

# Chosen by God pt 1

## John 15:16

John 15:13–16 (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. <sup>14</sup> You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. <sup>15</sup> No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

## Introduction

The simple words that Jesus gives to us in this passage reach all the way into eternity past and take us all the way into eternity future. Jesus emphatically says that “you did not choose Him, but rather He chose you”. There is nothing unclear about this.

The emphasis is clearly on the fact that Jesus chose you.

It is true as some have pointed out that the primary interpretation and application of these words has to do with the choosing of the apostles. As Jesus states in

John 6:70 (NKJV)

<sup>70</sup> Jesus answered them, “**Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?**”

And also that it is unique that the disciples did not choose Jesus as Teacher which was the common practice. But in this case the Teacher chose the disciple.

For it was a custom amongst the Jews that the disciple should choose to himself his own master. “Joshua Ben Perachiah said, עשה לך רב ‘*Choose to thyself a master, and get a colleague.*’ ”

Lightfoot, J. (2010). [\*A Commentary on the New Testament from the Talmud and Hebraica, Matthew-1 Corinthians: , Luke-John\*](#) (Vol. 3, p. 405). Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.

Although both of these things are true and should be emphasized...This does to mean that that is all that Jesus has in mind here.

4 things lead me to believe that there is more depth to this choice than just apostleship and service.

1. The nature of the context of the vine and the branches is unique to salvation.

John 15:5 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> “I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

2. The discussion of Substitutionary atonement is unique to salvation.

John 15:13 (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.

3. The declaration of Friendship is unique to salvation.

John 15:15 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends,...

This friendship with Jesus is a result of his initiative; he has let them into the intimacy of a relationship with himself and with the Father—

Lincoln, A. T. (2005). [\*The Gospel according to Saint John\*](#) (p. 407). London: Continuum.

4. The revelation from the Father is unique to salvation

John 15:15 (NKJV)

15 ...for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

It also seems clear that the emphasis that Jesus is making is that these privileges that you are enjoying are not a result of what you have done, in fact you had nothing to do with it.

1. That you are part of the vine
2. That you are the recipient of such love
3. That you are now a friend
4. That you have been made aware of the Father's will is not because you came to me. or that you chose me, rather it is all because I chose you.

In other words, this is not a volunteer organization. Its not made up of a bunch of people who decided to join the club.

This is the master selecting his slaves, This is the King determining his friends.

You don't get this type of intimacy with the King of kings because you decide one day it was in your favor to join the group.

The is a specific, determinative intentional choice by the Master.

This declaration by Jesus is not just for the eleven there that night. We could look at all the promises and statements in 14-17 and see that these go way beyond the eleven. Jesus has all those in mind that he calls friends, that are part of the vine that are hated by the world, and that chosen out of the world.

John 17:1–2 (NKJV)

**17** Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, <sup>2</sup> as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.

<sup>16</sup> You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

We are chosen for salvation

We are chosen for evangelization

We are chosen to preservation

For today and next Sunday we will discuss the first point.

We are chosen for Salvation.

Now this is one of the most amazing realities in all of Scripture. The a Holy God would chose to a sinner like me. Its why we sing Hymns like Amazing Grace that saved a wretch like me.

This is the great historic doctrine of the Apostles. It is the historic doctrine of the church. Every major confession of faith and statement of orthodox evangelical churches up until the 20th century all affirm the Sovereign choice of God in Salvation.

Belgic Confession (A.D. 1561)

The Synod of Dort (1618-1619)

Waldensian Confession (A.D. 1655)

1655 Midland Confession of Faith

Westminster Confession (A.D. 1647)

Second London Baptist Confession (1689)

Confession of Faith of the Calvinistic Methodists of Wales (1823)

Abstract of Principles (1858)

Second London Baptist Confession (1689)

By God's decree, and for the demonstration of his glory, some human beings and angels are predestined (or foreordained) to eternal life through Jesus Christ,<sup>7</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace.<sup>8</sup> Others are left to live in their sin, leading to their just condemnation, to the praise of his glorious justice.<sup>9</sup>

4. These predestined and foreordained angels and people are individually and unchangeably designated, and their number is so certain and definite that it cannot be either increased or decreased.<sup>10</sup>

5. Those people who are predestined to life were chosen by God before the foundation of the world, according to his eternal and unchangeable purpose and the secret counsel and good pleasure of his will. He chose them in Christ for eternal glory, purely as a result of his free grace and love,<sup>11</sup> without anything else about them serving as a condition or cause moving him to do so.<sup>12</sup>

With the historic witness of the confessions and the church, you would think that the evangelical church would embrace this truth with open arms.

