of life
before the foundation of the world.
VERY CLEAR.

BUT

That is not all that He chose

2. God chose HOW to save the ones he has elected.

He chose the MEANS by which they could be taken from death to life..

from Lawbreakers to forgiven

from Lost to found

from Under the wrath of God to at peace with God.

Illustration

If I were to make a choice of all the states in the United states to visit, and out of 50 states to choose, I chose Florida.

Now I can chose the state, but that does not automatically get me there. The choice does not magically transport men there.

There has to be a choice of how I move myself from here in SC to Florida.

I can walk

I can ride a bike

I can drive a car

I can fly.

But I must make a choice of how to get there

There is a means or method to get me from SC to Florida.

So it is with Election and Salvation

Election does not save anyone. You are not saved just because you are Elected or chosen.

Election is always unto salvation. Election is the choice of God for Sinners to save.

It is the determination or Predetermination of who will be saved but not salvation itself.

Election is one part of the means to save a sinner.

Election is the choice to save someone

Also

The life and the death of Christ is the just and righteous way God can rightly Justify and save the sinner.

The Preaching of the Gospel is the way of delivering the message of who can save them

Prayer for the Lost is a path that God has chosen to get the lost saved

Belief, repentance and confession are all requirements God has made for application of the gospel for salvation

All of these

Election, Predestination, Christ life, death and resurrection, Prayer, Missions, evangelism, preaching the gospel, establishment of the church. Pastors and Elders, Deacons and all the members of the body of Christ, uniquely gifted are all part of the plan to make the choice of God to save a sinner a reality.

God has ordained this the path from eternity past to eternity future.

He ordains the end, from the beginning,

And

He ordains the means to get there.

NOTE

1. It is true that there is a set number of people who will be saved and they are the elect of God and there is a large population of people from all nations tribes and tongues that will be saved. And that that number is Fixed and set and God has chosen it.

Nothing will change it.

2. It is true that if you decide you are not going to participate in prayer for the lost to be saved, and you will not preach or share the gospel in evangelism, it will not change the number of people who will be saved in the end.

But...

3. It is also true that if you don't pray and you don't share the gospel, You are disobedient to the direct commandment of God.

And if that does not bother you at all then there might be a bigger issue at stake here with your soul. You might be lost, if you can so disregard the direct commandments of God.

Like

Matthew 28:19

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you;....

1 Timothy 2:1–4 (NKJV)

2 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks be made for all men, ² for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. ³ For 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.

4. If you do not do what you are commanded to do in evangelism....

that will not hinder the plan of God to save his elect. God will raise up others to do the work of communicating the gospel.

With that said,

Let me show you how the Bible teaches that God has chosen us to reach the elect with Gospel of Christ so they can be saved.

God has chosen us and the speaking the gospel to get the elect saved.

1 Timothy 1:12–16 (NKJV)

¹² And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting *me* into the ministry, ¹³ although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief. ¹⁴ And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

¹⁶ However, for this reason I obtained mercy, **that in me first Jesus Christ might show** all longsuffering, as a pattern to **those who are going to believe** on Him for everlasting life.

2 Timothy 2:8–10 (NKJV)

⁸ Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel, ⁹ **for which I suffer** trouble as an evildoer, *even* to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained. ¹⁰ Therefore **I endure all things for the**

sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

1 Corinthians 9:19–23 (NKJV)

¹⁹ For though I am free from all *men*, I have made myself a servant to all, **that I might win the more**;
²⁰ and to the Jews I became as a Jew, **that I might win** Jews; to those *who are* under the law, as under the law, **that I might win** those *who are* under the law; ²¹ to those *who are* without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), **that I might win** those *who are* without law; ²² to the weak I became as weak, **that I might win** the weak. I have become all things to all *men*, that I might by all means save some. ²³ Now this I do **for the gospel's sake**, that I may be partaker of it with *you*.

Acts 16:9–16 (NKJV)

⁹ And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” ¹⁰ Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.

12b..... And we were staying in that city for some days. ¹³ And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met *there*. ¹⁴ Now a certain woman named Lydia heard *us*. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. ¹⁵ And when she and her household were baptized, she begged *us*, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” So she persuaded us.

Acts 18:5–11 (NKJV)

⁵ When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul **was compelled by the Spirit**, and testified to the Jews *that* Jesus *is* the Christ. ⁶ But when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook *his* garments and said to them, “Your blood *be* upon your *own* heads; I *am* clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.” ⁷ And he departed from there and entered the house of a **certain man named Justus**, *one* who worshiped God, whose house was next door to the synagogue. ⁸ Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, **believed on the Lord with all his**

household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized.

⁹ Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, “Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; ¹⁰ for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; **for I have many people in this city.**”

¹¹ And he continued *there* a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

Even prayer is ordained as a necessity.
Jesus is a good example

John 17:9 (NKJV)

⁹ “I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.

