

Election

For Women of Westminster
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Westminster Theological Seminary



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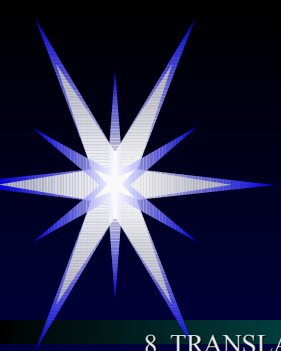
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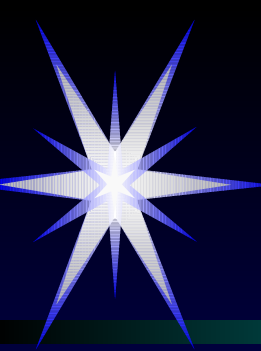
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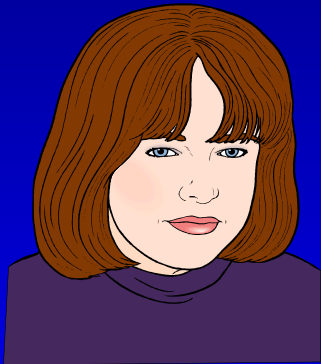
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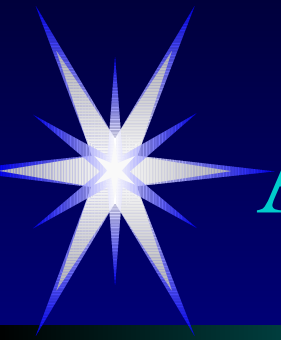
Challenge: Our Salvation

I must have done something good.



No, God loved you and had mercy on you.





A. Basic Issues

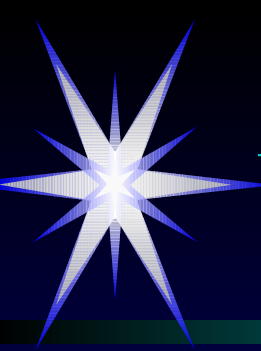


Praising God

Salvation belongs to the Lord!

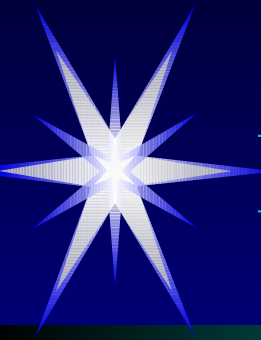
--Jonah 2:9

He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ... --Titus 3:5

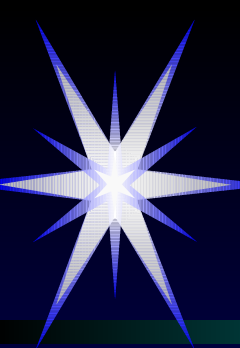


Not Crediting Ourselves

What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it? --1 Cor. 4:7



B. Terms



1. Election

- Election = God's choosing us to be saved.
- Not a political election, but God's initiative.
- The principle:
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, ... --Eph. 1:3-4
- Summary: God chose you from eternity to inherit the blessings of salvation in Christ.



Sample Verses

Who shall bring any charge against
God's elect? --Romans 8:33

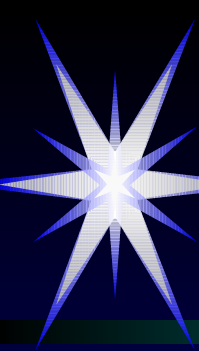
Israel failed to obtain what it was
seeking. The elect obtained it, but
the rest were hardened, ... --Romans
11:7



Sample Verses (more)

I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. --2 Tim. 2:10

To those who are elect exiles of the dispersion ... --1 Peter 1:1



2. Unconditional election

- No ifs. God does not have any condition that you must first meet, before he chooses you.
- The principle:
He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, ... --Titus 3:5
- Summary: thank God; don't congratulate yourself on your goodness, insight, or ability.



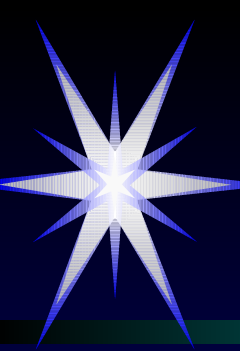
Sample Verses

What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it? --1 Cor. 4:7



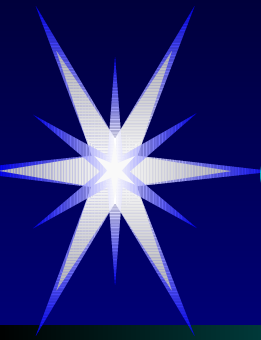
Sample Verses (more)

When Rebecca had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of his call—she was told, "The older will serve the younger." As it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated." --
Romans 9:11-13

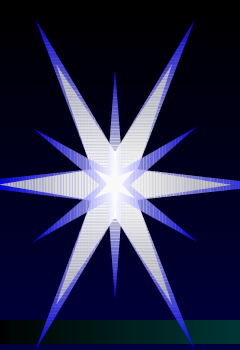


Is Romans 9 about Individuals?