Not so fast.

This doctrine is one of the most hated, despised, rejected and avoided doctrines in all of Scripture. More than the doctrine of Eternal Hell.

“In fact, there are literally shocking statements made about this doctrine by prominent evangelicals.

For example, the well-known author Tim LaHaye, who is a part of the *Left Behind* series and many other books, and Tim says, “To suggest that the merciful, long-suffering, gracious and loving God of the Bible would invent a dreadful doctrine like this – predestination - which would have us believe it is an act of grace to select certain people for heaven and by exclusion others for hell comes perilously close to blasphemy.” These are statements that these gentlemen have put in print.

Arno Froese from another ministry writes, “The flawed theology of preselection - ” he calls it “ - is an attempt to eliminate man’s capacity to exercise his free will, which reduces God’s sovereign love to an act of a mere dictator.”

Another pastor, author and radio teacher says, “This doctrine makes our heavenly Father look like the worst of despots.”



Another, a president of Texas Holiness University says, “This doctrine is the most unreasonable, incongruous, self-contradictory, man-belittling, and God-dishonoring scheme of theology that ever appeared in Christian thought. No one can accept its contradictory, mutually exclusive propositions without intellectual self-debasement. It holds up a self-centered, selfish, heartless, remorseless tyrant for God and bids us worship him.”

A Calvary Chapel pastor writes, “Five-point Calvinism - ” which of course would include the doctrine of election, “ - makes God a monster who eternally tortures innocent children. It removes the hope of consolation from the gospel. It limits the atoning work of Christ. It resists evangelism. It stirs up argumentation and division, and promotes a small, angry judgmental God rather than the large-hearted God of the Bible.”

Another says, “To say that God sovereignly chooses who will be saved is the most twisted thing I have ever read that makes God a monster, no better than a pagan idol.”

Another website from theological students in Canada says, “This doctrine makes God a diabolical monster and reduces man, who was created in the image of God, to a mere robot.”

And Dave Hunt, who many of you know, “This doctrine’s misrepresentation of God has caused many to turn away from the God of the Bible as from a monster.”

The Doctrine of Election, Part 1  
• Sermons Selected Scriptures 90-273 Sep 19, 2004

The repeated word that stands out is “monster”. They believe that for God to sovereignly choose to save someone and not others makes Him a monster.

The problem with this belief is that it has identified the wrong person as the monster.

Its not God that’s the monster, its man. Man is the sinful God hating, Christ Rejecting, Blasphemous idolator.

And this is the very reason that so many reject the doctrine of election.

It is believed for God not to give everyone an equal chance to be saved is somehow unfair. Hence, the underlying assumption is that man is not really that bad and is deserving of at least a chance to be saved.

This has been and remains the fundamental problem with evangelical thought toward this

doctrine. The Church is permeated with the idea that man is not that bad.

We will admit that man is a sinner and that he will go to Hell if he does not believe in Jesus but really deep down many believe that there is a small spark of worthiness in man, some left over inherent goodness.

It is my belief that the reason so many object to this doctrine, is not that it isn't clear in scripture, but rather we have have very little understanding of the real nature, and condition of man. If you understand Biblically what it says of man and you truly believe it... the natural conclusion then is that NO ONE will be saved if God does not act, if God does not choose, if God does not enable.

### James Montgomery Boice

“When people have trouble with election – and many do – their real problem is not with the doctrine of election, although they think it is, but with the doctrine of depravity that makes election necessary.”

