

# The Gospel Wars

## Lesson #2 Predestination & Election

### I. Lesson Introduction

In general we will use the following format as our teaching tool to address the topics in the “Order of Salvation”. They will generally be chronological in order to the degree that we as humans most likely would perceive these things. God does not exist solely in our time frame. He freely moves throughout any and all dimensions of space and time of which we are familiar and almost certainly amongst dimensions of space and time that are beyond (transcendent beyond) the universe that God has created for us in which to dwell.

### II. Definitions and Scriptural Bases

(Unless Otherwise Noted, all Scripture is from the 1995 New American Standard – Updated edition. NASU)

**Election** – an act of God before creation in which He chooses some people to be saved, not on account of any foreseen merit in them, but only because of His sovereign good pleasure.

Taken from Dr. Wayne Grudem’s Systematic Theology; p. 670

**Predestination** – A broader term used to include both God’s election unto salvation and His choosing others for reprobation unto His holy, just, and good wrath. This reprobation is often an essential part of “Reformed” (Calvinist Soteriology) and “Sovereign Grace” theology.

**Reprobation** – The sovereign decision of God before creation to pass over some persons, in sorrow deciding not to save them, and to punish them for their sins, and thereby to manifest His justice.

Taken from Dr. Wayne Grudem’s Systematic Theology; p. 684

### III. Scriptural Basis

(Unless Otherwise Noted, all Scripture is from the 1995 New American Standard – Updated edition. NASU)

Doctrinal Point Addressed	Relevant Scripture Passage
Speaks to God’s Sovereignty. Speaks to God’s “Effectual Call”. Speaks to the basis of His choosing (Election). *Mounce “foreknow, foreknowledge” p. 264 – selected based on God’s divine purpose and choosing of one whom He has “known” personally and/or intimately.	<p><b>Rom 8:28-30</b> <i>And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.</i>  <sup>29</sup><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>  <sup>30</sup><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></p>
Reference - * Mounce’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words	
Speaks of divine Grace.  Speaks to divine “Election”.  Speaks of divine “Reprobation”.	<p><b>Rom 9:10-13</b> <i>And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived twins by one man, our father Isaac; <sup>11</sup>for 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, <sup>12</sup>it was said to her, “THE OLDER WILL SERVE THE YOUNGER.” <sup>Gen 25:23</sup> <sup>13</sup>Just as it is written, “JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED.” <sup>Mal 1:2-5</sup></i></p>
Speaks to God’s purpose in election of the “Reprobate”. Supplements God’s purpose. Specifies God’s sovereignty in whom He saves and whom He hardens.  A logical human argument.  What right do we the creatures have to question our Creator? Analogy of the sovereignty of the Potter.	<p><b>Rom 9:17-23</b> <i>For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE I RAISED YOU UP, TO DEMONSTRATE MY POWER IN YOU, AND THAT MY NAME MIGHT BE PROCLAIMED THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EARTH.” <sup>18</sup>So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires.</i>   <sup>19</sup><i>You will say to me then, “Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?”</i>   <sup>20</sup><i>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? <sup>21</sup>Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use?</i>   <sup>22</sup><i>What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction?</i></p>

