

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

John 6:26-40
Lesson #24
Divine Election
12/27/2015

*When we are filled
with the material blessings
of this life we can lose our
appetite for spiritual insight
and the true blessings.*



1

John 6

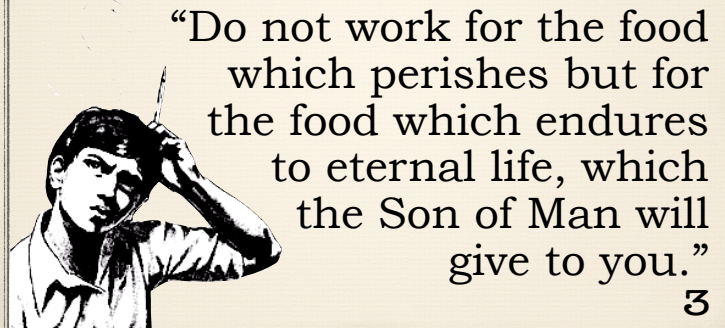
“²⁶ Jesus answered them and said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. ²⁷ Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on him the Father, God, has set His seal.””

Matthew 19:24

“It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

2

**If temporal, tangible blessings,
are not what we should be
working for then what is?**



“Do not work for the food which perishes but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you.”

3

Matthew 6

“¹⁹ Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; ²¹ for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

- **If it can rot, rust, break, or be stolen it is a poor source of abundant life.**

4

Matthew 6:33

“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

- **It's a matter of what we seek FIRST.**
- **The temporal, material things that are needed will be added later.**

5

John 6

"²⁸ They said therefore to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" ²⁹ Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."

- **The first step is FAITH.** Unlike the works of the Law, which were deemed meritorious.



The non Christian

The Christian

Works of the
FLESH

Works of the
LAW

Work of FAITH

Work(S) of FAITH

Self-serving deeds

Moral discipline under the Law

The means of union with Christ

Fruit of the SPIRIT

The "natural man"

Everyone "under the law"

The "saved person"

A believer walking in the Spirit

Paul found this to be contrary to grace, faith, and salvation.

Paul did not see this to be meritorious with respect to salvation.

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"³⁰ They said therefore to Him, "What then do You do for a sign, that we may see, and believe You? What work do you perform? ³¹ Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread out of heaven to eat.'"

Paraphrase

Moses gave us manna as a sign and provision. What sign do you give?

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"³² Jesus therefore said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world."

Paraphrase

The manna that came from Moses was perishable and temporal. The bread that I am offering does not perish but gives eternal life.

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"³⁴ They said therefore to Him, "Lord, evermore give us this bread.

³⁵ Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."

Paraphrase

They said we want the real thing. Jesus responded, "I am the real bread and you partake of it when you come to me and believe in me. This is what God asks of you.

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"³⁶ But I said to you, that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe."

Paraphrase

If you were the real Israel (the believing remnant), when you saw and heard me you would have recognized me as the Messiah, (the Bread of Life) but you did not see or believe.

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“³⁷ All that the Father gives Me shall come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. ³⁹ And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰ For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him, may have eternal life; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”

Verse 37 raises a theological controversy.

12

Does God choose those who believe or choose so as to enable them to believe?

Paraphrase

**I speak for the Father not myself.
All who believe in me are
given to me by God
and I will raise them
up to eternal life on
the last day.**



13

Does God choose those who believe or choose so as to enable them to believe?

Nearly all Christians agree that:

- There are mature Christians who differ on this point.
- There are things that we do not fully understand.
- God is sovereign, salvation is by grace alone, volition is at some level “free.”

This is where there is disagreement.

- The object of God’s election to salvation - individual or corporate (in Christ), unconditional or conditional (foreknown faith).
- The constraints on human freedom - absolute (from God) or relative (from nature).

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What is Divine Election?

**ΕΚΛΕΚΤΟΣ
EKLEKTOS**

**The Greek word means
“chosen” or “picked out.”**



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What is Divine Election?