“The question to settle is: How far did the human race fall when it fell? Did man fall upward? That is the view of secular evolutionists.... Did man fall part

way but not the whole way, so that he is damaged by sin but not ruined? That is the view of Pelagians or Arminians. It affirms that we are affected by sin but insists that we nevertheless possess the ability to turn from it and believe in Christ when the gospel is offered – by our own power. Or did man fall the whole way so that he is no longer capable of making even the smallest movement back toward God unless God first reaches down and performs the miracle of the new birth in him? That is the view of Scripture.”

James Montgomery Boice, *Ephesians* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1997).

Arthur Pink wrote,

They who balk at sovereign and unconditional election believe in neither the total depravity of man nor the God of the Bible. On the one hand, He hides these things from those who are wise and prudent in their own conceit. On the other, He reveals them to babes (Matt. 11:25). There cannot be an election without a rejection: "The one shall be taken, and the other left" (Matt. 24:40-41). "The election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded" (Rom. 11:7). "Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated" (9:13).  
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A man's orthodoxy on this subject determines his viewpoint of many other doctrines of great importance. If his belief here is a scriptural one, then he will clearly perceive how impossible it is for men to improve themselves—that Christ is their only hope. He will know that unless the sinner is born again there can be no entrance for him into the kingdom of God. Nor will he entertain the idea of the fallen creature's free will to attain goodness. He will be preserved from many errors. Andrew Fuller stated, "I never knew a person verge toward the Arminian, the Arian, the Socinian, the Antinomian schemes, without first entertaining diminutive notions of human depravity or blameworthiness." Said the well-equipped theological instructor, J. M. Stifler, "It cannot be said too often that a false theology finds its source in inadequate views of depravity."

The Total Depravity of Man  
by A. W. Pink

A few years ago

The late boxer Macho Comacho was being interviewed on TV. He was bragging about his wild past--a father at age 15, drugs, loose living. The sportscaster said to him, "But don't you believe that as a sports hero, you have an

obligation to be a model for our youth?”

Comacho shot back, “Look, I did my dirt, but I ain’t no Hitler.”

Comacho’s response is the typical human response to the biblical doctrine of total depravity: “I may have my faults, but I’m *not* totally depraved!” It’s not surprising that the world thinks that way,

Nathan Hatch, saw this trend 17 years ago (“Purging the Poisoned Well Within,” *Christianity Today* [3/2/79], pp. 14-17): 40 yrs ago

The thriving evangelical book market offers a steady diet of positive inspiration, spiritual uplift, and successful Christian living. Evangelical visionaries, building multi-million dollar enterprises in television, church growth, and education, have latched onto an upbeat style that is more than vaguely reminiscent of Norman Vincent Peale and Dale Carnegie. One of these pastors recently defined faith as building self-confidence, resisting negative thoughts, and tapping the limitless possibilities within ourselves. In a similar vein, a prominent evangelist explained that what keeps people away from Christ is not hardness of heart but simply a misunderstanding of what he has to offer (p. 14).

Hatch goes on to point out that this view of human nature differs greatly from what Christians of the past believed. Men like Luther, Wesley, Whitefield, and Edwards “believed that human nature was fallen, and that the Bible’s view of man forsook glib moralism and took seriously ‘the chartless darkness of the human heart’” (p. 15).

Arthur Pink wrote,

But during the past century the steady trend of a deteriorating Christendom has been to underrate the evil of sin and overrate the moral capabilities of men. Instead of proclaiming the heinousness of sin, there has been a dwelling more upon its inconveniences, and the abasing portrayal of the lost condition of man as set forth in Holy Writ has been obscured if not obliterated by flattering disquisitions on human advancement. If the popular religion of the churches—including nine-tenths of what is termed "evangelical Christianity—be tested at this point, it will be found that it clashes directly with man's fallen, ruined and spiritually dead condition.

The Total Depravity of Man  
by A. W. Pink

It is a sadly neglected subject. Notwithstanding the clear and uniform teaching of Scripture, man’s

ruined condition and alienation from God are but feebly apprehended and seldom heard in the modern pulpit, and are given little place even in what are regarded as the centers of orthodoxy. Rather the whole trend of present-day thought and teaching is in the opposite direction, and even where the Darwinian hypothesis has not been accepted, its pernicious influences are often seen. In consequence of the guilty silence of the modern pulpit, a generation of churchgoers has arisen which is deplorably ignorant of the basic truths of the Bible, so that perhaps not more than one in a thousand has even a mental knowledge of the chains of hardness and unbelief which bind the natural heart, or of the dungeon of darkness in which they lie. Thousands of preachers, instead of faithfully telling their hearers of their woeful state by nature, are wasting their time by relating the latest news of the Kremlin or of the development of nuclear weapons.

