

Election and Predestination are very important biblical doctrines that are not restricted to the NT saints. These doctrines teach the encompassing salvation of sinners regardless of when they were conceived: past, present, and future. However we live in the Gospel day in which these “mysteries” which were hid from previous ages but have been revealed to us by the gospel (Eph 1:8-9, 3:5, 2Ti 1:9-10).

Election and predestination must be understood from God's perspective, not that of man. We believe the scripture sets forth man as totally depraved or sinful. Man is a sinner by representation (Rom 5:12), by conception (Eph 2:1, Ps 51:5) and by manifestation (Rom 3:11-18). From God's viewpoint man is unrighteous and will never seek Him (Ps 14). Also these doctrines do not remove man's accountability to God. When Adam transgressed God, the entire human race was made totally unacceptable to God (dead) but this didn't remove man's accountability to God; therefore God is still righteous in judging us for our sins.

The doctrine of election doesn't remove the need for the death of Christ, nor does it remove the necessity for man to be born again. Nor does election guarantee that the elect will hear the gospel, persevere in the faith and true holiness. These doctrines better explains the purpose and successfulness in the death of Christ and when a person is given divine life (Born again). God can not love that which is contrary to Him, and when Adam transgressed we collectively were made sinners, and worthy subjects of His wrath (Eph 2:1-2). So how can God love sin, which is opposite to Him? He loves them IN CHRIST, he chose His elect in Christ, and this election was based on Gods “for-loving” (fore-knowing) a people (1pe 1:2, Rom 8:28-29). Election teaches the love of a sovereign God that chose people unconditionally and individually to be redeemed by Christ for His glory. The ones redeemed by Christ are saved from the everlasting wrath that they were doomed to because of what Adam did to the entire human race (Rom 5:11-13).

Elect were chosen by God in Christ based his eternal love and predestination is the activity that God shall perform Himself on the behalf of the elect. Those Chosen or elected in the covenant of Grace (Matt 1:21, John 17:2, Ti 1:2, Heb 13:20), would be saved legally by Christ at Calvary (Is 53:11-12, Mt 20:28, Mt 26:28, Mk 10:45, Heb 2:10, Heb 9:27-28) and given (not offered) divine life by the Spirit of God some time between conception and natural death (Jn 3:8, 5:25, 6:37, Eph 2:1) and the Lord Jesus shall come for His elect the second time without sin unto salvation(Eph 1:14, Heb 9:27-28)

Election **never excludes** anyone from the presence of God, Adam excluded everyone. Election **includes sinners to be saved** and this number is fixed. This means a person can't add to the number BUT it also means a person can't take away from God's work (Rom 8:38-39). Predestination states that God shall conform the sinner into the image of Christ (Rom 8:29-30) but God doesn't use the gospel to bring this to pass. The gospel is good news of the finished work of Christ for His people to believe and rest in the finished work of Christ. The Gospel teaches them about Christ, but DOES NOT GIVE spiritual life (Gal 3:21, 2nd Tim 1:9-10. God's electing love is not limited by man's resources to reach His forever loved elect. This electing love of God is not inhibited by any social, economic, religious, geographic boundaries, or any creature! Hallelujah what a Savior!!

--Elder Larry W. White