

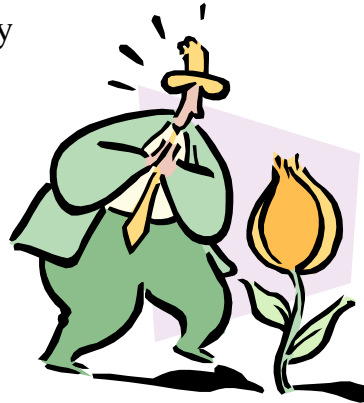


Calvinism :

Unconditional Election



- **T.U.L.I.P;** Calvin's doctrinal system as it relates to the spiritual condition of man.
 - **T**otal Hereditary Depravity
 - U**nconditional Election
 - L**imited Atonement
 - I**rresistible Grace
 - P**erseverance of the Saints



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- **History Tidbit**
- **Definition of Terms**
 - **Unconditional** – without conditions or limits (Webster)
 - **Election** – to choose (Webster)



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- What Do The Creeds of Men Say?
 - “We say, then, that Scripture clearly proves this much, that God by his eternal and immutable counsel determined once for all those whom it was his pleasure one day to admit to salvation, and those whom, on the other hand, it was his pleasure to doom to destruction. We maintain that this counsel, as regards the elect, is founded on his free mercy, without any respect to human worth, while those whom he dooms to destruction are excluded from access to life by a just and blameless, but at the same time incomprehensible judgment.” (John Calvin)



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- What Do The Creeds of Men Say?
 - “The doctrine of election declares that God, before the foundation of the world, chose certain individuals from among the fallen members of Adam’s race to be the objects of his undeserved favor. These, and those only, He purposed to save. God could have chosen to save all men, or he could have chose to save none – but he did neither. Instead he chose to save some and exclude others...Thus election was not determined by, or conditioned upon, anything that men would do, but resulted entirely from God’s self-determined purpose.” (David Steels, Calvinism, Defined, Documented, and Defended, Pg 30, 31)



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- What Do The Creeds of Men Say?
 - **“By the decree of God, for the manifestation of his glory, some men and angels are predestinated unto everlasting life, and others foreordained to everlasting death. These angels and men thus predestinated and foreordained are particularly and unchangeably designed and their number is so certain and definite that it can not be either increased or diminished.”** (Presbyterian Confession of Faith, chap. 3, sec. 3,4,5)




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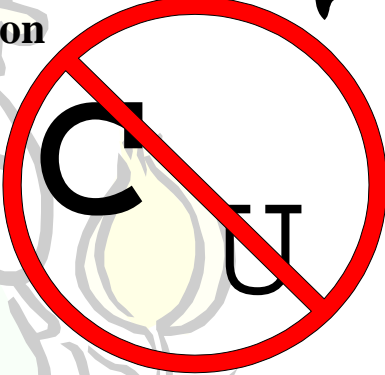
- Does God Elect People?
 - Yes, he has.
- Does He unconditionally elect for Salvation?
 - No, Never!
- So How does God elect, but not unconditionally for Salvation?
- What Does The Bible Say?





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- **Examples of God's Election**
- **Individuals**
 - **Christ -Isa. 42:1; 1 Pet. 2:6**
 - **Abraham –Gal. 3:16**
 - **Isaac –Gen.21:12**
 - **Jacob –Isa.41:8**
 - **Judah –Heb. 7:14**
 - **So we see that election has been a necessity all the way from Abraham to Jesus the promised seed – not to benefit the elected exclusively but to benefit the world through them.**



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- **Examples of God's Election**
- **Individuals**
 - **Moses –Ps. 106:23**
 - **Aaron –Ps. 105:25**
 - **Yet neither made it to the promise land!**
 - **Saul –1 Sam 10:24**
 - **Stripped of Kingdom**
 - **Though elected it did not make their position or their souls any more secure than another.**



