

TITUS SERIES ONLINE

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# **Election and the Priority of Mission (Titus 1: 1-3)**

*1: <sup>1</sup> Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, **for the faith of those chosen of God** and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness, <sup>2</sup> in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago, <sup>3</sup> but at the proper time manifested, even His word, in the proclamation with which I was entrusted according to the commandment of God our Savior,*

# Election and the Priority of Mission (Titus 1: 1-3)

## Illustration

**Group A:** Why have you joined us? It is because I **chose** to join you. No, we don't want you in our group because it's all about "**your choice**". Please go join the other group.

**Group B:** Why have you come to join us? It's because I was **compelled** by group **A** to join you. No, we don't want you in our group because you were **compelled** to come. We want those who **choose** to join us.

The above reflects how the **doctrine of election** has divided the church. Group A is the typical **Calvinist** and Group B is the typical **Arminian**.

# **Election and the Priority of Mission ( Titus 1: 1-3)**

## **Two Predominant Views of the Doctrine of Election**

### **□ Calvinism ( Augustine to Calvin)**

- God has sovereignly preordained and predetermined everything that will happen in this life, including both good and evil. Human beings, responsible for their actions, yet actions are decreed by God.
- God has therefore predetermined to save some people (elect) and pour his wrath on some people (reprobate), regardless of their choices.
- Election is unconditional

# **Election and the Priority of Mission ( Titus 1: 1-3)**

## **Two Predominant Views of the Doctrine of Election**

### **□ Calvinism ( Augustine to Calvin)**

**T**- total depravity

**U**- unconditional election

**L**- limited atonement

**I**- irresistible grace

**P**- perseverance of the saint

**NB:** Not all Calvinists hold all these five points!!!

# Election and the Priority of Mission ( Titus 1: 1-3)

## Two Predominant Views of the Doctrine of Election

### □ Calvinism ( Augustine to Calvin)

**Defence:** God is free to do what ever He likes, He is not accountable to anyone.

**Problems:** Seems to make an evil monster out of a good God. How can God hold man accountable for sins when God has decreed sins into our lives?

-negative effect on evangelism prayer life & humility.

-contradicts many scriptures in the Bible

*Ezekiel 18<sup>23</sup> Do I have any pleasure in the death of the wicked,” declares the Lord GOD, “rather than that he should turn from his ways and live?*

# Election and the Priority of Mission ( Titus 1: 1-3)

## Two Predominant Views of the Doctrine of Election

### □ Calvinism ( Augustine-Calvin)

**Problems:** contradicts many scriptures in the Bible

*John 3<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life<sup>17</sup> For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that **the world might be saved through Him***

*1Tim 2<sup>4</sup> who desires **all men to be saved** and to come to the knowledge of the truth<sup>6</sup> who gave Himself as a **ransom for all**, the testimony given at the proper time.*

*2Pet 3<sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, **not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.***

# **Election and the Priority of Mission ( Titus 1: 1-3)**

## **Two Predominant Views of the Doctrine of Election**

☐ Calvinism ( Augustine-Calvin)

☐ **Arminianism (Jacob Arminius)**

- God did not predetermine the choices and actions of mankind. Human beings are free moral agents. God knows everything but he did not predetermine them.
  
- Salvation is the response of man to the saving grace of God. The wrath of God comes upon those who reject God's saving grace. They are not predetermined for the wrath of God
  
- Election is therefore conditional upon man's response to Christ.



# Election and the Priority of Mission ( Titus 1: 1-3)

## Two Predominant Views of the Doctrine of Election

- Calvinism ( Augustine-Calvin)
- **Arminianism (Jacob Arminius)**

**Defence:** God can only be God when He is free to act and also gives true freedom to man in order to respond to Him.

**Problems:** seems to limit God's sovereign power by an overemphasis of human freedom.

- seems not to recognise that true freedom is not independence from God.
- tendency toward legalism, though teaches prevenient grace.

# Election and the Priority of Mission ( Titus 1: 1-3)

## Two Predominant Views of the Doctrine of Election

☐ Calvinism ( Augustine-Calvin)

☐ Arminianism (Jacob Arminius)

**Problems:** deny certain parts of the Bible

*Acts 2<sup>23</sup> this Man, delivered over by the **predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God,***

*1Pet 1<sup>1</sup> Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are **chosen** <sup>2</sup> according to the foreknowledge of God the Father,*

*Romans 9<sup>12</sup> it was said to her, “THE OLDER WILL SERVE THE YOUNGER.” <sup>13</sup> Just as it is written, “**JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED.**”*

# **Election and the Priority of Mission ( Titus 1: 1-3)**

## **Two Predominant Views of the Doctrine of Election**

### **Pitfalls to Avoid**

- Arguments based on tradition or dogma (ideology) instead of textual evidence.
- Mistaking corporate election for individual election.
- Mistaking the glory of God for human glory.
- Reading the NT without any link to the OT narrative.
- Reading Paul without his Jewish background.
- Reading one attribute of God over the others.
- Conclusions based on logic/philosophy instead of textual evidence
- Non-relational understanding of God and the Bible.
- Failure to understand election in the light of mission (privilege & service)

# Election and the Priority of Mission ( Titus 1: 1-3)

## Election as Privilege and Service (Mission)

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### Election as Privilege

- Faith in Christ
- Knowledge of the truth
- Godliness
- Eternal Life

# Election and the Priority of Mission (Titus 1: 1-3)

## Election as Mission

**Titus 1<sup>9</sup>** holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so **that** he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

**Titus 2: 5b**--so **that** the word of God will not be dishonoured.

**Titus 2: 8b**--so **that** the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.

**Titus 2: 10b**--**that** they will adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect.

**Titus 2:<sup>11</sup>** For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,<sup>12</sup> **instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,**

**Titus 3: <sup>8</sup>** This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will **be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men.**

# Election and the Priority of Mission (Titus 1: 1-3)

## Election as Mission

We have been elected to a high privilege in Christ **so that** we can proclaim God's redeeming love to the world, in word and through our living. This is the mission of the church, the elect of God.

*1Peter2:<sup>9</sup> But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, **so that** you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvellous light; <sup>10</sup> for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.*

➤ **Particularity** of Election (privilege)

➤ **Universality** of Election (mission)