

The Mercy of God and the Doctrine of Election

Ephesians 2:4-10

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Summary of Ephesians 2:4

1. God is super-abundant in mercy and therefore the gospel began in the heart of God (v. 4).
2. God conceived the gospel in all its parts, with all its implications, and sovereignly chose to direct his love toward the elect (v. 4).

Westminster Confession: 3.3-5

3.3: By the decree of God, for the manifestation of His glory, some men and angels are predestinated unto everlasting life, and others fore-ordained to everlasting death.

3.4: These angels and men, thus predestinated and fore-ordained, are particularly and unchangeably designed, and their number is so certain and definite, that it cannot be either increased or diminished.

Westminster Confession: 3.3-5

3.5: Those of mankind that are predestinated unto life, God, before the foundation of the world was laid, according to His eternal and immutable purpose, and the secret counsel and good pleasure of His will, hath chosen, in Christ, unto everlasting glory, out of His mere free grace and love, without any foresight of faith or good works, or perseverance in either of them, or any other thing in the creature, as conditions, or causes moving Him thereunto: and all to the praise of His glorious grace.

Texts that Teach the Doctrine of Election

John 6:37-39

Acts 16:14

John 6:44, 65

Acts 18:9-10

John 10:24-28

Rom. 11:1-8

John 17:6-10

1 Cor. 1:26-31

Acts 13:48

2 Tim. 2:24-26

Election is sweet because...

- If God had not chosen us from before the foundation of the world and kept us saved by his strong hand, we would have forsaken him
- By choosing us from before the foundation of the world, God completely and eternally removed boasting from our mouths
- Because God is sovereign over salvation, we don't have to take it personally when people don't believe in him
- Because God's character can be trusted