

The sovereignty of God co-exists with the free will that God created in each person. God sent Jesus to die on the Cross and whoever believes in Him shall have eternal life. It is His desire that no one perish. Yet it is God who chooses us and not we who choose Him. When He calls us, we must decide to receive Him or reject Him. Election is God's initiative and therefore it cannot be simply defined as God knowing in advance the reaction of people to His will. God in His righteousness must follow through with judgment and therefore there are eternal penalties for failure to repent.

- John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.
- 2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.
- John 6:44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.
- 2 Tim 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.
- Eph 1:11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,
- Col 3:12 Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;
- 1 Thess 1:4 knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God.
- 1 Peter 1:2 elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.
- Rom 8:29-30 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.
- Rom 2:5-9 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who "will render to each one according to his deeds": eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek;

Discussion Item 1: *How do you view yourself as chosen by God? How does this humble you toward witnessing to non-believers?*

Discussion Item 2: *How sovereign is God in your life?*

Life Application: *If you have trusted God for your salvation, apply the same trust in God for your daily problems and allow Him to be Lord of your life.*

Helpful Definition:

predestined- established or prearranged unalterably; To decree beforehand; to foreordain. (WordNet)

justified – To free (a human being) of the guilt and penalty attached to grievous sin. Used only of God. (Webster)

Notes:

Proverb 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;

Psalms 105:43 He brought out His people with joy, His chosen ones with gladness.