

Sovereign Grace Series

Lesson #8 – The Saint’s Unconditional Election⁽²⁰⁰⁸⁾

The “U” of T U L I P

File #	Title	Applicable Sections of These Confessions:
1401	Unconditional Election- is it Biblical?	LBC of 1689 Ch 3, Items 3, 4, 5, Ch 7, Items 2, 3;
1409	TULIP and Reformed Theology & Unconditional Election	Ch 8, Items 1, 5, 6, 8, Ch 10, Items 1, 2, 3, 4; Ch 14, Item 1; Ch 15, Item 1 AoP of 1858 V - Election. & VIII – Regeneration.

I. Definition - Unconditional Election is clearly taught in the Bible, but what does it mean? In the New Testament the Greek verb used is: εκλεγομαι *eklegomai* (Str. 1586) 22X meaning to choose, to set apart, to elect. This word is used to describe God’s electing activity according to His own divine purpose and by His own gracious decision. “God’s sovereign purpose is manifest in His choosing of believers before the creation of the world (Eph 1:4) and His preservation of those whom He has chosen - -.” **William D. Mounce**; *Mounce’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*. p. 108

Some Key Points:

1. All men are born in a fallen state. They are entirely sinful in all of their motives, purposes, hopes, thoughts, and actions. They may do “good” things, but their very nature is at enmity with God.
2. All men are dead in their sinful nature to God. No one seeks God. They all turn from Him.
3. God is just and good in condemning any and all men for their enmity against Him.
4. God chooses for His own purpose, grounded in eternity past, to seek and to save those whom He has chosen. This in no way compromises His perfect and excellent justice.
5. All condemned men will acknowledge God’s justice and will recognize their guilt in hating God.
6. “Election to salvation is not conditioned upon anything that men would do, but resulted entirely from God’s self-determined purpose.” *The Five Points of Calvinism* by
 - David N. Steele - (1926 - 1991) Baptist Pastor from Arkansas
 - Curtis C. Thomas - Baptist Pastor from Arkansas
 - S. Lance Quinn - Bible Church Pastor from Arkansas; involved with Grace to You ministries of John MacArthur

II. Scriptural Basis of Unconditional Election –

Reference	Scripture (NASU)	Key Pt.
Ex 33:19b	<i>And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion.</i>	General idea of Election
Dt 7:6-7	<i>For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples.</i>	General idea of Election
Dt 10:14-15	<i>Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the highest heavens, the earth and all that is in it. ¹⁵Yet on your fathers did the LORD set His affection to love them, and He chose their descendants after them, even you above all peoples, as it is this day.</i>	General idea of Election
Job 42:1-2	<i>Then Job answered the LORD and said, ²I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.</i>	Sovereign Purpose
Ps 33:12	<i>Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance.</i>	General idea of Election
Is 14:24-27	<i>The LORD of hosts has sworn saying, “Surely, just as I have intended so it has happened, and just as I planned so it will stand, ²⁵to break Assyria in My land, and I will trample him on My mountains. Then his yoke will be removed from</i>	Sovereign Purpose

	<i>them and his burden removed from their shoulder. ²⁶This is the plan devised against the whole earth; and this is the hand that is stretched out against all the nations. ²⁷For the LORD of hosts has planned, and who can frustrate it? And as for His stretched-out hand, who can turn it back?"</i>	
Is 46:9-11	<i>Remember the former things long past, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me. ¹⁰Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, "My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure"; ¹¹calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of My purpose from a far country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it.</i>	Sovereign Purpose
Dan 4:35	<i>All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, but He does according to His will in the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of earth; and no one can ward off His hand or say to Him, "What have You done?"</i>	Sovereign Purpose
Mt 11:27	<i>All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.</i>	Particularity
Mt 22:14	Conclusion of the parable of the Marriage Feast - <i>For many are called, but few are chosen.</i>	Particularity
Mt 24:22, 24, & 31	Regarding the End Times - ²² <i>Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. - - -</i> ²⁴ <i>For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. - - -</i> ³¹ <i>And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and they will GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds from one end of the sky to the other.</i>	Particularity
Mk 13:20	Regarding the Tribulation <i>Unless the Lord had shortened those days, no life would have been saved, but for the sake of the elect, whom He chose, He shortened the days.</i>	Particularity
Jn 15:16	<i>You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you</i> that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.	Particularity
Jn 17:1b-2, 6, 9	Christ's great intercessory prayer: "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son, that the Son may glorify You, ² even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to <i>all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life.</i> - - ⁶ <i>I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.</i> - - ⁹ <i>I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours;</i>	Particularity
Acts 13:48	Upon hearing the gospel: ⁴⁸ <i>When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.</i>	Particularity
Rom 8:28-30	²⁸ <i>And we know that God causes all things to work together for the good of those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.</i> ²⁹ <i>For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;</i> ³⁰ <i>and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.</i>	- Sovereignty - Foreknew - Predestined - Called - Justified - Glorified
Note on Rom 8:29 He "foreknew"	<i>foreknew</i> προεγνω - proegew (Str. 4267) 5x verb - ^a Aorist ^b indicative ^c active: ^a Simple action; ^b Punctilinear in time; ^c accomplished by the subject "He". God acted at a point in time. "Knowing" something is generally not an action. The word foreknowledge carries a more positive action of choosing. In other versions, this word is translated variously as: Moffatt - <i>predestined</i> ;	