The Total Depravity of Man  
by A. W. Pink

J. O. Philpot stated:

As no heart can sufficiently conceive, so no tongue can adequately express, the state of



wretchedness and ruin into which sin has cast guilty, miserable man. In separating him from God, it severed him from the only source of all happiness and holiness. It has ruined him body and soul: the one it has filled with sickness and disease; in the other it has defaced and destroyed the image of God in which it was created. It has made him love sin and hate God.

The doctrine of total depravity is a very humbling one. It is not that man leans to one side and needs propping up, nor that he is merely ignorant and requires instructing, nor that he is run down and calls for a tonic; but rather that he is undone, lost, spiritually dead.

## **First Part.**

### ***The Necessity of our Election***

#### **I. Being Chosen by God Necessitates Understanding Your Condition**

Romans 3:23 (NKJV)

<sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Ecclesiastes 7:20 (NKJV)

<sup>20</sup> For *there is* not a just man on earth who does good  
And does not sin.

Galatians 3:22 (NKJV)

<sup>22</sup> But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

Romans 3:9–18 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> What then? Are we better *than they*? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin.

<sup>10</sup> As it is written:

*“There is none righteous, no, not one;*

<sup>11</sup> *There is none who understands;*

*There is none who seeks after God.*

<sup>12</sup> *They have all turned aside;*

*They have together become unprofitable;*

*There is none who does good, no, not one.”*

<sup>13</sup> *“Their throat is an open tomb;*

*With their tongues they have practiced deceit”;*  
*“The poison of asps is under their lips”;*  
 14 *“Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.”*  
 15 *“Their feet are swift to shed blood;*  
 16 *Destruction and misery are in their ways;*  
 17 *And the way of peace they have not known.”*  
 18 *“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”*

Job 15:14 (NKJV)

14 “What *is* man, that he could be pure?  
 And *he who is* born of a woman, that he could be  
 righteous?

Job 15:16 (NKJV)

16 How much less man, *who is* abominable and filthy,  
 Who drinks iniquity like water!

Romans 7:18 (NKJV)

18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing  
 good dwells; for to will is present with me, but *how* to  
 perform what is good I do not find.

Jeremiah 17:9 (NKJV)

9 “The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*,  
 And desperately wicked;

## Who can know it?

### Matthew 15:19–20 (NKJV)

<sup>19</sup> For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. <sup>20</sup> These are *the things* which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man.”

### Mark 7:21–23 (NKJV)

<sup>21</sup> For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, <sup>22</sup> thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. <sup>23</sup> All these evil things come from within and defile a man.”

### Ecclesiastes 9:3 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> This *is* an evil in all that is done under the sun: that one thing *happens* to all. Truly the hearts of the sons of men are full of evil; madness *is* in their hearts while they live, and after that *they go* to the dead.

### John 3:19–20 (NKJV)

<sup>19</sup> And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather

than light, because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

John 8:34 (NKJV)

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.

John 8:44 (NKJV)

<sup>44</sup> You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and *does not* stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Ephesians 2:1–3 (NKJV)

**2** And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, <sup>3</sup> among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

### Romans 8:7–8 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. <sup>8</sup> So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

### Genesis 6:5–8 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. <sup>6</sup> And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. <sup>7</sup> So the Lord said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.” <sup>8</sup> But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

### Genesis 8:21 (NKJV)

<sup>21</sup> And the Lord smelled a soothing aroma. Then the Lord said in His heart, “I will never again curse the ground for man’s sake, although the imagination of man’s heart *is* evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done.

### Ephesians 4:18–19 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup> having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; <sup>19</sup> who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

### Colossians 1:21 (NKJV)

<sup>21</sup> And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled

### Romans 1:21–26 (NKJV)

<sup>21</sup> because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Professing to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, <sup>25</sup> who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and

served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

<sup>26</sup> For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.

