

What If I Am Not Elect?

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You have heard the wonderful story of the Saviour and His love. You have seen yourself a sinner in need of such a Saviour and can hope in no other than the Christ of God and His finished work. But now you have been perplexed and even perhaps discouraged by this nagging question... **AM I ELECT?**

Take courage seeking one! This doctrine of election is no enemy or obstacle to your coming to Christ!

“Though the Spirit works saving faith only in the elect and others do not believe because they are not of Christ’s sheep (John 10:26), and on that account it is called the faith of God’s elect (Titus 1:1); yet *all that hear the gospel are obliged to the duty of believing*, as well as to all the duties of the moral law, and that before they know their own particular election, and they are liable to condemnation for unbelief, as well as for any other sin: ‘He that does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed on the name of the only begotten Son of God’ (John 3:18). The apostle Paul shows that the elect Israelites obtained salvation, and the rest that were not elected were blinded; and yet even these were broken off from the good olive tree, because of their unbelief (Rom. 11:7, 20).

“*We cannot have a certain knowledge of our election to eternal life before we do believe*; it is a thing hidden in the unsearchable counsel of God, until it be manifest by our effectual calling and believing on Christ. The apostle knew the election of the Thessalonians by finding the evidence of their faith that the gospel came to them, ‘not in word only but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance,’ and that they had ‘received the word in much affliction, with joy in the Holy Ghost’ (1 Thess. 1:4, 5, 6). We are to see our calling, if we would find that out that God has chosen us (1 Cor. 1:26, 27). Therefore, *we must believe on Christ before we know our election, or else we shall never know it, and shall never believe*.

“And it is no presumption for us to trust confidently on Christ for everlasting life, before we have any good evidence of our election, because God, that cannot lie, has made a general promise ‘that whoever believes on Him, shall not be ashamed’, without making the least difference among them that perform this duty (Rom. 10:11, 12). The promise is as firm and sure to be fulfilled as any of God’s decrees and purposes, and therefore it is a good and sufficient ground for our confidence. It is certain that all that the Father has given to Christ, by the decree of eternal election, shall come to Christ; and it is as really certain that Christ will in no wise cast out any that come to Him, whosoever he is (John 6:37). And we need not fear that we shall infringe God’s decree of election by believing on Christ confidently for our salvation, before we know what God has decreed concerning us for, if we believe, we shall at last be found among the number of the elect and, if we refuse to believe, we shall thereby wilfully sort ourselves among the reprobates, ‘that stumble at the word, being disobedient, whereunto also they are appointed’ (1 Peter 2:8).

“I shall add further that, though we have no evidence of our particular election before we believe, yet we are to trust on Christ assuredly to make it evident to us, by giving us that salvation which is the peculiar portion of the elect only. All spiritual saving blessings, with which God blesses His people in Christ, are the peculiar portion of them whom God has chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:3, 4); yet we must necessarily trust on Christ for those saving blessings, or have none at all. We are to pray in faith, nothing doubting, that God will ‘remember us with the favour that He bears to His people; that we may see the good of His chosen, and glory with His inheritance’ (Psa.106: 4,5). Therefore we are to trust assuredly on God that He will deal with us as His chosen people.

“Thus it appears that it is not presumption, but your bounden duty, to apply yourselves to the great work of believing on Christ for salvation, without questioning at all beforehand whether you are elected or no ‘Secret things belong to God, but those things that are revealed, belong to us, that we may do them’ (Deut. 29:29).”