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<p>A purpose clause in a question? He gives an answer that may trouble us. We must be faithful to what Scripture says even when it troubles us.</p>	<p><i><u><sup>23</sup>And He did so to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory, <sup>24</sup>even us, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles.</u></i></p>
<p>God clearly chose to harden Israel to the gospel message and did so before this generation was even born. It has been prophesied that such would occur. Speaks to "Election" &amp; "Reprobation".</p>	<p><b>Rom 11:7-12</b> <i>What then? <u>What Israel is seeking, it has not obtained, but those who were chosen obtained it, and the rest were hardened;</u> <sup>8</sup>just 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." <sup>Dt 29:4</sup> <sup>9</sup>And David says, "LET THEIR TABLE BECOME A SNARE AND A TRAP, AND A STUMBLING BLOCK AND A RETRIBUTION TO THEM. <sup>10</sup>"LET THEIR EYES BE DARKENED TO SEE NOT, AND BEND THEIR BACKS FOREVER." <sup>Ps 69:22-23</sup> <sup>11</sup>I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous. <sup>12</sup>Now if their transgression is riches for the world and their failure is riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their fulfillment be!</i></p>
<p>Do not be proud in God's choosing of you before the foundation of the world. There is no room for pride here, only deep, deep gratitude.  Our only boast is in our Lord Jesus Christ!</p>	<p><b>1 Cor 1:26-31</b> <i>For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; <sup>27</sup>but God <b>has chosen</b> the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God <b>has chosen</b> the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, <sup>28</sup>and <b>the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not,</b> so that He may nullify the things that are, <sup>29</sup><u>so that no man may boast before God.</u> <sup>30</sup><u>But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus,</u> who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, <sup>31</sup>so that, just as it is written, "<u>LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD</u>" <sup>Jer 9:22-23a</sup></i></p>
<p>1a. God chose us – "Election". 1b. When He chose us. 2. In love He predestined us. 3. Purpose clause.</p>	<p><b>Eph 1:3-6</b> <i>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, <sup>4</sup>just as <u>He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,</u> that we would be holy and blameless before Him. <u>In love <sup>5</sup>He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself,</u> according to the kind intention of His will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved</i></p>
<p>Our "Predestination" brought us our inheritance in Christ. Its purpose was to work all things after the counsel of God's will.  Such was that we would be to the praise of God's glory.</p>	<p><b>Eph 1:9-14</b> <i>He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him <sup>10</sup>with 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 <sup>11</sup>also we have obtained an inheritance, <u>having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,</u> <sup>12</sup>to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory. <sup>13</sup>In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation — having also believed, <u>you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,</u> <sup>14</sup>who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.</i></p>
<p>Our suffering for the gospel is in accordance with God's power. We were called (effectually) for God's own purpose from all eternity.  We are to suffer for the gospel without shame. What God has given to us is guarded until the last day.</p>	<p><b>2 Tim 1:8-14</b> <i>Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but <u>join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God,</u> <sup>9</sup>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, <sup>10</sup>but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, <sup>11</sup>for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher. <sup>12</sup>For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that <u>He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.</u> <sup>13</sup>Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me,</i></p>

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Retain the standard of sound words. Guard through the power of the Holy Spirit the treasure entrusted to you!	<i>in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup><u>Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.</u></i>
Speaks to God choosing the elect. (Election)	<b>Titus 1:1-3</b> <i>Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, <u>for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness,</u> <sup>2</sup><u>in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,</u> <sup>3</sup><u>but at the proper time manifested, even His word, in the proclamation with which I was entrusted according to the commandment of God our Savior,</u></i>
Speaks to "Election". Speaks to "Sanctification".	<b>1 Pet 1:1-2</b> <i>Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, <u>who are chosen</u> <sup>2</sup><u>according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ</u> and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.</i>
Speaks to an open offer of the gospel. Speaks to "Reprobation". Speaks to the "Offense" of the Gospel. Speaks to "Reprobation".	<b>1 Pet 2:4-8</b> <i>And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, <sup>5</sup>you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For this is contained in Scripture: "<u>BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER stone, AND <u>HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.</u></u>" <sup>Is 28:16</sup> <sup>7</sup><u>This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, "<u>THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone,</u>" <sup>Ps 118:22</sup> <sup>8</sup>and, "<u>A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE</u>" <sup>Is 8:14</sup>; <u>for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.</u></u></i>
Speaks to "Reprobation".	<b>Jude 3-4</b> <i>Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, <u>I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.</u> <sup>4</sup><u>For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.</u></i>
Speaks to "Reprobation".	<b>Rev 17:8</b> <i>The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction. <u>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.</u></i>

#### IV. Church Weaknesses, Corruption, and/or Abandonment of the Gospel Message:

Probably 70% to 80% of Evangelicals reject a Biblical reading of "Predestination" and "Election".  
Probably greater than 90% of Evangelicals reject a Biblical reading of "Reprobation".

If the gospel is the good news of what God has done, then how important is it that these essential details of:

1. How God did it,
2. What God's purpose in salvation was, and
3. How God is to be praised and worshipped?

#### V. Conclusion / Discernment Being Needful:

It is said by many Evangelical leaders today that the gospel has lost its power. People do not readily accept the premises of the gospel. As we go through this series, we will see a fatal flaw in this logic. Namely, that the gospel is the power of God alone, not the power of fallen man to have the insight and wisdom to choose the truth of the gospel.

This supposed gospel does not work today, because the true gospel of God is not being preached and taught. A distorted version that gives man the power to choose and the credit for salvation has replaced the true gospel in most Evangelical churches. **To God alone be the whole glory!**