

UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will, to the praise of His glorious grace, with which He has blessed us in the Beloved.
— Ephesians 1:3-6

When people first encounter the Bible's teaching on God's election, it sparks many questions. Many go from being offended, to recognizing that the Bible teaches it, to being captivated and awed by God's grace all over again.

In the Bible, election is taught simply as the necessary correlate to free grace. If we are saved by grace, then there must be no reason we can give for why God chose us, other than God's own purpose to set His love upon us when we were lost in sin. As Paul says, God's election is "to the praise of His glorious grace" (Ephesians 1:6).

God's choice to set His love upon us is unconditional. We did not do anything to set ourselves out from the rest as better or superior or worthier of God's love. It was while we were sinners, just like everyone else, that God chose to set His love upon us, and in that love, to send His Son to die in our place.

In Ephesians 1, Paul describes God as a whirlwind of saving activity. Where were we? What were we doing when God acted to save? We were dead in our transgressions and sins, happily living to gratify the sinful desires of our hearts. We would have stayed in that lost condition, had God not intervened. "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ."

Can you give a reason, other than God's sheer mercy, why He chose to save you? The moment we can give a reason, we nullify grace and rob God of His rightful credit for saving us. Acknowledging God's electing love, despite our initial difficulties, gives God all the glory for our salvation. In love, He predestined us—*to the praise of His glorious grace!*