- The mysterious, divine, choice of individuals or groups for a purpose.
- The choice can be corporate or individual, conditional or unconditional.

Israel Levites Paul Disciples

- It is a theological term applied to those who are saved by faith.
- Is that divine choice individual or corporate, conditional or unconditional?

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What is Divine Election?

Individual	Corporate
God chooses each person individually.	God chose Christ-all who choose to believe in him are included.
The grace to believe is given only to some.	The grace to believe is given to everyone.

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What is Divine Election?



Unconditional

Election is on the basis of God's free choice alone.

Conditional

Election is on the basis of God's foreknowledge of man's free choice.

(foresee) ⇒ elect ⇒ believe ⇒ saved
God's knowledge is tenseless.

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John 6 has been interpreted in different ways.

View #1 It applies to "All believers"

- God has chosen (elected) certain people to believe and they cannot but come to Jesus.
- The election of God for salvation is unconditional and individual.
- Those who are not elected will have no desire to "truly" believe.
- This is a mystery and a paradox alongside the "apparent" free will choices that people make to come to Christ in faith.

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Why do some Christians believe that election to salvation is unconditional?

- They believe that the sovereignty of God demands it.
- They believe that if "faith" is not an irresistible gift of God it is a work of merit and therefore inconsistent with salvation by grace apart from works.
- They believe that Scriptures clearly teach it.
Deut.7:6-10,15, 9:5, 29:4; Ps.65:4; Isa.45:4; Mk.13:20; Jn. 1:13, 6:37,44,65, 15:16, 17:2; Acts 2:39, 9:1-18, 11:17, 13:48, 16:14, 18:27; Rom.8:28-30, 9:10-26, 10:20, 11:5; Eph.1:1-11; 1 Cor. 1:1; 2 Cor.4:6; Phil.1:29; 1 Thess.1:2-4; 2 Thess.2:13; 2 Tim.1:9, 2:10,19,25; Titus 3:5; Heb.9:15; Jas.1:18; Jude 1.

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Passages from John 6 & 10 are used to support unconditional election.

John 6:44

"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, *"And they shall all be taught of God."* **Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to me.**"

John 6:65

"No one can come to me **unless it has been granted him from the Father.**"

John 10:3,16, 27

"the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. . . . **My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.**"

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If unconditional divine election is the basis of God's grace in salvation what might we expect?

- Evangelism would be simply proclamation of the Gospel (not argument, debate, etc.).
- Individual's rejection of Jesus would be accepted. (without sorrow or remorse).
- When believers waver in their faith there would be assurance of God's seal (not warnings about the need to abide in faith).

These observations do not disprove unconditional election, they just keep us from being too certain of it.

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Why do some Christians reject the teaching that election to salvation is unconditional and individual?

- They believe that if "faith" is not a "free" choice, ethics, justice, judgment, love, etc. are incomprehensible.
- They believe that the sovereignty of God is not compromised by it.
- They believe that the Scriptures that are cited in support of it may be explained in other ways.

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View #2 *It applies to "O.T. believers only"*

- Old Testament believers who had justifying faith like Abraham were a remnant in Israel. How would they respond when Messiah came?
- Some of these Jewish believers were no doubt present among the people to whom Jesus was speaking but most were not.
- Jesus knew that when true believers saw him, they would recognize him as the Messiah, and put their faith in him.
- Those who belong to God in John 6 are already justified believers like Abraham.

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What are we to take home from this?

- ✓ A basic **understanding** of Divine Election.
- ✓ A **respect** for those who **disagree**.
- ✓ A realization that we do not have all the answers and much is **beyond our purview**.
- ✓ A recognition that the issue is a faith response **to Jesus**:
 - Not a desire for **perishable blessing**.
 - Not an impulse to follow **tradition**.
 - Not a commitment to **ethical teaching**.
 - Not a need to have all the **right answers**.
 - Not a fear of **hell**.

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