

“(4) According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: (5) Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, (6) To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.” - Ephesians 1:4-6

Definitions:

1. _____

In the New Testament, this word is used _____ times.

It is translated from _____ Greek words in all, but these words come from _____ distinctive root words.

 **Taking you back to school**  A “root word” is a base word wherein it conveys a central meaning. Additions to the root clarify it for precise meaning. Example: *Thermometer* = “Therm” is the root word which means “heat,” but the addition of “ometer” adds to the meaning so we know that we are talking about something that “measures the temperature.”

(1). _____ (Heb. 11:25; 2 Thess. 2:13) = “to take for oneself; to prefer”

(2). _____ (Matt. 12:18) = “to make a choice”

(3). _____ (John 6:70; John 15:16) = “to select; make choice”

(4). _____ (I Peter 2:4,9) = “to select by favorite”

(5). _____ (Acts 9:15) = “a divine selection; election”

(6). _____ (Acts 22:14) = "to handle for oneself in advance; to purpose"

(7). _____ (Acts 10:41) = "to elect in advance; choose before"

(8) _____ (2 Tim. 2:4) = "to gather as a warrior; to enlist"

(9). _____ (2 Cor. 8:19) = "to select or appoint by a hand-reacher or voter (by raising the hand)"

2. _____

It is used only in the New Testament. It occurs _____ times and only appears in the Books of _____ and _____.

It is translated from the Greek word _____ meaning "predetermine; determine before."

This same Greek word is translated as _____ and _____ in Acts 4:28 and I Corinthians 2:7 respectively.

3. _____

This word is used _____ times in the New Testament. It occurs 3X in Romans and one each in Galatians and Ephesians.

Those passages are Romans 8:15, 23; Romans 9:4; Galatians 4:5; & Ephesians 1:5.

It comes from the Greek word _____ which means the "placing of a son" or "sonship in respect to God."

“Chosen” - Comparing Scripture with Scripture

Premise: God “chooses” others to be saved and others to be lost. Therefore, no one has the choice in the matter. “Not all men are created with a similar destiny. Eternal life is foreordained for some, and eternal damnation for others” is the statement made by John Calvin where this belief originates. This belief is predominate in churches that claim to be “reformed” or “primitive” in their belief system.

In many verses, it appears that the Bible is teaching exactly what has been said above. However, other Scriptures clearly teach this is not the case. **When the “whole counsel of God” contradicts a belief that we have then it is our interpretation that is in error!**

1. To believe God chooses whom to be saved makes God a _____.

True or False: According to Romans 10:13, only those whom God has “chosen” has been invited to call upon the Lord for salvation!

Fact: The invitation of Romans 10:13 would be a _____ because according to Calvinist doctrine it would be impossible for them to come and be saved. This would certainly make God a _____.

True or False: According to John 5:40, Christ told the Jews that they cannot (no choice; no ability) come to Him for salvation.

Fact: Why would Christ say they _____ come to Him if they _____ come to Him. One is choice the other is not!

True or False: According to II Peter 3:9, God's will is that some will perish in Hell and others will repent and be saved.

Fact: Quite the opposite! God does not will _____ to _____, but that _____ to _____ repentance.

True or False: According to I Timothy 2:4, God's will is that some are saved and only they can come to the knowledge of the truth...that's just the way God planned it!

Fact: God wants _____ to be saved. He wants _____ to come to the knowledge of the truth that you are a sinner that is guilty before a holy God and you must get your sins forgiven by repentance (Change your mind about your sin. You are not good, far from it. We have broken God's commands in a million ways.) and faith in Christ.

True or False: According to John 3:16, God only loves those whom He has chosen to be saved and that's who Christ died for.

Fact: Calvinists change the word "world" to mean "elect" or "chosen." The word "world" comes from the Greek word _____ which refers to the world "including its inhabitants." God sent Himself to die for us and to take the sins of the whole _____. Again, this salvation is available to _____.

2. To believe God chooses whom to be saved makes Him a _____ of persons.

A _____ of persons "feels or shows deferential regard for."

Romans 3:23 puts every person in the same category because _____ have _____ and come short of the glory of God.

John 3:18 teaches that those without Christ are _____ already. The only way to get out of that category is to "believe on the Lord Jesus Christ."