John 17:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

John 17:20–21 (NKJV)

²⁰ “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

Pauls request for prayer speaks to the need for us to pray for the success of our evangelism

Colossians 4:2–4 (NKJV)

² Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; ³ meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, ⁴ that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

Ephesians 6:18–20 (NKJV)

¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—
¹⁹ and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Philippians 1:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

Philemon 22 (NKJV)

²² But, meanwhile, also prepare a guest room for me, for I trust that through your prayers I shall be granted to you.

2 Thessalonians 3:1–2 (NKJV)

3 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run *swiftly* and be glorified, just as *it is* with you, ² and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith.

So the Bible does teach election and predestination and right beside it sometimes in the same sentence, it will tell us of the need to preach to the gospel and pray for the doors to be open to speak boldly the message to the sinner.

So election does not remove the need for evangelism and prayer, rather it establishes the need for evangelism and prayer.

The only way that the elect are going to be saved is if someone prays for the sinner and some speaks the gospel to them.

Nothing has been so effective in driving world missions than the God of Sovereign Election. What some term “Big God Theology” has been and is the most powerful means of fueling local and world evangelism.

Nothing can so transform a churches missionary zeal for evangelism than the absolute belief that God has a people from every tribe, nation and tongue.

He has a people he has elected and will call to salvation when they are reached with Gospel.

The accusation that sovereign election kills evangelism is absolutely false and is a mischaracterization of Election and evangelism, when in fact, it doesn't kill evangelisms, it establishes evangelism and fires up evangelism.

The History of World missions was build on the back of men who preached the doctrine of election.

That is not debatable. It is a historical fact. Men like George Whitfield and Jonathan Edwards, of the 1st Great Awakening where staunch defenders of the doctrine of election, and at the same time clear preachers of the Gospel and called thousands to repent and come to faith in Christ.

Pastors like Charles Spurgeon and Andrew Fuller, were devoted preachers of the Gospel and

saw hundreds if not thousands embrace the gospel and also believed that God has His Elect.

Evangelist George Blanchard evangelized hundreds of thousands over 50 years, he authored the best selling evangelistic book "Right with God" and the booklet "Ultimate Questions" which has been translated into 50 languages and sold more than 13 million copies.

He was a devoted Calvinist in his Theology and believe the success of his evangelism, depended on the Election of God of Sinners.

He said on one occasion "election is a doctrine I am called upon to believe; evangelism is a command I am called to obey."

The great missionary movements were ALL started by men who believed in the doctrine of election.

John Calvin sent hundreds of missionaries into France and even a team to Brazil.

Reformed missionaries have served all around the world for over 200 years.

Men like William Carey

Adoniram Judson

John Elliot- goes to the Algonquin Indians

David Brainerd- goes to the Susquehannas

Hudson Taylor- China Inland Mission

David Livingstone- goes to Inland Africa
 The Founding of this Country was built on an evangelistic zeal of the Puritans who believed that God must save and God must elect, or no one will be saved.

The question **is not** why would we evangelize and pray for sinners to be saved if God has already Elected them.

Rather

The question is why would we evangelize and pray for sinners if God has not Elected anyone to be saved.

Men are depraved and bound by their sin.
 They are Dead in there sin.
 Unable to come, unable to believe, unable to repent, unable to confesses because they are so in love with their sin and hatred of God, they will never come.

Even when Christ comes in final judgement, and men know who it is who is judging them...Instead of repenting, they hate God MORE>

Revelation 16:21 (NKJV)

²¹ And great hail from heaven fell upon men, *each hailstone* about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.

Revelation 16:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.

Revelation 16:9 (NKJV)

⁹ And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory.

If God does not elect, If God does not effectual call you.

If God does not send someone to preach the gospel, give a tract, and love the sinner and pray for God to save their Soul.

NO one NO one at all will be saved.

Charles Spurgeon

“I believe the doctrine of election, because I am quite sure that if God had not chosen me I should

never have chosen him; and I am sure he chose me before I was born, or else he never would have chosen me afterwards; and he must have elected me for reasons unknown to me, for I never could find any reason in myself why he should have looked upon me with special love. So I am forced to accept that doctrine,” (Lectures, book 2, page 47).

A proper and biblical understanding of the Doctrine of Election “allows the preacher not to take himself too seriously. It urges pastor and people, who pant to see souls saved, to make public and private prayer a top-priority in church life- this, as Charles Haddon Spurgeon recognized rightly is the engine-room of any church. Rather than encouraging evangelistic sloth, it excites to a holy, optimistic, realistic, evangelistic confidence,...”

<https://gentlereformation.com/2021/06/28/election-evangelism/>