

Loris First Baptist Church
“52 Vital Doctrines of The Bible”

Doctrine #34 – Divine Election

Note: Most information based on pages 230-235 of the book “Major Bible Themes” by Lewis Sperry Chaffer.

Election Defined

1. Scripture reveals God as an absolute sovereign who by His own will has chosen to create the universe and to direct its history according to a foreordained plan.
2. That God should be sovereign and should be able to execute such programs as He may be pleased to determine is in keeping with the concept of an infinite, omnipotent God.
3. Human comprehension of such a program, however, presents innumerable problems and, in particular, how man can operate freely and responsibly in a programmed universe.
4. Systems of human thought have tended to go either to one extreme where God’s sovereign purpose is made absolute or to another extreme of magnifying the freedom of man until God is no longer in control.
5. In attempting to resolve such a difficult problem, the only solution is to appeal to divine revelation and attempt to interpret human experience on the basis of what the Bible teaches.
6. In Scripture, God’s sovereign purpose extends to individuals as well as to nations. Israel is referred to an elect nation:

Isaiah 45:4 *“For the sake of Jacob my servant, of Israel MY CHOSEN, I summon you by name and bestow on you a title of honor, though you do not acknowledge Me.”*

Isaiah 65:9 *“I will bring forth descendants from Jacob, and from Judah those who will possess My mountains; MY CHOSEN PEOPLE will inherit them, and there will My servants live.”*

Isaiah 65:22 *“No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; MY CHOSEN PEOPLE will long enjoy the work of their hands.”*

- a. The term “elect” is frequently applied to individuals who are chosen to salvation

Matthew 24:22 *“If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake OF THE ELECT those days will be shortened.”*

Matthew 24:24 *“For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even THE ELECT.”*

Matthew 24:31 “And He will send His angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather HIS ELECT from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.”

Mark 13:20 “If the Lord had not cut short those days, no one would survive. But for the sake of THE ELECT, whom HE HAS CHOSEN, He has shortened them.”

Mark 13:22 “For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even THE ELECT.”

Mark 13:27 “And He will send His angels and gather HIS ELECT from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.”

Luke 18:7 “And will not God bring about justice for HIS CHOSEN ONES, who cry out to Him day and night? Will He keep putting them off?;

Romans 8:33 “Who will bring any charge against those whom GOD HAS CHOSEN? It is God who justifies.”

Colossians 3:12 “Therefore, as GOD’S CHOSEN PEOPLE, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”

1 Timothy 5:21 “I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and THE ELECT ANGELS, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism.”

2 Timothy 2:10 “Therefore I endure everything for the sake of THE ELECT, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.”

Titus 1:1 “Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ to further the faith of GOD’S ELECT and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness...”

1 Peter 1:2 “WHO HAVE BEEN CHOSEN according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.”

1 Peter 5:13 “She who is in Babylon, CHOSEN TOGETHER WITH YOU, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark.”

2 John 1 “To the lady CHOSEN BY GOD and to her children, whom I love in the truth—and not I only, but also all who know the truth—because of the truth, which lives in us and will be with us forever...”

2 John 13 “The children of your sister, WHO IS CHOSEN BY GOD, send their greetings...”

b. The same expression is used of Christ

Isaiah 42:1 “Here is My servant, whom I uphold, MY CHOSEN ONE in whom I delight; I will put My Spirit on Him, and He will bring justice to the nations.”

1 Peter 2:6 "See, I lay a stone in Zion, A CHOSEN and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in Him will never be put to shame."

c. In addition to the word "elect," the fact of election is also mentioned

Romans 9:11 "Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God's PURPOSE IN ELECTION might stand..."

Romans 11:5 "So too, at the present time there is A REMNANT CHOSEN BY GRACE."

Romans 11:7 "What then? What the people of Israel sought so earnestly they did not obtain. THE ELECT among them did, but the others were hardened..."

