

Election: God's Right to Choose

December 10, 2017

OT

Mal 1:1-5

Mal 1:1 The oracle of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi. 2 "I have loved you," says the LORD. But you say, "How have you loved us?" "Is not Esau Jacob's brother?" declares the LORD. "Yet I have loved Jacob 3 but Esau I have hated. I have laid waste his hill country and left his heritage to jackals of the desert."

4 If Edom says, "We are shattered but we will rebuild the ruins," the LORD of hosts says, "They may build, but I will tear down, and they will be called 'the wicked country,' and 'the people with whom the LORD is angry forever.'" 5 Your own eyes shall see this, and you shall say, "Great is the LORD beyond the border of Israel!"

NT

Eph 1:3-6

Eph 1: 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

Context? (introduction)

So far in Ephesians:

- Last Sunday: rev. Gilmour, Are you in the Far Country?
- One Need (ours): Election → confusion and offense.
- *One Solution (Jesus):* election = ministry of the gospel (170+ ref.)
- *Joy & Glory!:* 3-part series, election
 - God's right to choose
 - How God chooses

- Why God chooses

Focus? (attention)

Gospel focus: How safe and secure am I?

Text? (explanation)

The Big Topic: God's right to choose to save some, and not others.

Eph 1: 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, **4a even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world ...**

In election, what does God do?

Chooses to treat all mankind according to covenants, some by CofG, some by CofW.

Rom 9:10b-13 10b When [Isaac] married Rebekah, she gave birth to twins. 11 But before they were born, before they had done anything good or bad, she received a message from God. (This message shows that God chooses people according to his own purposes; 12 he calls people, but not according to their good or bad works.) She was told, "Your older son will serve your younger son." 13 In the words of the Scriptures, "I loved Jacob, but I rejected Esau." (Mal 1:1-5)

Chooses to treat all mankind according to covenants, some by CofG.

Rom 11:5-8 5 It is the same today, for a few of the people of Israel have remained faithful because of God's grace-- his undeserved kindness in choosing them. 6 And since it is through God's kindness, then it is not by their good works. For in that case, God's grace would not be what it really is-- free and undeserved. 7 So this is the situation: Most of the people of Israel have not found the favor of God they are looking for so earnestly. A few have-- the ones God has chosen-- but the hearts of the rest were hardened. 8 As the Scriptures say, "God has put them into a deep sleep. To this day he has shut their eyes so they do not see, and closed their ears so they do not hear." (Isa 29:10)

In election, who does God choose?

Eph 1:4-5a even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5a he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ?

Elect angels

1Ti 5:21 I solemnly command you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels to obey these instructions without taking sides or showing favoritism to anyone.

Elect people

Col. 3:12a Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, ...

Jas 2:5 Listen to me, dear brothers and sisters. Hasn't God chosen the poor in this world to be rich in faith? Aren't they the ones who will inherit the Kingdom he promised to those who love him?

Who does not choose?

Double pre-destination (not mere passing over, but before time chose to consider them according different but just standards)

Reprobate angels

Mt 25:41 Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, 'Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons.

Reprobate people

Pro 16:4 The LORD has made everything for his own purposes, even the wicked for a day of disaster.

1Pe 2: 8 And, "He is the stone upon which people stumble, the rock over which they fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

How in the world can this be just?

Isa 29:16 You turn things upside down! Shall the potter be regarded as the clay, that the thing made should say of its maker, "He did not make

me"; or the thing formed say of him who formed it, "He has no understanding"?

Rom. 9:14-18 14 What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! 15 For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." 16 So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. 17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." 18 So then [God] has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.

How safe and secure am I?

Completely! Election is solely God's choice!

Isa 64:8 But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.