- ▶ Jacob and Esau are individuals, representing a broader principle.
- ▶ General principle of God's control:
It depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. --Romans 9:16
- ▶ Encompassing individual destinies:
God ... has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory ... -- Romans 9:22-23



C. Old Testament Preparation



Jacob and Esau

Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples from within you
shall be divided;
the one shall be stronger than the other,
the older shall serve the younger.

--Genesis 25:23



Undeserving

Do not say in your heart, after the Lord your God has thrust them out before you, "It is because of my righteousness that the Lord has brought me in to possess this land," whereas it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the Lord is driving them out before you. --Deut. 9:4



Undeserving (2)

Not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart are you going in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations the Lord your God is driving them out from before you, and that he may confirm the word that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. --
Deut. 9:5



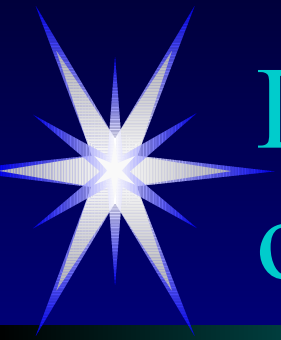
Undeserving (3)

Know, therefore, that the Lord your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stubborn people. --Deut. 9:6



Boasting in God

Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. --Jer. 9:23-24



D. Confirming the Doctrine of Unconditional Election



God's Priority

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world,
... --Eph. 1:3-4



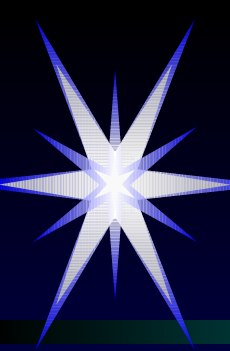
God's Priority (2)

... who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ... --2 Tim. 1:9



God's Priority (3)

... for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. --Romans 8:28-30



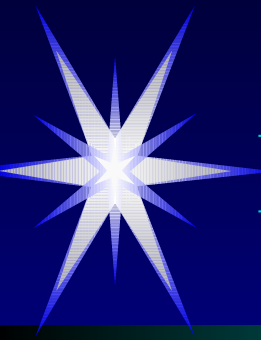
God's initiative

God

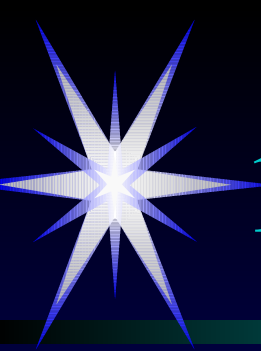
loves

you





E. Objections



1. Human Responsibility?

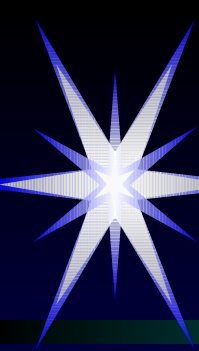
This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. --Acts 2:23



Objection Anticipated in Scripture

You will say to me then, "Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?" --Romans 9:19

But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?" --Romans 9:20



2. "Foreknowing"

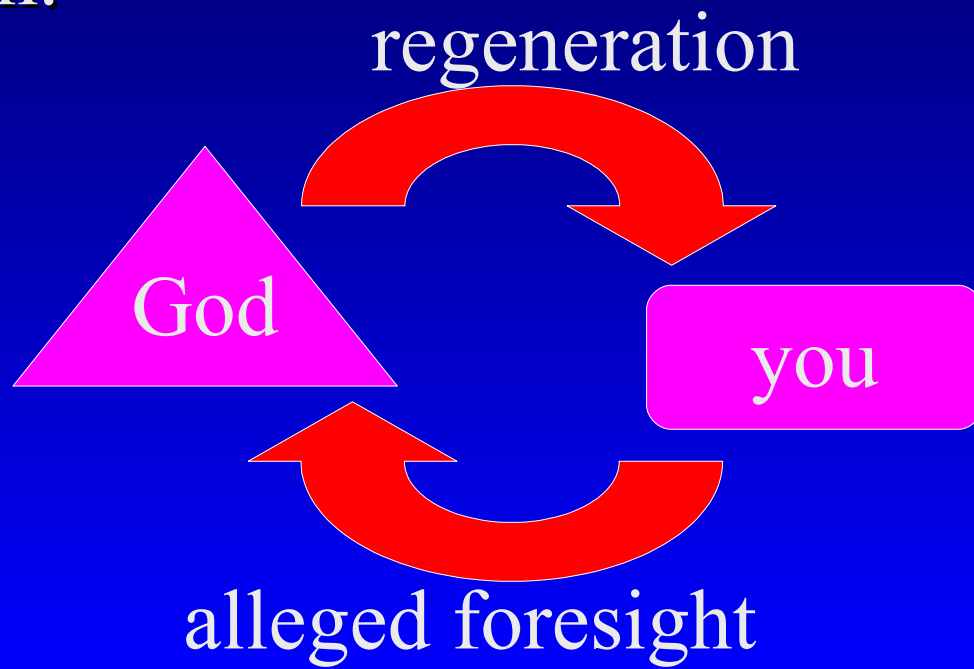
Theory: God's foreseeing that you would believe.