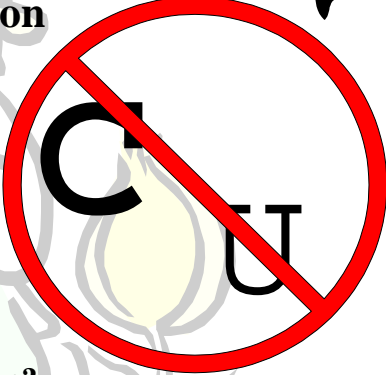




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Examples of God's Election


- Nations/Bodies/Groups
 - Israel was God's Elect Nation
 - Ex. 3:7, 10; Deut. 7:6-8
- He dealt with his elect nation as he did with individuals
 - Ex. 19:3-6
- Does this sound like they were unconditionally elected for salvation?
 - Ex. 32:28 – 3,000 killed
 - Num. 25:9 – 24,000 killed
 - Heb. 3:18-19; 1 Cor. 10:5-12



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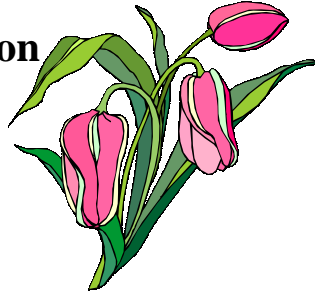
Examples of God's Election

- Nations/Bodies/Groups
 - Today we are God's elect nation
 - 1 Pet. 2:5, 9
 - What makes us think he will deal with us differently than his last chosen nation?
 - Not physical death, but spiritual death as this is a spiritual nation (Jn. 18:36)



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- **Elected Body of Salvation**
 - Noah's Ark
 - Rahab's House
 - **Body of Christ**
 - Eph. 1
 - How do we enter this elect place of safety?
How do we get "in Christ"?
 - 1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:26-27; Mark. 16:16; Rom. 6:3-4
 - Are we expected to remain faithful else forfeit our election? Yes! (Rev. 2:10, 1 Cor. 10:12)



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- Calvin's Proof Texts??
- Ax. 13:48; Rom. 8:29-30
Rom. 9; 1 Pet. 1:2;
1 Thess. 1:4;
Rev. 17:8
- "men and angels are predestinated unto everlasting life, and others foreordained to everlasting death...and their number is so certain and definite that it can not be either increased or diminished." (Presbyterian Confession of Faith, chap. 3, sec. 3,4,5)





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- Calvin's Proof Texts??
- Ax. 13:48
 - This is used by the Calvinist as proof that those that believe were already chosen beforehand.
 - Does your version or any version say "foreordained"?
 - So this passage still does not prove the Calvinist creed for they say "foreordained"
 - The ordination (appoint) in Ax. 13:48 being before the foundation of the world is merely an assumption. And if that was what God meant he could have said 'foreordained' instead of 'ordained.'
 - Appointed/set/determined for eternal life. Now how is it that God has decided to ordain men?



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- Calvin's Proof Texts??
- Ax. 13:48
 - "In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise" (Eph. 1:13)
 - What happened back in Ax. 13:48?
 - They first heard, and then agreed.v48 (v 26, 38-39)
 - Now Calvinism teaches us that ordination happened at the foundation of the world. . .before the gospel could be heard.
 - Must followed the appointed plan.
 - This interpretation fits with Rom. 10:17



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• Calvin's Proof Texts??

Rom. 8:29-30 29 ¶ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.
30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

- Did he only pick those he foreknew? What's being said? Unconditional Election?
- Well notice the first word "For" sometimes translated "because," it is a word that will link a previous thought.
- So it may be helpful to back up a verse and read v28.



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Calvin's Proof Texts??

- "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose" (Rom. 8:28)
- So how is one called according to God's purpose?
 - Remember God calls us by the Gospel (2 Thess. 2:14)
- Then he says "For" whom he foreknew.
- So once again this is talking about God's purpose and plan to save people that obeyed the gospel. That is why all the verbs in 29, 30 are in past tense.



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Calvin's Proof Texts??

- **Rom. 8:29-30**
 - God can call those things that do not exist as though they did. (Rom. 4:17) (Gen 17:5 – I have made you a father of many nations).
 - It is sure and as good as if it already has happened, therefore all things work for good to those who love the Lord.
 - Also note that all the pronouns are plural so it still could not be talking about individual predestination, but the predestination of the class of people that were called by God according to His purpose. Just like Eph. 1.



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Calvin's Proof Texts??

