



This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus. I am writing to God's holy people in Ephesus, who are faithful followers of Christ Jesus. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

Ephesian 1:1,2



³ All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes.

Ephesian 1:3,4

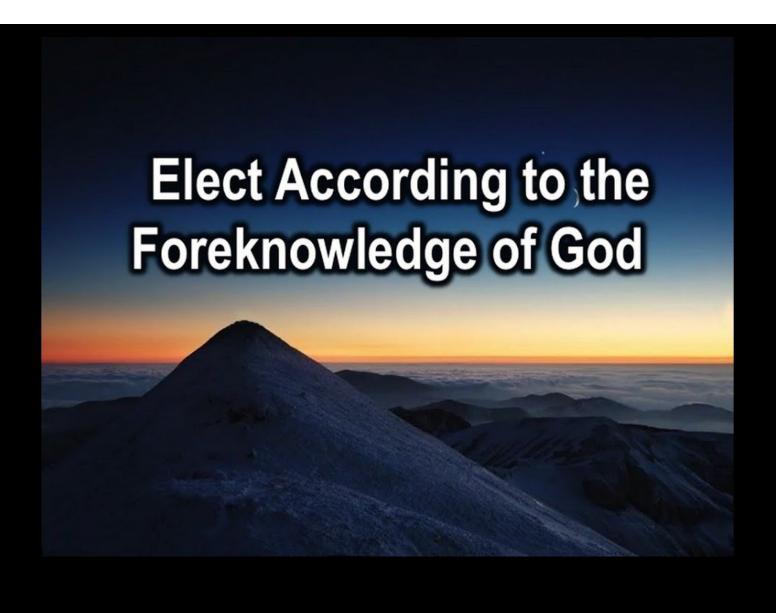
⁵ God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. Ephesian 1:5,6



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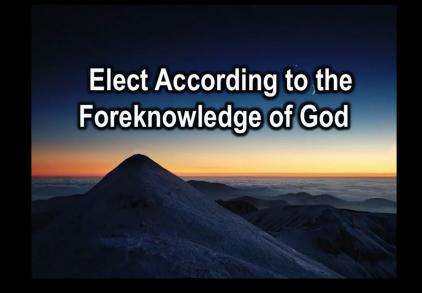


GOD'S ELECT



AUGUSTINE ON PREDESTINATION



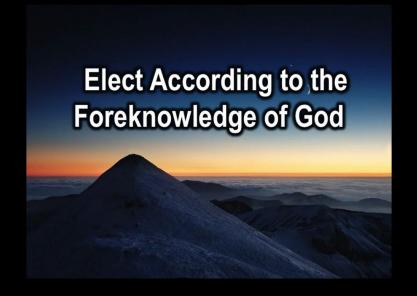


God can provide the way of salvation through Jesus Christ, but man must choose Christ for himself in order to make salvation real.

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God has control; He is the one who, of His own sovereign will, freely chooses those whom He will save.



For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. Titus 1:1

Elect According to the Foreknowledge of God

For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So, they have no excuse for not knowing God. Romans 1:20

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For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am. 1 Corinthians 15:9,10

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For no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me,... John 6:44

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When the Gentiles heard this, they were very glad and thanked the Lord for his message; and *all who were chosen for eternal life* became believers. Acts 13:48

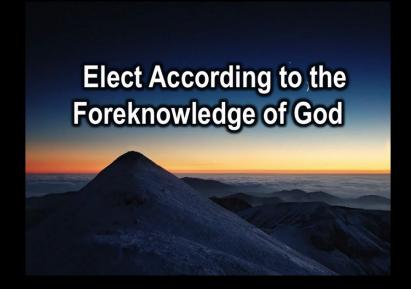
When Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.

2 Corinthians 4:4

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.

Romans 9:14-16

So, you see, God chooses to show mercy to some, and he chooses to harden the hearts of others so they refuse to listen. Well then, you might say, "Why does God blame people for not responding? Haven't they simply done what he makes them do?" No, don't say that. Who are you, a mere human being, to argue with God? Should the thing that was created say to the one who created it, "Why have you made me like this?" Romans 9:18-20



For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

Elect According to the Foreknowledge of God

(Jesus) himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world. 1 John 2:2

Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, ⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, ⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone. 2 Peter 1:5-7

8 The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble,

2 Peter 1:8-10

make every effort to confirm your calling and election. 2 Peter 1:10

⁸ The more you grow like this, ...

...you will never stumble, 2 Peter 1:8,10 And when people escape from the wickedness of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and then get tangled up and enslaved by sin again, they are worse off than before. ²¹ It would be better if they had never known the way to righteousness than to know it and then reject the command they were given to live a holy life.

2 Peter 2:20,21

Therefore, brothers and sisters... ²⁶If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left,... ²⁹How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, ... Hebrews 10:19,26,29

"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Matthew 7:13,14

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him - "should not perish" but have eternal life.

John 3:16

