

Friday Men in Christ – Election – with Gary Henecke DD

Time – Eternity – Fulness of Time – Mind of God and the Fallen mindset

Who will bring any charge against God's elect **ἐκλεκτῶν** (BGT)? It is God who justifies. (Rom 8:33 NET)

What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was diligently seeking, but the elect **ἐκλογῆ** (BGT) obtained it. The rest were hardened, (Rom 11:7 NET)

Not only that, but Rebekah's children were conceived at the same time by our father Isaac. ¹¹ Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God's purpose in election **ἐκλογῆν** (BGT) might stand: ¹² not by works but by him who calls—she was told, "The older will serve the younger."

What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! 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 It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy. ¹⁷ For Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." ¹⁸ Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden. (Romans 9:10 -18 TNIV)

The Reformed doctrine of election, often referred to as unconditional election, teaches that God sovereignly chooses certain individuals for salvation based solely on his will and purpose, rather than any foreseen actions or merits on their part. This doctrine emphasizes God's grace and the belief that without his intervention, no one would be able to choose him due to the total depravity of humanity. (predetermined - predestined)

God does not foresee an action or condition on our part that induces Him to save us. Rather, election rests on God's sovereign decision to save whomever He is pleased to save.

Remember that the cardinal point of the Reformed doctrine of predestination rests on the biblical teaching of man's spiritual death. Natural man does not want Christ. He will only want Christ if God plants a desire for Christ in his heart. Once that desire is planted, those who come to Christ do not come kicking and screaming against their wills. They come because they want to come. They now desire Jesus. – R. C. Sproul

Romans 11:7 What then? Israel failed to obtain what it sought. The elect **ἐκλογῆ** (BGT) obtained it, but the rest were hardened, (Rom 11:7 RSV)

In the divine harmony of the eternal will of the Threefold - God is his choice to be who he is. God is free - completely free - to determine to be God only in union with us in the person of Jesus Christ. The eternal God as Son is, for his part, truly *obedient* to this divine will, determining himself and being determined for this particular union of God with humanity. His obedience was his own electing—his choosing to be incarnate, to be God-with-us—and his election, his being elected. And in his election we find the only ground of our own election, its promise, and its enacting in time.