Romans 11:28 "As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies for your sake; but as far AS ELECTION IS CONCERNED, they are loved on account of the patriarchs..."

1 Thessalonians 1:4 "For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that HE HAS CHOSEN YOU..."

2 Peter 1:10 "Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm YOUR CALLING AND ELECTION. For if you do these things, you will never stumble,

d. The thought in election is that the one or group mentioned is chosen for a divine purpose, usually related to salvation.

7. A synonym for the word "election" is the word "chosen."

a. It is applied to Israel

Isaiah 44:1 "But now listen, Jacob, my servant, Israel, whom I HAVE CHOSEN."

b. To the Church

Ephesians 1:4 "FOR HE CHOSE US IN HIM before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight..."

2 Thessalonians 2:13 "But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God CHOSE YOU AS FIRSTFRUITS to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth."

1 Peter 2:9 "But you are A CHOSEN PEOPLE, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light."

c. And also to the apostles

John 6:70 "Then Jesus replied, 'Have I not CHOSEN YOU, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!'"

John 13:18 "I am not referring to all of you; I know those I HAVE CHOSEN. But this is to fulfill this passage of Scripture: 'He who shared my bread has turned against Me.'"

Acts 1:2 "until the day He was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to THE APOSTLES HE HAD CHOSEN."

8. A number of expressions are related to the concept of election or being chosen, such as:

a. Foreordination

1 Peter 1:20 "He was CHOSEN BEFORE THE CREATION OF THE WORLD, but was revealed in these last times for your sake."

b. Predestination

Romans 8:29-30 "For those God FOREKNEW HE ALSO PREDESTINED to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those HE PREDESTINED, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified."

Ephesians 1:5 "HE PREDESTINED US for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will..."

Ephesians 1:11 "In Him we were also chosen, HAVING BEEN PREDESTINED according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will..."

c. The thought is to **determine** beforehand, or to ordain beforehand, as in

Acts 4:28 "They did what your power and will had DECIDED BEFOREHAND should happen..."

Jude 4 "For certain individuals WHOSE CONDEMNATION WAS WRITTEN ABOUT LONG AGO have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord."

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which GOD PREPARED IN ADVANCE for us to do."

d. Also, there is frequent reference to this concept in the Bible, where the word "determine" is used, as in:

2 Chronicles 25:16 "While he was still speaking, the king said to him, 'Have we appointed you an adviser to the king? Stop! Why be struck down?' So the prophet stopped but said, 'I know that GOD HAS DETERMINED to destroy you, because you have done this and have not listened to my counsel.'"

Isaiah 19:17 "And the land of Judah will bring terror to the Egyptians; everyone to whom Judah is mentioned will be terrified, because of what the LORD Almighty is PLANNING AGAINST THEM."

Luke 22:22; The Son of Man will go AS IT HAS BEEN DECREED. But woe to that man who betrays Him!"

Acts 17:26 *“From one man He made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and HE MARKED OUT their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.”*

- e. The thought in all of these terms is that God’s choice precedes the act and is determined by His sovereign will.
- f. Election, foreordination, and predestination are according to God’s divine purpose (Eph. 1:9; 3:11), and are also related in Scripture to God’s foreknowledge.

Acts 2:23 *“This man was handed over to you by God’s DELIBERATE PLAN AND FOREKNOWLEDGE; and you, with the help of wicked men, put Him to death by nailing Him to the cross.”*

Romans 8:29 *“For those GOD FORKNEW He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.”*

Romans 11:2 *“God did not reject His people, WHOM HE FOREKNEW. Don’t you know what Scripture says in the passage about Elijah—how he appealed to God against Israel...”*

1 Peter 1:2 *“who have been CHOSEN ACCORDING TO THE FOREKNOWLEDGE OF GOD THE FATHER, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with His blood...”*

- g. Still another term used is the word “call,” as in Romans 8:30 and many other passages