Since man is totally depraved, how great is his need of salvation! The guilt of Adam's transgression is charged to his account, the polluted nature of our first parents transmitted to him. He is shaped in iniquity, conceived in sin, and enters this world a child of wrath, estranged from God from his mother's womb (Ps. 58:3). Born with a heart that is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, from earliest childhood he pursues a course of self-will and self-pleasing, treasuring up wrath against himself. His iniquities are more in number than the hairs of his head (Ps. 40:12), and his "trespass [guiltiness] is grown up unto the heavens" (Ezra 9:6). He lies beneath the death sentence of the law. That curse cannot be removed until full satisfaction has been rendered to it, and the guilty culprit is utterly powerless to render such satisfaction.



Now, I have not told you anything that you didn't know. You have heard most of the verses I quoted. Some have heard many sermons on them. We have read books that define us in this condition.

But most of us even when we see these words in Scripture have the same conclusion Macho the boxer did. "I did my dirt, but I'm no Hitler."

So is it really that bad. I mean, none of us have come close the evil deeds of a Jeffery Daumer or Adolf Hitler, or Joseph Stalin. We haven't even thought the thoughts those men did.

So lets take a look at the severity of our sin, and its resultant culpability

I. Being Chosen by God Necessitates  
Understanding Your Condition

**II. Being Chosen by God Necessitates  
Understanding Your Culpability**

First notice God's initial statements about the just punishment of sin.

Genesis 2:17 (NKJV)

<sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Romans 5:12 (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—

Romans 6:23 (NKJV)

<sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ezekiel 18:4 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> “Behold, all souls are Mine;  
The soul of the father  
As well as the soul of the son is Mine;  
The soul who sins shall die.

John 3:36 (NKJV)

<sup>36</sup> He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

Romans 1:18 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

Romans 3:19 (NKJV)

<sup>19</sup> Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

God considers your sin so severe and such a violation of His law and glory that it deserves death and wrath.

But why??

1. God is Holy
2. God is Just
3. God is Good

As much, hatred anger and disgust you have for a man who sexually abuses and murders a little child.

God has an infinite amount more hatred, anger and wrath for the smallest sin you've committed. There is nothing more detestable in the sight of God

than your sin. Our sin is like the grotesque sore of the leper oozing with pus and the smell of death.

The best we can do, the most righteous deed we can do is just filthy rags in God site

Jonathan Edwards wrote

“natural men are held in the hand of God, over the pit of hell; they have deserved the fiery pit, and are already sentenced to it; and God is dreadfully provoked, his anger is as great towards them as to those that are actually suffering the executions of the fierceness of his wrath in hell, and they have done nothing in the least to appease or abate that anger, neither is God in the least bound by any promise to hold them up one moment; the devil is waiting for them, hell is gaping for them, the flames gather and flash about them, and would fain lay hold on them, and swallow them up; the fire pent up in their own hearts is struggling to break out: and they have no interest in any Mediator, there are no means within reach that can be any security to them. In short, they have no refuge, nothing to take hold of; all that preserves them every moment is the mere arbitrary will, and uncovenanted, unobliged forbearance of an incensed God.”

“Your wickedness makes you as it were heavy as lead, and to tend downwards with great weight and pressure towards hell; and if God should let you go, you would immediately sink and swiftly descend and plunge into the bottomless gulf, and your healthy constitution, and your own care and prudence, and best contrivance, and all your righteousness, would have no more influence to uphold you and keep you out of hell, than a spider’s web would have to stop a falling rock. Were it not for the sovereign pleasure of God, the earth would not bear you one moment; for you are a burden to it;

There are the black clouds of God’s wrath now hanging directly over your heads, full of the dreadful storm, and big with thunder; and were it not for the restraining hand of God, it would immediately burst forth upon you. The sovereign pleasure of God, for the present, stays his rough wind; otherwise it would come with fury, and your destruction would come like a whirlwind, and you would be like the chaff of the summer threshing floor.”

