



## Who Chose Whom?

*“And those He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified.”*

Romans 8:30

*“If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.”*

Romans 10:9

The question is...

**Did God choose you or must you choose in Him in order to be saved, i.e., to become a child of God and to inherit eternal life?**

**Yes!**

1. **God must choose us in order for us to be saved.** Indeed, there are many passages in the New Testament that speak to this fact. Believers are there described as “chosen” (Ephesians 1:11; I Peter 1:2), “elect” (Matthew 24:22, 2 Timothy 2:10) and “predestined” (Romans 8:29, 30; Ephesians 1:5) for the purpose of salvation. Such teaching affirms our understanding that a) He is God (Romans 1:1-4), He alone can save John 14:6; I John 5:11-13), and c) He love us (Romans 5:8).
2. **We must choose God in order to be saved.** Indeed, there are many passages in the New Testament that speak to this fact. “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life,” (John 3:16ff.; see also John 1:12; Romans 10:13; I John 5:1). Such teaching affirms our understanding that a) we are sinners in need of repentance and salvation (Romans 3:23, 6:23; I John 1:9), b) we are not our own (I Corinthians 6:19, 20) and c) we love Him (Matthew 22:37, 38). Apart from the freedom of choice, there can be no true love; and this is what the Lord desires ... that we would love Him not because we have to, but because want to; i.e., because He first loved us (I John 4:19-21).

### **A Mystery**

The seeming contradiction in the fact that “God chose us, but we must choose Him in order to be saved” can be rightly described as a Biblical or theological mystery, i.e., a counter-intuitive concept clearly revealed in God’s Word, though not clearly understood or satisfactorily explained by finite minds or limited human perspective (Romans 11:13-16). Other theological mysteries include the fact that a) God is one, yet three, b) the Son is fully human and fully divine, and c) a virgin bore a child. Believers must embrace these concepts by faith, explain them in humility and express them in reverence, mindful that they flow from the mind and will of God. Indeed, He is not at all confused in such matters. Rather, in this case, it is He alone who understands the synergistic relationship between His sovereignty and man’s responsible choice, which then results in our salvation.

### **Our Response**

Such understanding of the fact that we have been chosen by God and predestined for salvation should produce within us a greater sense of significance (God has a purpose for my life, 2 Timothy 1:9) and security (I can know that I am saved, John 14:6; I John 5:13). In addition, it should motivate us to pursue God with increasing faithfulness, perseverance and love.

Knowing that men cannot be saved apart from their own free and responsible choice to embrace Jesus Christ by faith should motivate us to obey God in boldly proclaiming Christ to others in light of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19, 20).

Mark DeYmaz  
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