	<p>Goodspeed - <i>had marked out from the first;</i> Wuest - <i>foreordained;</i> Williams - <i>on whom he set his heart beforehand;</i> New English Bible - <i>knew his own before even they were;</i> Spiros Zodhiates - The Complete Word Study Dictionary Strong's #4267 (II), (A) "Used of persons, to foreknow with approbation, to fore-approve or make a previous choice of, as special people (Rom 8:29, 11:2)"</p>	
Rom 9:10-13	<p><i>And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived twins by one man, our father Isaac; ¹¹for though the twins were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to His choice would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls, ¹²it was said to her, "The older will serve the younger." Just as it is written, ¹³"Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated." Note: Gen 25:34b - <u>Thus Esau despised his birthright.</u> See also Mal 1:2-4</i></p>	Sovereignty Particularity
Rom 9:14-16	<p><i>What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be! For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." ^{Ex 33:19} So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.</i></p>	Sovereignty Particularity
Rom 9:19-21	<p><i>You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?" On the contrary, who are you O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, "Why did you make me like this," will it? Or does not the potter have the right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use?</i></p>	Sovereignty Particularity
Rom 10:20	<p><i>And Isaiah is very bold and says, "I was found by those who did not seek Me, I became manifest to those who did not ask for Me."</i></p>	Particularity
Rom 11:7-8	<p><i>What then? What Israel is seeking, it has not obtained, but those who were chosen obtained it, and the rest were hardened; ⁸just as it is written, "God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes to see not and ears to hear not, down to this very day." ^{Dt 29:4; Is 29:10; Mt 13:13-16}</i></p>	Sovereignty Particularity
1 Cor 1:26-31	<p><i>For I consider <u>your calling</u>, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; ²⁷but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, ²⁸and the base things of the world and the despised <u>God has chosen</u>, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, ²⁹so that no man may boast before God. ³⁰But by His <u>doing you are in Christ Jesus</u> who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹so that, just as it is written, "Let him who boasts, boast in the LORD."</i></p>	Effectual calling. Sovereignly chosen. No place for pride. God's action.
Eph 1:5-6	<p><i>In love <u>He predestined</u> us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, <u>according to the kind intention of His will</u>, ⁶to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.</i></p>	His will saved us. For His glory.
Eph 1:9-12	<p><i>He made known to us the <u>mystery of His will</u>, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him ¹⁰with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him ¹¹also we have obtained an inheritance, <u>having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will</u>, ¹²to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.</i></p>	God's will in salvation is a mystery to us. Our predestination was according to His purpose.
2 Th 2:13-14	<p><i>But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because <u>God has chosen you from beginning for salvation</u> through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. ¹⁴It was for this <u>He called you through our gospel</u>, that you may gain the glory of our Lord</i></p>	God has chosen us from the beginning. The Spirit set us aside in faith. The gospel was our call.

	<u>Jesus Christ.</u>	Our glory is great!
2 Tim 1:9	<i>God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity.</i>	Our call was not according to our merit. but according to His purpose from eternity.
1 Pet 1:1-2	<i>To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen ²according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.</i>	All 3 persons of the Godhead participate in our salvation.
Rev 13:8	<i>All who dwell on the earth will worship him, (the Beast) everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.</i>	Particularity Are there any "new names" written in the book of life heaven???
Rev 17:8	<i>The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come.</i>	Are there any "new names" written in the book of life heaven???

Some Relevant Quotes

Grace is unmerited favor, and because grace is given to the undeserving and hell-deserving, to those who have no claim upon God, therefore is grace free and can be manifested toward the chief of sinners. But because grace is exercised toward those who are destitute of worthiness or merit, grace is sovereign; that is to say, God bestows grace upon whom He pleases. Divine sovereignty has ordained that some shall be cast into the lake of fire to show that all deserved such a doom. But grace comes in like a dragnet and draws out from a lost humanity a people for God's name, to be throughout all eternity the monuments of his unfathomable favor. Sovereign grace reveals God breaking down the opposition of the human heart, subduing the enmity of the carnal mind, and bringing us to love Him because He first loved us.

A. W. Pink; *The Sovereignty of God*; p. 243

To say, as many preachers are saying, God is willing to do His part if you will do yours, is a wretched and excuseless denial of the Gospel of His grace. To declare that God helps those who help themselves is to reject one of the most precious truths taught in the Bible - namely, that God helps those who are unable to help themselves, who have tried again and again only to fail. To say that the sinner's salvation turns on the action of his own will is another form of the God-dishonoring doctrine of salvation by human efforts. In the final analysis, any movement of the human will is a work: it is something from me, something which I do.

A. W. Pink; *The Sovereignty of God*; p. 245

But the doctrine of God's sovereignty lays the axe at the root of this evil (man's choosing) by declaring "It is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy" (Rom 9:16). Does someone say such a doctrine will drive sinners to despair? The reply is, let it be so; it is just such despair the writer longs to see prevail. It is not until the sinner despairs of any help from himself that he will ever fall into the arms of sovereign mercy; but if once the Holy Spirit convicts him that there is no help in himself, then he will recognize that he is lost, and will cry, "God be merciful to me a sinner" (Lk 18:3), and such a cry will be heard.

A. W. Pink; *The Sovereignty of God*; p. 245

If a cow freely chooses to eat grass out of the patch to the left rather than to the right, that choice, though free in accordance with its own nature is known and chosen by God from eternity past. But - - - a lost person in the exercise of their own free will, will choose according to his or her sinful nature and will never choose Christ within the free will of that nature because the lost person is "Totally Depraved". Only through the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit in "Regenerating" the heart of a lost sinner, is the sinner's nature changed so that they will choose Christ.

Ray Weedon