1 Corinthians 1:9 *“God is faithful, who has CALLED YOU into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

1 Corinthians 7:18-24 *“Was a man already circumcised when HE WAS CALLED? He should not become uncircumcised. Was a man uncircumcised WHEN HE WAS CALLED? He should not be circumcised. Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing. Keeping God’s commands is what counts. Each person should remain in the situation they were in when GOD CALLED THEM. Were you a slave when you WERE CALLED? Don’t let it trouble you—although if you can gain your freedom, do so. For the one who was a slave WHEN CALLED TO FAITH IN THE LORD is the Lord’s freed person; similarly, the one who was free WHEN CALLED is Christ’s slave. You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of human beings. Brothers and sisters, each person, as responsible to God, should remain in the situation they were in when GOD CALLED THEM.”*

1 Corinthians 15:9 *“For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve TO BE CALLED AN APOSTLE, because I persecuted the church of God.”*

Galatians 5:13 *“You, my brothers and sisters, WERE CALLED TO BE FREE. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.”*

Ephesians 4:1 *“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life WORTHY OF THE CALLING you have received.”*

Ephesians 4:4 “There is one body and one Spirit, just as YOU WERE CALLED to one hope WHEN YOU WERE CALLED.”

Colossians 3:15 “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body YOU WERE CALLED to peace. And be thankful.”

1 Timothy 6:12 “Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which YOU WERE CALLED when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”

Hebrews 5:4 “And no one takes this honor on himself, but he receives it WHEN CALLED BY GOD, just as Aaron was...”

Hebrews 9:15 “For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those WHO ARE CALLED may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that He has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.”

1 Peter 2:21 “To this YOU WERE CALLED, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps.”

1 Peter 3:9 “Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this YOU WERE CALLED so that you may inherit a blessing.”

1 John 3:1 “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him.”

h. In John 12:32 our Lord referred to calling as a drawing of men to God (cf. John 6:44).

NOTE: All of these passages imply that a sovereign God is carrying out His purpose; in His purpose certain individuals are chosen to salvation, and certain nations, especially Israel, are chosen to fulfill a special divine purpose.

The Fact of Divine Election

1. Although the doctrine of election is beyond human comprehension, it is clearly a doctrine of Scripture.
2. By divine election God has chosen certain individuals to salvation and predestined them to be conformed to the character of His Son Jesus Christ

Romans 16:13 “Greet Rufus, CHOSEN IN THE LORD, and his mother, who has been a mother to me, too.”

Ephesians 1:4-5 “For HE CHOSE US IN HIM before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will...”

2 Thessalonians 2:13 *“But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because GOD CHOSE YOU AS FIRSTFRUITS to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.”*

1 Peter 1:2 *“WHO HAVE BEEN CHOSEN according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with His blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.”*

3. It is clear that the choice originates in God and that this choice is part of God’s eternal plan.
4. Divine election is not an act of God in time, but rather a part of His eternal purpose. This is brought out in numerous passages such as:

Ephesians 1:4 *“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. According to 2 Timothy 1:9 our election is *“according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.”*
6. Because God’s plan is eternal, election as an essential part of it must also be eternal.
7. One of the knotty problems in the doctrine of election is the relationship of election to foreknowledge.
8. One form of interpretation which tends to soften the concept of election builds on the idea that God foreknew those who would receive Christ, and on the basis of this foreknowledge elected them to salvation. This concept, however, has inherent problems as it seems to make God subject to a plan in which He is not sovereign. While election and foreknowledge are coextensive, foreknowledge in itself would not be determinative.
9. Although theologians have wrestled with these problems and often have failed to come up with satisfactory conclusions, one possible solution is to recognize to begin with that God is omniscient, that is, He had knowledge of all possible plans for the universe. Out of all the possible plans with their infinite number of variations, God chose a plan. Having chosen a plan and knowing all its details, God could then foreknow those who would be saved or elected and also all the facts that relate to their salvation.
10. The immediate problem that faces the interpreter, however, is that of human freedom.
 - a. It seems evident from experience as well as from Scripture that man has choices.
 - b. How can one avoid a fatalistic system where everything is predetermined and no moral choices are left?