- **Rom. 9**
 - It is important to bear in mind that the selection throughout does not have reference to salvation of individuals but to the execution of the purpose of God.
 - v4, 8, 9, 11, 15 that the inclusion of the Gentiles would happen whether people liked it or not, it is part of God's plan and he works his plan regardless of man's approval or disapproval. V24, 26-30.
 - So bear this in mind as we read and if you get a little confused remember the main point of the passage; God's purpose.



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- Calvin's Proof Texts??
- Rom. 9
 - V1-5
 - Paul speaks of his sorrow for his countrymen in the flesh. That they have rejected the purpose of God..
 - V6-11
 - He is showing that God's plan for redeeming mankind comes about regardless of those who wish to reject it.
 - V12-13
 - Let me suggest that this has reference to nations and not individuals. God did not hate Esau the individual, but the nation of Edom, the descendants of Esau.
 - Remember this is all in context with God's eternal purpose, to save Jew and Gentile.



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- Calvin's Proof Texts??
- Rom. 9
 - Now notice where the 2 quotes come from.
 - One before they are born - Gen. 25:23
 - The other way after they are dead - Mal. 1:2,3
 - Nations Not Individuals:
 - Question: When in the Bible did Esau (the person) ever serve Jacob?
 - never happened in their life time
 - Jacob ran away when he returned he gave Esau gifts and called him "lord" and himself "his servant"!
 - Gen 25:21-23 "two nations are in the womb"
 - Edom (the nation) did serve Israel - 1 Chron. 18:12-13



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- Calvin's Proof Texts??
- Rom. 9
 - 1400 years after both were buried and dead:
"I have loved you," says the LORD. "Yet you say, 'In what way have You loved us?' Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" Says the LORD. "Yet Jacob I have loved; 3 But Esau I have hated, And laid waste his mountains and his heritage For the jackals of the wilderness."
 - speaking of individuals? No!
 - speaking of nations? Yes!
 - Edom was wicked (v4) therefore God hated their ways.
 - just as David hates every false way (Ps. 119:104)



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- Calvin's Proof Texts??
- Rom. 9
 - in Romans, Paul shows that God chose his plan to be fulfilled through the nation of Israel
 - V14-15
 - is God unfair? No!
 - is God unfair for choosing to fulfill his purpose from Abraham through Jacob?
 - is God unfair that this path and purpose led to the inclusion of the Gentiles? Not at all.



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- Calvin's Proof Texts??
- Rom. 9
 - So who does God will to bless?
 - The Jews said, "us"
 - No, it is God's prerogative to determine whom He will bless, and he designs to bless all, both Jews and Gentiles.
 - Now the Calvinist cite this passage to say, "you see God will save who he wants and damn who he wants, regardless of what they want."
 - Ok, what they overlook though is that God has TOLD us WHO IT IS that He will bless.
 - Matt. 5; Prov. 28:13; Ezek. 18; Ax. 17:30
 - God has decided to bless ALL those that would come to him through Christ and all the objections by the Jews would not stop this!



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- Calvin's Proof Texts??
- Rom. 9
 - V16
 - So you see it is not up to those who try and change the outcome of God.
 - Isaac – willed to give the blessing to Esau
 - And Jacob ran from the promised land to save his life.
 - It wasn't up to them, God had already determined that his plan should be fulfilled in them (he never had reference to salvation, but God's eternal plan that would benefit all).
 - FOR v17-18
 - So just like when Pharaoh rebelled it didn't stop my purpose, if the Jews rebel as Pharaoh did, it matters not; God's purpose still came about.



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- Calvin's Proof Texts??
- Rom. 9
 - Christ was killed for the sins of the world and all that come to him can be saved.
 - I've told you who I will have mercy on and if you reject it then you will become hardened against my plans.
 - Calvinist spin this passage and say, "You see God predestined Pharaoh for eternal damnation."
 - Where do you read that?
 - Reread v17 where does it say God eternally reprobated him?
 - Yes God chose to show his power through him, but the same could have been said of Moses (though he died in the wilderness). God chose both Pharaoh and Moses to demonstrate his power.