SINNERS IN THE HANDS OF AN ANGRY GOD

by the

Rev. Jonathan Edwards

A Sermon Preached at Enfield, July 8th, 1741

At a Time of Great Awakenings, and Attended with Remarkable Impressions on many of the Hearers.

You might wonder if I'm sensationalizing this.  
Making it more than what the Scripture says.

Reading into the text. Making God harder on sin than He really is.

Well, to know what God thinks of sin and those that commit sin, Just look at his reactions in Scripture.

To begin with, in Genesis, when Adam and Eve sinned, the entire human race was condemned to die. Every man woman child and animal and any living thing and the entire universe were set on a path of destruction and death.

ONE SIN.

We come to Genesis 6

Genesis 6:5 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.

**as a result.**

Genesis 6:7 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> So the Lord said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.”

So every man, woman child, and baby and animals were destroyed in the flood except the ones on the ark.

If the growth rate in the pre-Flood world was equal to the growth rate in 2000 (0.012), there could have been about 750 million people at the time of the Flood. However, given the extremely long lifespans prior to the Flood, the growth rate could have been much higher. Increasing the rate by just 0.001 would put the population at close to four billion at the Flood.

### **Deuteronomy 20:16–18 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> “But of the cities of these peoples which the Lord your God gives you *as* an inheritance, you shall let nothing that breathes remain alive, <sup>17</sup> but you shall utterly destroy them: the Hittite and the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite, just as the Lord your God has commanded you, <sup>18</sup> lest they teach you to do according to all their abominations which they have done for their gods, and you sin against the Lord your God.

Deuteronomy 7:16 (NKJV)

<sup>16</sup> Also you shall destroy all the peoples whom the Lord your God delivers over to you; your eye shall have no pity on them; nor shall you serve their gods, for that *will be* a snare to you.

Joshua 6:20–21 (NKJV)

<sup>20</sup> So the people shouted when *the priests* blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. <sup>21</sup> And they utterly destroyed all that *was* in the city, both man and woman, young and old, ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of the sword.

Joshua 10:40 (NKJV)

<sup>40</sup> So Joshua conquered all the land: the mountain country and the South and the lowland and the wilderness slopes, and all their kings; he left none remaining, but utterly destroyed all that breathed, as the Lord God of Israel had commanded.

Deuteronomy 7:9–11 (NKJV)



<sup>9</sup> “Therefore know that the Lord your God, He *is* God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments; <sup>10</sup> and He repays those who hate Him to their face, to destroy them. He will not be slack with him who hates Him; He will repay him to his face. <sup>11</sup> Therefore you shall keep the commandment, the statutes, and the judgments which I command you today, to observe them.

Luke 13:1–5 (NKJV)

**13** There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> And Jesus answered and said to them, “Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all *other* Galileans, because they suffered such things? <sup>3</sup> I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all *other* men who dwelt in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.”

### Revelation 6:7–8 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, “Come and see.” <sup>8</sup> So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.

### Revelation 19:19–21 (NKJV)

<sup>19</sup> And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. <sup>20</sup> Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. <sup>21</sup> And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

### Revelation 20:15 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

The Baptist preacher, Charles Spurgeon, said,

“Too many think lightly of sin, and therefore think lightly of the Saviour. He who has stood before his God, convicted and condemned, with the rope about his neck, is the man to weep for joy when he is pardoned, to hate the evil which has been forgiven him, and to live to the honour of the Redeemer by whose blood he has been cleansed.” (C. H. Spurgeon *Autobiography* [Banner of Truth], 1:54).

### **III. Being Chosen by God Necessitates Understanding Your Capability**

Ephesians 2:1–3 (NKJV)

**2** And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now

works in the sons of disobedience, <sup>3</sup> among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

### Romans 6:17–18 (NKJV)

<sup>17</sup> But God be thanked that *though* you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. <sup>18</sup> And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

### Romans 8:7–8 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. <sup>8</sup> So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

### Jeremiah 13:23 (NKJV)

<sup>23</sup> Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots?

*Then* may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil.