- c. Is human responsibility just a mockery or is it real? These are the problems which face the interpreter of Scripture on this difficult doctrine.
11. While theologians have never been able to resolve completely the problem of divine election as related to human choices and moral responsibility on the part of man, the answer seems to be that in choosing a plan God chose the plan as a whole, not piecemeal.
 12. He knew in advance, before the choice of a plan, who in this plan would be saved and who would not be saved.
 13. By faith we must assume that God chose the best possible plan, and that if a better plan could have been put into operation God would have chosen it.
 14. The plan included much that God would do Himself, such as creation and the establishment of natural law.
 15. It included what God sovereignly chose to do Himself, such as to reveal Himself through the prophets and influence men in their choices even though they still are responsible for the choices they make.
 16. In other words, the plan included giving man some freedom of choice for which he would be held responsible.
 17. The fact that God “knew” under each plan what each man would do does not mean that God “forced” man to do something against his will and then punish him for it.
 18. In the notable instance of the crucifixion of Christ, on which the whole plan of God hinged:
 - a. Pilate freely made a choice to crucify Christ and was held responsible for it.
 - b. Judas Iscariot freely determined to betray Christ and was held responsible for it.
 - c. Yet the choices of both Pilate and Judas were essentially God’s program and were sure long before they made them.
 19. Accordingly, while there are problems in human comprehension, the best solution is to accept what the Bible teaches whether or not we can understand it completely.
 - a. Sometimes better translations are helpful, as in 1 Peter 1:1-2 where in the Authorized Version it is declared that Christians are “*elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father*” which makes election subject to “the foreknowledge” of God.
 - b. The word “elect,” however, properly belongs to the word “strangers” in verse 1 and teaches not the logical order of election in relation to foreknowledge but the fact that they are coextensive.

- c. Some help can be found in the fact that the whole process of the divine purpose, election, and foreknowledge are all eternal.
 - d. All man can do is attempt to set up a logical relationship, but all of these were always true in the mind of God, and God did not arrive at His decisions after long pondering the difficulties of each plan.
 - e. In other words, there never was another plan, and thus all aspects of the eternal purpose of God are equally timeless.
20. It must be concluded, then, that election and its kindred terms are clearly taught in the Bible, that it involves some being chosen to salvation with others being “non-elect” or passed by.
21. Election is eternal and not an act of God in time. In election God does not adjust to foreknowledge, although election may be seen to proceed from omniscience of God.
22. While there are serious problems in human comprehension of this doctrine, one should submit to divine revelation even if he cannot completely understand it.

Defense of the Doctrine of Election

1. Although some theologians have attempted to explain away the doctrine of election and to resolve the problem, in effect, by denying what the Scriptures teach, the arguments against divine election are usually based upon **misunderstanding**. As often stated, election is represented as asserting that God is arbitrary. This, of course, arises from unbelief. God is sovereign, but His sovereignty is always wise, holy, good and loving.
2. Another objection is often raised that this makes God unjust, as some are not included in His purpose of salvation.
 - a. Here it should be observed that God is not obligated to save any and those whom He does save will believe.
 - b. While the working of God in the actual salvation of an individual is inscrutable—as there is obviously an act of divine grace when a person believes in Christ and is saved—the Bible clearly commands man “to believe”.

Acts 16:31 *“They replied, “BELIEVE IN THE LORD JESUS, and you will be saved—you and your household.”*

- c. No one is saved “against his will”, and no one “disbelieves” against his will.

