



## STUDY GUIDE

### “ELECTION: GOD CHOOSES HIS OWN” “EFFECTUAL CALLING: GOD DRAWS HIS PEOPLE TO HIMSELF” (pg. 149-153)

#### **What is the Main Takeaway?**

The saving grace of God successfully draws His people unto salvation.

#### **What are the Potholes, the problems, the alternate views?**

- 1) Some believe that the doctrine of unconditional election defines God as capricious. How could God choose some for salvation, but not everyone? The sense is that God would be unfair to do such a thing.
- 2) Opponents to God's election of the lost would see a stifling of evangelism. If God elects His own, then why are there commands in Scripture to preach the Gospel?
- 3) Still others will cite an oft-repeated characterization that God's election makes humans “robots” with no freedom to choose or reject God.

#### **What are some of the Gracious Answers for those who may push back?**

- 1) Romans 9:14-15 “What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! For He says to Moses, ‘I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.’” Salvation belongs to the Lord. (Psalm 3:8; Jonah 2:9) He does not owe it to anybody. Every sinner is owed the just punishment of hell. The wonder of God's mercy and grace is that any of us would be recipients of it.
- 2) The doctrine of election is congruent with a robust evangelism. The God-ordained means of salvation is through the proclamation of the Gospel. After the clear teaching on election in Romans 9, Paul proceeds to Romans 10:14-17 *How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.* Because we believe that God is the Author and Finisher of our faith, we preach His given message.

3) Scripture teaches that we “*were dead in the trespasses and sins in which we once walked, following the course of the world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once led in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.*” (Ephesians 2:1-3) In our natural state, we would only choose to reject God. Apart from God making us alive in Christ it would be impossible for us to choose God. The effectual calling of the elect demonstrates the 100 percent success rate of those upon whom God sets His redeeming grace. “*And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*” (Philippians 1:6)

### **What Applications arise from this study?**

Acknowledge the sovereignty of God, the righteousness of God, and the grace of God. The temptation is to place ourselves in charge of these. The freedom we so desperately want to attribute to us solely belongs with Almighty God. As ambassadors of the King, proclaim the good news as His faithful servants. He will save His people for His glory. This enflames our witness.

*Sample questions could include:* “Does the doctrine of election offend our human sensibilities?” “How should we utilize the doctrine of election in our interactions with fellow believers? With unbelievers?” “Does the teaching of God’s effectual call bring you peace or discomfort?”

### **What are some Additional Resources?**

<https://www.gotquestions.org/unconditional-election.html>

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/election-unfair>

<https://www.gty.org/library/questions/QA184/does-god-love-the-elect-and-hate-the-nonelect>

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/effectual-calling>

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/qas/what-does-it-mean-to-be-called-in-the-new-testament>