Matthew 12:34 (NKJV)

<sup>34</sup> **Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.**

1 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup> But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

Romans 3:11 (NKJV)

<sup>11</sup> *There is none who understands;  
There is none who seeks after God.*

John 6:44 (NKJV)

<sup>44</sup> **No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.**

C. H. Spurgeon put it this way: "Through the fall, and through our own sin, the nature of man has become so debased, and depraved, and corrupt, that it is impossible for him to come to Christ without the assistance of God the Holy Spirit.

Now, the reason why man cannot come to Christ, is not because he cannot come, so far as his body or his mere power of mind is concerned, but because his nature is so corrupt that he has neither the will nor the power to come to Christ unless drawn by the Spirit." Sermon, Human Inability, March 7, 1858

John 6:64–65 (NKJV)

<sup>64</sup> **But there are some of you who do not believe."**

For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him.

<sup>65</sup> And He said, **"Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father."**

John 8:43 (NKJV)

<sup>43</sup> **Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word.**

So many today believe in the notion of free will. What is meant by this is that men have the ability thru self determination to choose Christ. Most are willing to admit that there needs to be some work of the Holy Spirit but ultimately the credit goes to the freedom of the will.

This has been a confusing point for many so let me see if I can help.

First, what often happens is that we observe that we make choices every day. We choose what to eat, we choose where we want to go, we choose who we will marry, what job we want, how many children we want, what church we will go to, what clothes we want to wear.

Then we extrapolate from this that we have the same ability with God. That we can choose God when we want to. That its not that we don't have the ability to choose but that we just don't understand the need to or maybe we just don't want to right now.

1. We can and do make choices, we have volition
2. But our choices are not free. Every choice is influenced "you are free to choose but your choice is not free"
3. We can't choose anything beyond our Nature.  
We may choose to fly like a bird but our Nature says no.
4. Our Nature hates God, does not seek God and Loves sin, there for we have not will to go to God. No want to, no desire for God.
5. Our wills are enslaved to sin. Our master is our own sinful passion. It is impossible for our wills to
6. The bondage of our will bound by our desires

We can't come to Christ because we don't want to come to Christ

We can't submit to the Law of God because we don't want to submit to the Law of God

Rightly did G. H. Bishop of the Dutch Reformed Church say:

Man can no more turn to God than the dead can sit up in their coffins. He can no more originate a right desire than he can create a universe. God the Holy Spirit alone, by sovereign, special interference, calls dead sinners to life and creates within them "the desires of their hearts"—the first faint fluttering of a breath toward holiness.

Man, by nature, does not want to know God. "There is no one who seeks after God," as the above Scripture says. As Dr. Michael Horton noted, "We cannot find God for the same reason that a thief can't find a police officer."

So we are

Dead to God, slaves of sin, hostile to God, unable to obey the law, unable to change our condition, accustomed to doing evil, unable to speak what is



good, unable to receive the things of God, unable to come to Christ, unable to understand God's Word.

And Can It Be, That I Should Gain?

Author: Charles Wesley (1738)

4 Long my imprisoned spirit lay  
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;  
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray,  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
My chains fell off, my heart was free;  
I rose, went forth and followed Thee.

## **Second Part**

### *The Nature of our Election*

- I. Being Chosen by God is Stated in Scripture
- II. Being Chosen by God is Secured by Gods Sovereignty
- III. Being Chosen by God Secures our Salvation

Just as Israel's election by God was not only in order to enjoy the privileges of that covenant relationship

but also to fulfil a vocation in the world, so Jesus' choice of his followers to be his friends entails not only enjoyment of the relationship's intimacy but also a mission within the world

Lincoln, A. T. (2005). [\*The Gospel according to Saint John\*](#) (p. 407). London: Continuum.

“What good could God possibly foresee in hearts that are dead in transgressions and sins and inclined only to evil all the time? What good could God anticipate in people who cannot come to him and do not even seek him unless he first draws them to himself. If that is the situation, as the Bible says it is, then the only way any man or woman can be saved is by the sovereign election of God by which he first chooses some for salvation and then leads them to faith” (p. 16-17).

James Montgomery Boice, [\*Ephesians \(Grand Rapids: Baker, 1997\)\*](#).

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Now, the reason why man cannot come to Christ, is not because he cannot come, so far as his body or his mere power of mind is concerned, but because his nature is so corrupt that he has neither the will

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