

# The Calvinist Version Of Election / Predestination

The website for a baptist type church in my area says the following about what they believe – “The salvation of humanity is fundamentally the work of God. Before the foundation of the world, God elected His people, setting His affection and grace upon them ([Rom. 8:29-30](#)). In love, God predestined His people for adoption ([Eph. 1:4-6](#)). Faith is a gift of grace that is given by the mercy and pleasure of God, so that no one may boast. Apart from the intervention of God, humanity cannot choose of his own accord to worship God and pursue righteousness ([Rom. 3](#); [Eph. 2:1-3](#)). God’s sovereignty in salvation is comprehensive: from first to last, all of salvation is the work of God.”

Normally when people say “Before the foundation of the world, God elected His people,” they mean the Calvinist view of predestination – that God has decided from the foundation of the world the names (as opposed to the character) of who will and won’t be saved and so we don’t have any choice in the matter (Unconditional Election), and that Jesus only died for those thus chosen (Limited Atonement).

The Bible does talk about predestination but it is talking about how God chose the type of character of who would be saved, not the names, so that anybody who chooses to have a Godly character will be saved. Let me illustrate: In Judges 7:4-7 God **elect**ed those who would go into battle (300) with Gideon conditionally, based upon who drank water by putting their hand to their mouth, as opposed to those who got down on their knees to drink. So God chose His soldiers based upon something they decided to do. It is the same way with how God chooses who will be a Christian. From the foundation of the world God chose the kind of person that will be saved, anybody who is willing to serve God will be saved.

My daughter and I were talking the other day and she called Calvinism “**abhorrent**.” She is so right. According to Calvinism not only are certain ones picked for heaven not really having a choice because faith is forced upon them (“Faith is a gift of grace that is given by the mercy and pleasure of God” – a misunderstanding of the grammar in Eph 2:8-9), but others are destined for everlasting punishment with no chance to change that destination (no matter how much they want to serve God) because Jesus didn’t die for them. Let me say that again. Calvinism means if God didn’t choose your name before the foundation of the world, then Jesus didn’t die for you, and therefore it doesn’t matter how much you trust and obey Jesus, you can’t be saved. That doctrine is truly abhorrent.

The below verses against Unconditional Election and Limited Atonement are super clear to me ...

some of the many passages against the Limited Atonement:

**Hebrews 2:9** But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should **taste death for every man**.

**I Timothy 4:10** ... God, who is the Saviour of **all men, specially** of those that believe.

**I John 2:2** And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but **also for the sins of the whole world**.

**I Timothy 2:6** **who** (Christ Jesus) **gave himself a ransom for all** ...

some of the many passages against Unconditional Election:

**John 3:16** For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that **whosoever believeth in him** should not perish, but have everlasting life.

**II Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, ... but is longsuffering to us-ward, **not willing that any should perish**, but that all should come to repentance.

**Hebrews 5:9** ... he (Jesus) became the author of eternal salvation unto **all them that obey him**

**II Peter 1:10** brethren, give diligence to **make your calling and election sure**

**Mark 16:16a** He that **believeth and is baptized shall be saved**

**II Chronicles 7:14** If my people ... shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin

Those who teach this false version of Election always say “salvation is by grace alone through **faith alone**.” But doesn’t that directly contradict James 2:24 which says we are not saved by “faith only”? Wouldn’t the following passages also teach we are not saved by “faith alone”?

Matthew 7:21 "he that **doeth** the will of my Father ... shall enter into ... heaven"

Hebrews 5:9 "the author of eternal salvation unto all them that **obey him**"

I Peter 1:22 "ye have purified your souls in **obeying** the truth"

Revelation 22:14 “Blessed are they that **do his commandments**, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city”

II Thessalonians 1:8-9 "them that know not God, and that **obey** not the gospel ... shall be punished with everlasting destruction"

II Corinthians 5:10 "every one may receive the things done in his body, **according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad**"

Luke 6:46 "why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and **do** not the things which I say?"

John 14:15 “If you love me, you will **keep my commandments**” (NASB, ESV)

John 15:14 “Ye are my friends, if ye **do whatsoever I command** you”

Gal 5:6 “neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but faith which **worketh** by love”

Mark 16:16 He that believeth **and is baptized** shall be saved ...