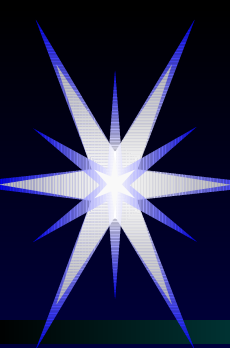
But

- God foreknew you (not "that you would ..."), Rom. 8:29.
- God foresees all facts (not just believing).
 - So it does not distinguish just some.
- "Foreknow" indicates God's initiative (1 Peter 1:20).
- "Foreknew" implies "loved beforehand."

Whose Priority?

- ▶ Making faith come first leaves human boasting.
- ▶ It does not explain how people come to have faith.





One-Way Priority

As many as were appointed to eternal life believed. --Acts 13:48

Diagram illustrating the structure of the sentence:

- Red oval around "appointed" with a line pointing to a red box labeled "God".
- Red oval around "believed" with a line pointing to a red box labeled "you".

Not:

As many as believed were appointed to eternal life. (can't find this)



One-Way Priority (2)

... in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of his call. --
Romans 9:11

Not:

... in order that God's purpose of election might continue, because of foreseen works. (can't find this)



One-Way Priority (3)

So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. --Romans 9:16

Not:

So then it depends on foreseen human will, not on God. (can't find this)



One-Way Priority (4)

We love because he first loved us. --1
John 4:14

Not:

He loved us because he saw that we
would love him. (can't find this)

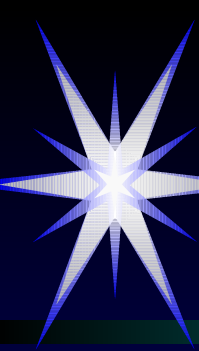


One-Way Priority (5)

What do you have that you did not receive? --1 Cor. 4:7

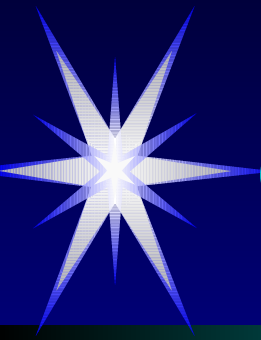
Not:

What do you have that you did not receive? Your faith. (can't find this)

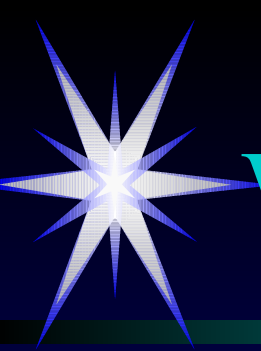


F. Practical Implications

- Praise God for your salvation.
- See how deep is his love, and how great his wisdom.
- Be humbled by your inability.
- Be secure in his love.
- Work with confidence (1 Cor. 15:58).
- Witness with confidence.



G. Confessional Formulation



Westminster Confession of Faith

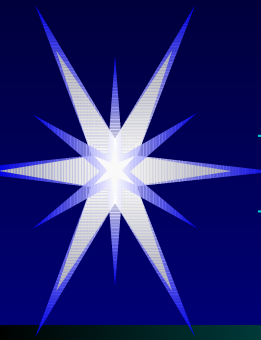
Those of mankind that are predestinated unto life, God, before the foundation of the world was laid, according to His eternal and immutable purpose, and the secret counsel and good pleasure of His will, hath chosen, in Christ, unto everlasting glory, out of His mere free grace and love, without any foresight of faith, or good works, or perseverance in either of them, or any other thing in the creature, as conditions, or causes moving Him thereunto; and all to the praise of His glorious grace. (3.5)



The Means

As God hath appointed the elect unto glory, so hath He, by the eternal and most free purpose of His will, foreordained all the means thereunto. Wherefore, they who are elected, being fallen in Adam, are redeemed by Christ, are effectually called unto faith in Christ by His Spirit working in due season, are justified, adopted, sanctified, and kept by His power, through faith, unto salvation. Neither are any other redeemed by Christ, effectually called, justified, adopted, sanctified, and saved, but the elect only.

(3.6)



H. Passing By



Not All Chosen

Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honored use and another for dishonorable use? What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory. --Romans 9:21-23



Helps

- Condemnation in judgment is based on sin.
- God leaves them in sin.
 - He does not have to save anyone.
 - It is mercy.
- God in loving the Son hates the enemies of the Son:

"I have loved Jacob but Esau I have hated"
(Mal. 1:2)