3. A very common objection to this doctrine is that it discourages missionary effort to bring the Gospel to the lost and discourages those who desire to be saved.
 - a. The answer, of course, is that God has included in His plan that the Gospel should be preached to every creature, and God desires the salvation of all

1 Timothy 2:3-4 *“This is good, and pleases God our Savior, WHO WANTS ALL MEN TO BE SAVED and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”*

2 Peter 3:9 *“The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, BUT EVERYONE TO COME TO REPENTANCE.”*

- b. However, in setting up a moral universe in which men have a choice to believe or not to believe, it is inevitable that some will not be saved.
4. Still another objection is that if some are elected to salvation and others are elected to not being saved, they are hopeless in their lost estate.
 - a. Scripture clearly emphasizes that some are elected to salvation, and the unsaved are destined for their lot, not because men who desired salvation were unable to secure it, but always on the ground that those who are unsaved chose to be unsaved.
 - b. Gods’ mercy is shown in His longsuffering, as in:

Romans 9:21-22 *“Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use? What if God, although choosing to show His wrath and make His power known, BORE WITH GREAT PATIENCE the objects of His wrath—prepared for destruction?”*

2 Peter 3:9 *“The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. INSTEAD HE IS PATIENT WITH YOU, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”*

- c. No one will ever be able to stand before God and say, *“I wanted to be saved but was unable to do so because I was not elected.”*
5. While the greatest of scholars as well as ordinary students of Scripture will continue to struggle with this difficult doctrine, the fact of divine election is clearly presented in the Bible, and those who are saved, though they were unconscious of the doctrine at the time they accepted Christ, can glory in the fact that they were in God’s plan from eternity past and that their salvation is a supreme illustration of the grace of God.
6. A God who is sovereign and eternal would logically have a planned program.
7. On the basis of scriptural revelation, a believer in Christ can only conclude that God’s plan is holy, wise and good, that God is a longsuffering God, and that He is “concerned” over the “lost estate” of those who “refuse” the salvation for which Christ died.

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“52 Vital Doctrines of The Bible”

Doctrine # 34 - “Divine Election”

1. Read Pages 1-10 from the Doctrine#34 Study Guide by next Wednesday.
2. Answer the following Questions about “Security of Salvation” as you read:

a. Election Defined

- 1) Scripture reveals God as an absolute “sovereign” who by His own will has chosen to create the universe and to direct its history according to “what”? (page 1, top)

- 2) True or False. It is quite reasonable for Humans to be able to “comprehend” how man can operate “freely” and “responsibly” in a programmed universe under a sovereign God.
(page 1, top)

- 3) What are the two extreme systems of human thought when it comes to the “sovereign purpose” of God?
(page 1, middle)

- 4) What does God call the nation of Israel according to Isaiah 65:9 and Isaiah 65:22?

- 5) What is the term that is frequently applied to individuals who are “chosen” to salvation?
(page 1, bottom; Matthew 24:22; Mark 13:20; Luke 18:7; Colossians 3:12)

- 6) True or False. The “fact” of God’s sovereign purpose being accomplished through “election” is clearly mentioned in Scripture. (page 3, top; Romans 9:11, 11:5, 7, 28; 1Thess 1:4)

- 7) What is a “synonym” used in the Scriptures for the word “election”? (page 3, middle; Isaiah 44:1)

- 8) What is “the church” according to 1Peter 2:9?

- 9) What are some of the “expressions” that are related to the concept of election or being chosen? (page 4, top – bottom; 1Peter 1:20; Romans 8:29-30; Ephesians 1:5, 11; Acts 4:28; 2Chronicles 25:16)

- 10) Election, foreordination, and predestination are according to God’s divine purpose and are also “related” in Scripture to God’s “what”? (page 5, top; Acts 2:23; Romans 8:29, 11:2; 1Peter 1:2)

- 11) According to 1Peter 1:2, how have “saved” persons been “chosen”?

- 12) According to 1Corinthians 1:9, how does a person get into “fellowship” with God’s Son, Jesus?

- 13) According to Ephesians 4:1, how does Paul “urge” Christians to live their lives?

- 14) According to Hebrews 9:15, who may receive the “promised eternal inheritance” now that Christ has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant?

b. The Fact of Divine Election

- 1) What does the Bible reveal that God does through “divine election”? (page 6, bottom; Rom 8:28-29)

- 2) According to Ephesians 1:4-5, what did God “chose” before the “creation of the world”?

