



FIRST BAPTIST
MERIDIANVILLE
REAL. FAMILY.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

THE
BAPTIST
FAITH &
MESSAGE
2000

Baptist Faith and Message 2000

God's Purpose of Grace

“Election”

Article V



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God's Purpose of Grace

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; **yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.**

Key Verses

Jeremiah 1:4-5: “Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”

Jeremiah 31:3: “The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.”

Matthew 24:22: “And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.”

Matthew 24:31: “And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”

Key Verses

John 6:44-45: “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall all be taught by God.” Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.

Key Verses

John 10:27-29: “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand.”

Key Verses

Romans 8:28-30: “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”

Key Verses

2 Timothy 2:10: “Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”



Major Theological Observations

“Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He **regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies** sinners.”

“We have a tendency to back away from the word “predestination,” to hesitate before the word “election,” but not so with God, and not so with the Word of God. They are words much used. It is a revelation employed and it is a truth of God, functional, on which this earth stands and by which the Kingdom of God abides forever.”

-W.A. Criswell

“Election (eklegomai in Greek) means, “to chose out for oneself.”

- The New Testament frequently used the adjective “elect or chosen” (eklektos) to refer to God’s people – the elect (Rom. 8:33; Col. 3:12; Titus 1:1; 1 Pet. 1:1).

- God graciously chooses undeserving Israel to be His people (Deut. 4:37; 7:6).
- God graciously chose individuals to serve in various roles. (Acts 9:15).
- God's choice, initiative, and plan related to salvation (Eph. 1:4; 2 Thess. 2:13).

Major Theological Observations

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<p style="text-align: center;">Hard Determinism</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Compatibilism, (usually held in the form of Soft Determinism)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Indeterminism (sometimes known as 'Libertarianism')</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Determinism is true & incompatible with belief in free will. ▪ Belief in free will is false, as is belief in moral responsibility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Determinism & belief in free will are compatible. ▪ Given Soft Determinism, both are true. ▪ So free actions are determined. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Determinism & belief in free will are incompatible. ▪ The former is false & the latter is true. ▪ Free actions are not determined.

Table of Stances

Hard Determinism	Compatibilism, (usually held in the form of Soft Determinism)	Indeterminism (sometimes known as 'Libertarianism')
<p>The unconditional and loving choice of God by which He <u>determined who must believe</u>. Election is the cause of man's faith.</p>	<p>Election is the unconditional and loving choice of God by which He determined who will believe. Election is the cause of man's faith and yet it is <u>consistent with free agency/human responsibility</u>.</p>	<p>Election is the conditional choice of God by which He determined who would be saved <u>based on His foreknowledge</u> of who will exercise faith. <u>Election is the result of man's faith</u>.</p>

Compatibilism- God's decreeing everything that happens is compatible with people acting freely and being morally responsible for their actions.

Harmonization of God's Sovereignty and Man's Moral Accountability.

Compatibilism

One Action - Two Intentions

The intention of God – The intention of Man

Key Verses for Compatibilism

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

Gen. 50:20



Key Verses for Compatibilism

Isaiah 10

Key Verses for Compatibilism

This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. – Acts 2:23

Major Theological Observations

“It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.”

Conditional Election is works based

Unconditional Election is Grace Based.

Eph 2:4-10

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **9** not a result of works, so that no one may boast.