

**Matthew 11:27:** All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son, except the Father; **nor does anyone know the Father, except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.**

**Election** is closely related to **predestination**, another concept clearly presented in the Bible. **Predestination** refers to the fact that God has determined the destiny of His chosen people from before the beginning of time.

**Acts 13:48:** And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and **as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.**

**Romans 8:28-30:** <sup>28</sup>And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who **are called according to His purpose.** <sup>29</sup>**For whom He foreknew, He also predestined** to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren; <sup>30</sup>and **whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.**

**Romans 9:22-24:** <sup>22</sup>What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction? <sup>23</sup>And He did so in order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, **which He prepared beforehand for glory,** <sup>24</sup>**even us, whom He also called,** not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles.

**1 Corinthians 2:6-9:** <sup>6</sup>Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; <sup>7</sup>but **we speak God's wisdom in a mystery,** the hidden wisdom, **which God predestined before the ages to our glory;** <sup>8</sup>the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory; <sup>9</sup>but just as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not, And which have not entered the heart of man, **All that God has prepared for those who love Him.**"

**Ephesians 1:12:** <sup>11</sup>also we have obtained an inheritance, **having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,** <sup>12</sup>to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

**Question #134:** Carefully read the preceding Scripture passages. Then in your own words, distinguish between the terms "election" and "predestination." \_\_\_\_\_

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**Election** and **predestination** are clearly biblical doctrines. This fact is rarely disputed; however, much controversy arises over questions such as:

- Who does God choose?
- Why does He choose them?
- Does He base these choices on some foreseen act or faith of people or on His own free and sovereign purpose?

These questions and more are addressed below.

### **Election is unconditional**

When we say election is **unconditional**, we mean that God's election of sinners to salvation is not determined by anything in the sinner that *merits* salvation, or any condition that needs to be met in the sinner that moves God to choose them. Scripture never speaks of election as something we deserve or earn. Rather it affirms that God's choice of us was motivated by His