- 3) Where does the “choice” of a person being saved “originate” and what is this “choice” a part of?
(page 7, top; see also John 6:44 and John 12:32)

- 4) True or False. Divine election is an act of God in “time” when a person becomes a “believer” in Jesus Christ as his or her Lord and Savior. (page 7, top; Ephesians 1:4)

- 5) According to 2Timothy 1:9, our “election” is according to “what”...and “when” was it given?

- 6) What is one of the “knotty” problems in the doctrine of election? (page 7, middle)

- 7) What is the major problem with the “interpretation” of the concept of election which builds on the idea that God “foreknew” those who would receive Christ, and on the basis of this “foreknowledge” elected them to salvation? (page 7, bottom)

- 8) True or False. Another major problem associated with extreme views of “divine election” is that of how to include “human choice” and “human responsibility” for those choices if God has already pre-determined what would happen throughout all of the history of man, before the world was even created. (page 7, bottom)

- 9) True or False. Theologians have been able to resolve and agree upon all of the previous problems associated with divine election. (page 8, top)

- 10) What is something “by faith” we must assume about God if we are going to be able to “rest” without completely understanding the doctrine of election? (page 8, top)
- 11) True or False. The proper understanding of the doctrine of election and “foreknowledge” of God is that man has no freedom of choice and is NOT responsible for the choices he makes since God is forcing him to make them (i.e. “including the choices to SIN!”).
(page 8, middle)
- 12) The fact that God “knew” under each plan and situation what each man would do DOES NOT mean “what” about God? (page 8, middle)
- 13) True or False. Although Pontius Pilate and Judas Iscariot made “free choices” in their encounters with Jesus, their choices were “foreknown” by God and essential to His predetermined plan by which Jesus Christ was become the Savior of mankind.
(page 8, bottom; Acts 4:27-28; John 6:70, 13:18)
- 14) While there are problems in human comprehension of the doctrine of election, the best solution is to do “what”? (page 8, bottom)
- 15) True or False. Of all the possible plans and options that were dreamed up in the mind of God, He finally settled on the “best” plan to accomplish His eternal purpose for creating man and the universe. (page 9, top)

c. Defense of the Doctrine of Election

- 1) What are the arguments against “divine election” normally “mistaken” about? (page 9, middle)

- 2) True or False. A common rejection to the idea of “divine election” before the world began of who would be saved and who would NOT be saved, is that this would make God “unfair” and “unjust”. (page 9, bottom)

- 3) When it comes to “salvation”, regardless of your understanding of “divine election”, what does the Bible clearly command man “to do”? (page 9, bottom; Acts 16:31)

- 4) True or False. According to the doctrine of election, if a person “wanted” to believe in Jesus, but was not part of God’s divine plan of election, then God would force that person to “not” believe. (page 9, bottom; see Romans 10:13; 1Timothy 2:3-4)

- 5) What is a very common objection to the doctrine of election when it comes to “missions”?
(page 10, top)

- 6) True or False. The Bible clearly states that God only “wants” certain people saved and does NOT want everyone to believe in Christ.
(page 10, top; 1Timothy 2:3-4; 2Peter 3:9)

- 7) When God set up a “moral” universe in which men have a choice to “believe” or “not to believe”, what is “inevitable”? (page 10, top)

- 8) Scripture clearly emphasizes that some are elected to salvation, and the unsaved are destined for their lot, NOT because men who “desired” salvation were unable to secure it, but always on “what” ground? (page 10, middle)

9) What is something NO ONE will be able to stand before God and say? (page 10, bottom)

10) A God who is “sovereign” and “eternal” would logically have “what” for mankind?
(page 10, bottom)

11) On the basis of Scriptural “revelation”, a believer in Christ can only conclude what about God’s plans for His universe and mankind as a whole? (page 10, bottom)