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- Calvin's Proof Texts??
- Rom. 9
 - "But didn't God harden pharaoh's heart?"
 - What hardens clay and softens wax? Fire!
 - Truth hardens the rebel and softens the obedient.
 - Pharaoh hardened his own heart through resisting God's command (Ex. 8:15, 32; 9:34; 1 Sam. 6:6)
 - harmony in scripture: Pharaoh hardened his own heart when he rebelled against God's plan
 - in that sense God hardened Pharaoh's heart because it was His plan



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- Calvin's Proof Texts??
- Rom. 9
 - V19
 - If God was willing to do this for the Israelites, no matter who tried to hinder him from doing so, why does he now find fault with them?
 - They forget God blessed them for the promise to the fathers that in them all the nations shall be blessed (Gen. 12:1-3). God's purpose would come about.
 - V20
 - Naturally they were incensed that they were God's chosen and were cast off
 - Paul is saying, "Hey this is God's plan, who are you to object?"



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- Calvin's Proof Texts??
- Rom. 9
 - Now the former Jew would have understood this as Paul borrowed from the prophet Jeremiah for this illustration.
 - See Jeremiah 18:1-10
 - does that sound like God had eternally made them evil
 - or that if they repent God can reshape them?
 - they understood the analogy of the potter's vessel to refer to nations and groups not individuals.
 - in the context Paul is clearly talking about the Gentiles who had formerly not obeyed and now they have the opportunity to do so.



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- Calvin's Proof Texts??
- Rom. 9
 - V24-26
 - this refers to God's eternal purpose and not to the election and reprobation of individuals before the foundation of the world.
 - an individual can purge himself and become a vessel for honor.
- 2 Tim. 2:20-21,
"But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor.
21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work."



Calvinism : Unconditional Election Calvin's Proof Texts??



- 1 Pet. 1:1-2
 - the saved are the elect. . Remember Eph. 1
 - God had predestined a body of believers
 - all those that obeyed the Gospel are put INTO Christ (the elect place of salvation)
 - when read, "elect according to the foreknowledge of God..." we know it is not saying that he hand picked them individually before the world began, but that they obeyed that foreknown plan of God.
 - *For example when we say, Governor was elected according to the state constitution, do we mean:*
 - *the constitution elected him?*
 - *the people according to the laws of the constitution elected him?*
 - Thus, one is elect of God based upon the laws of the foreknown plan; the gospel.



Calvinism : Unconditional Election



- Calvin's Proof Texts??
- 1 Pet. 1:1-2
 - what these elect people did:
 - redeemed by blood v19
 - belief in God v21
 - purified their souls v22, by hearing the word v25
 - were baptized into Christ (3:21)
 - notice that this was not an election that would stand without conditions.
 - 2 Pet. 1:5-8, 10 – why in the world would the elect have to make their election sure if Calvinism were true?
 - Calvinism: not diminished or increased!
 - Peter: make your election sure! Must grow else forfeit election.



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- Calvin's Proof Texts??
- 1 Thess. 1:4
 - Notice they received the word – 2:13 (Just like those in 1 Peter)
 - They obeyed it and repented - 1:9 (Just like those in 1 Peter)
 - 2 Thess. 2:13 says, they were called by the gospel (Just like those in 1 Peter)
 - So once again we see, one is elect when they become apart of the saved.



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- Calvin's Proof Texts??
- Rev. 17:8
 - FROM not BEFORE the foundation of the world (as the creed states)!
 - Ever since Adam man sinned (Rom. 5:12; 3:23).
 - Persons lived from the foundation of the world to the present
 - the obedient were written
 - the disobedient were blotted out
 - Ex. 32:33; Rev. 3:5; 22:19 name removed by disobedience!



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- Questions We Demand Calvinists Answer!
- How does God desire all to be saved, if He chose some to be lost?
 - "God...who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." (1 Tim 2:4)
 - "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely." (Rev 22:17)



Why Go in to all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, if not every creature could be saved?

- "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15)
- "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matt 11:28-29)



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- Questions We Demand Calvinists Answer!
- **Why would God test us if He already knows the outcome?**
 - “By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son” (Heb 11:17-18)
 - “for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.” (Gen 22:12)



How can man be made accountable for something God foreordained he must do?

- “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” (2 Cor 5:10)
- “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling” (Phil 2:12)



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- Questions We Demand Calvinists Answer!
- **How is God not a respecter of persons if He chose some to be saved and some to be lost?**
 - “Then Peter opened his mouth and said:” In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.” (Acts 10:34-36)
 - “But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.” (James 3:17)



How does God wish none should perish when He made them for destruction?

- “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9)