Romans 2:11 and Acts 10:34 clearly teach that God is _____ a respecter of persons.

If God chooses only a select few then one unknown writer said, "***It is an arbitrarily blind selection, with no discernible or explainable reason for His partiality to the few.***"

3. To believe God chooses whom to be saved opposes His plan of _____.

All four gospels and the book of Acts record Christ's command to His disciples that we should seek to spread the gospel and win others to the Lord. This commission is known as the Great Commission and is found in Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16, Luke 24:46-49, John 20:21-22, and Acts 1:8.

If God chose whom He would save in the beginning of time then nothing you or I do will change these people's destinies.

"But even though God chooses whom to be saved, we still have to search them out," the Calvinist will say.

My decree:

Let's suppose for a moment that I am all-powerful and whatever I decide to do, I cannot be stopped. "I will burn your house down next Sunday." This is my decree. You cannot stop it. That means you can hide all the gas cans available and dispose of all the matches. I don't need gas cans and I don't need matches. Your best idea is not to "protect" the home. Your best idea would be to leave your property on Sunday and not be present. By the way, this happened in Genesis 19 when God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.

God's supposed decree:

If God declares, "I will save David Gerak. It's final. It's my decision!" Period. A soulwinner is not needed and a Christian environment is not needed either. How many Christian families do you know where their kids are not saved and turned from the salvation that their parents have and believe in.

God's official decree

So God gives a decree, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel." Why go if...God already determined whom to be saved (you cannot stop it and you cannot change it). **We literally would be telling people the gospel and pleading with them to be saved when they CANNOT be saved. Would God offer salvation to mankind, knowing that mankind could never even will to receive it?**

"Chosen" - Problem Verses

John 6:44 - "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day."

The word "draw" comes from a Greek word that literally means to "_____"
and it is also connected to the 1st word in the Greek word for "chosen" which means "to take for oneself."

This is a main proof verse that Calvinist's use that God chooses and mankind has no free will in salvation.

According to John 12:32, the cross of Christ issues a _____ power that _____ can experience. The word "draw" in this verse is the same Greek word used in John 6:44.

Here now is too conflicting verses. Conflicting only if you read this verse through the presupposed lens of Calvinist thought.

How are "all" called to salvation? Four ways:

1. _____: The Bible teaches that all men receive light from _____, enabling them to be saved. (John 1:9.)

2. _____: God calls every sinner to Himself through the witness of _____, so that they are without excuse if they reject Christ. (Romans 1:19,20)

3. _____: God calls sinners through the convicting voice of their _____, even when they have not heard God's Word. (Romans 2:11-15,16)

4. _____: God calls sinners through the _____. (Psalm 119:130)

II Thessalonians 2:13 - "But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth."

This verse actually mentions salvation so it is important that we study "how" we are "chosen" to salvation.

"from the beginning"

Calvinist's believe this means _____ by inserting an "explanatory" sentence to mean "before the foundation of the world."

The word "beginning" comes from the Greek word "*arche*" which means "a _____ in _____."

_____ (in order of time) = begin; start

_____ = the condition of being considered more important than someone or something else; priority in importance, order, or rank.

Sometimes the Scriptures tell us the beginning of that commencement while other times it is located in the immediate context or it could be left out altogether so that you "study the Scriptures." So, ask the question "what!"

According to Acts 11:15, Peter retells how the Gentiles were filled with the Holy Spirit as they had experienced "at the beginning." The beginning of what?

According to Acts 15:18, it says that God's works are known by Him "from the beginning." The beginning of what?

According to I John 2:7, it is written that an old commandment was given to them "in the beginning." The beginning of what?

In Calvinism, the 'elect' are all put in Christ at the same time (eternity past), but in the Bible no one is put in Christ until he is saved. Romans 16:7 bears this out in Paul's address to other saints (saved).

For the Thessalonian Christians, when did the beginning of their salvation experience occur?

It occurred when they were _____ by the _____ and believed the _____ of the gospel.

Romans 8:9 - "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."

I Corinthians 6:11 - "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."

Philippians 2:13 - "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

Galatians 5:16 - "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."

John 17:17 - "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

Romans 10:17 - "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

I Thessalonians 2:13 - "For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe."

Ephesians 1:13 - "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise."