

# 4th & Stewart church of Christ

"...upon this rock I will build my church;  
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."  
~ Matthew 16:18



May 8, 2016 **HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY**

## Contact Us:

3201 4th Street  
Brownwood, TX 76801  
325-646-7102  
www.4thstreetcoc.org  
office@4thstreetcoc.org

## Meeting Times:

### Sunday:

Bible Study .....9:45 AM  
Worship .....10:40 AM  
Care, Inc. Service .... 2:30 PM  
Worship ..... 6:00 PM

### Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class.10:00 AM  
Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

## Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Billy Chism

## Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Don Smith

James Thomas

## Preacher:

Johnny McCaghren

## Works We Support:

Cherokee Home for Children  
Gospel Broadcast Network  
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)  
House to House, Heart to Heart  
Mission Printing  
Rohan Jones, Africa  
The Truth in Love  
World Bible School

## Calvinism III: Unconditional Election

The second doctrine of Calvinism, Unconditional Election, is based on the first, Total Hereditary Depravity. Calvinists say that since mankind is totally depraved and cannot respond in faithful obedience to the invitation of Jesus – people cannot choose for themselves to obey or disobey God – then God had to choose for mankind. Unconditional Election states that God chose some to obey and some to disobey.

Unconditional Election is the belief that God, with no regard to the will of man, made an eternal choice of certain persons unto eternal life and some to eternal damnation and that number is so fixed that it cannot be changed.

Rooted in Calvin's view of the sovereignty of God, Unconditional Election is also referred to as the doctrine of predestination.

This article will examine the doctrine of Unconditional Election by seeing how it is expressed by those denominations and individuals who promote it; defining predestination; analyzing the proof texts used to support it; and citing some Scriptural objections to it.

### Unconditional Election Expressed

*The Westminster Confession of Faith* states, "God has predestined and foreordained some men and angels to everlasting life out of His free grace and love without any foresight of faith or works in man or perseverance in either of them, and others are foreordained to everlasting death and the number of either is so certain and definite that it cannot be increased or diminished." (Chap. III, art. 3,4 &5; Chap. X, art. 2)

*The Confession of Faith of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.* says, "God from all eternity did by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass ... By the decree of God, for the manifestation of his glory, some men and angels are predestined unto life, and others foreordained to everlasting death. These angels and men, thus predestinated and foreordained, are particularly and unchangeably designed; and their number is so certain and definite it cannot be either increased or diminished." (Chap. III)

*The Baptist Confession of Faith of 1689* says, "Those of mankind who are predestinated unto Life, God, before the foundation of the world was laid, according to His eternal and immutable Purpose, and the secret counsel and good pleasure of His will, hath chosen in Christ to everlasting glory, out of His mere free grace and love, without any other thing in the creature as a condition or cause moving Him thereunto."

*Calvin's Institutes* states, "All are not created on equal terms, but some are preordained to eternal life, others to eternal damnation; and, accordingly, as each has been created for one or other of these ends, we say that he has been predestinated to life or to death."

### Predestination Defined

"The doctrine that the salvation or damnation of individuals has been foreordained by God; the determination beforehand of future events." (*Webster's Dictionary*, 1977 edition, p.289)

To understand predestination, one must understand the Greek word *proorizo*. This Greek word is translated three different ways in the King James Version of the Bible: "predestinated," "ordained," "determined before." It is translated "foreordained" in every occurrence in the American Standard Version of the Bible. It means, "To limit or mark out beforehand; to design definitely beforehand, ordain beforehand, predestine." (*The Analytical Greek Lexicon*, p, 345) It "...denotes to mark out beforehand, to determine before, foreordain." (*Vine's Expository Dic-*

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"Then Job answered the Lord and said: 'I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. You asked, "Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?" Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know'." **Job 42:1-3**



Let us know if you want to study  
the Bible to know more about  
Christ and His Church.

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tionary of New Testament Words, p. 307) A.T. Robertson says it means, "To define or decide beforehand." (*Word Pictures in the New Testament*, p. 517)

A summary from Scripture reveals that predestination refers to Jehovah's creation of man and His determination beforehand of the conditions through which man might live with Him eternally. It concerns the Father's predetermination that all people who meet His conditions would live eternally in heaven and all who refuse submission to those conditions would suffer eternal damnation.

### Proof Texts Used to Support Unconditional Election

Acts 4:28. Calvinists use this text to say that God purposed all things before the foundation of the world. One must ask, "What was 'determined before?'" The answer is the death of Jesus. Jesus' death had been prophesied as part of God's plan to save mankind (Luke 22:21, 22; Acts 2:22, 23). The Jews did not realize that they were fulfilling God's plan. God did not force them to kill His Son. They were accountable for their actions.

Acts 13:48. The argument here is that God, before the foundation of the world, appointed only certain individuals to life. This verse does not state that those who were ordained to eternal life were given it apart from their own will. Belief is made a condition to eternal life. Thus, as many as had been appointed put on Christ, or met the conditions. Reversing the sentence causes the true thought to be clearer: Those who believed became part of those who had been appointed to eternal life.

Romans 8:28-30. The argument from this passage is that God, before the foundation of the world, predestinated certain individuals to salvation. Under consideration in this passage are "those who love God" (v. 28), not just a few who God loves and "those who are called according to His purpose" (v. 28). One is not called by a still small voice or by a direct operation of the Holy Spirit but by the gospel (2 Thes. 2:14). Those who hear, believe, and respond in obedience are referred to as being "called" (Gal. 1:6; Heb. 9:15; 1 Pet. 2:9).

This passage is a statement of God's entire purpose and its succession of events. God determined to send mankind a Savior to die for all who would come to Him. Then He foreordained it all before the events actually took place. In that sense, God predestinated our salvation. God foreordained that anyone who accepted His call would be conformed to the image of His Son. It is the confirmation that is predestined, not the acceptance. Those who accepted the gospel call were then justified and glorified.

1 Corinthians 2:7. The argument from this passage is the predestination of God elected certain individuals to salvation. The context

shows clearly that it is God's plan of redemption that was ordained (predetermined) before the ages. The wisdom and power of God in reference to salvation are revealed in the gospel (Rom. 1:16). In times past it had been a mystery, i.e., not fully revealed. Even the prophets did not understand it (Note vv. 8-10). Now it is revealed as the wisdom of God (Eph. 3:3,4).

Ephesians 1:4, 5, 11. The argument is that certain individuals are predestinated and others are not and that if one was not one of those predestinated, he is eternally damned and there is nothing he can do about it. In reality, it is a particular **group** or **class** of people that God chose before He made the world. It is those who are "in Him," i.e., those in Christ.

- Verse 4a. The apostle Paul and the others were part of that class which God chose before the foundation of the world. Those "in Him" (this class or group) are the predestinated ones.
- Verse 4b. The kind of life these should live is predestinated.
- Verse 5. The adoption was predestinated.
- Verse 11. One is an heir of eternal life because he is a part of that predestinated group.

A school teacher, on the first day of class, told his students that some would pass and some would fail the course they were about to take. He then described the things necessary for one to be of those who would pass. At the end of the school year, just as the teacher had said, some passed and some failed. Since the teacher predestinated the outcome before he began, did it mean that he caused each individual to either pass or fail and that there was nothing they could do about it? No. Likewise, God predestinated before He made the world that He would choose those "in Christ" and revealed those things necessary for one to be in Him. It is therefore up to each individual to do those things necessary to be found in Christ and have salvation.

### Scriptural Objections to Unconditional Election

**God has given mankind freedom of choice.** He gave Adam and Eve the freedom of choice (Gen. 2:16-17). Their choice was plain – obey and live or disobey and die. Their choice was made through and by their own will having been influenced by Satan. Who is willing to say that since God foreknew the outcome that He forced or ordained Adam and Eve to sin (James 1:13-14)? Mankind today still has freedom of choice (Josh. 24:15). People can choose today whether or not they will serve God (Rev. 22:17). Both the Psalmist (Psa. 119:30) and Mary, the sister of Martha (Luke 10:42), are examples of this principle.

**God is impartial – no respecter of persons** (2 Chron. 19:7; Acts 10:34-35; Rom. 2:11; 1 Pet. 1:17). If Unconditional Election is true then God has indiscriminately condemned those who will be eter-

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### Television

The Truth In Love (Robert Dodson)

Sunday @ 7:00am on KTAB

In Search of the Lord's Way (Phil Sanders)

Sunday @ 7:30am on KTAB

Life In The Light (Chris McCurley)

Sunday @ 10:30am on KTAB

### Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)

Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

### Internet

TheGospelRadioNetwork.org

Gospel Broadcasting Network (Gbnv.org)

### God's Plan for Redeeming Man

**Hear** Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).

**Believe** Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)

**Confess** Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)

**Repent** of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)

Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being **baptized** for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)

**Live faithfully** (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)

### Bible Reading Schedule

<b>May 8</b>	<b>Acts 19-21</b>
<b>May 9</b>	<b>Acts 22-24</b>
<b>May 10</b>	<b>Acts 25-26</b>
<b>May 11</b>	<b>Acts 27-28</b>
<b>May 12</b>	<b>Romans 1-3</b>
<b>May 13</b>	<b>Romans 4-6</b>
<b>May 14</b>	<b>Romans 7-9</b>
<b>May 15</b>	<b>Romans 10-12</b>

*"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."*

(2 Timothy 2:15)



### Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Each Sunday night immediately before the evening worship. Last week **16 contacts** were made.

### Announcements

- ◆ **Men's Day @ Hamlin Saturday.** Any men who would like to go, let Johnny know today so he can RSVP.
- ◆ The ladies will have a meeting next Sunday morning after services to begin planning for our Ladies' Day this fall.
- ◆ The work on the building is just about finished, and looks great! There is still some work to be completed in the back, then everything can be put back in its place.

### Upcoming Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ August 9—We host area Summer Youth Series.
- ◆ October 16-19—Fall Gospel Meeting with Jacob Rutledge.

### Other Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ **May 14—Men's Day @ Hamlin (Mike Bonner)**
- ◆ May 21—Ladies Day @ Hamlin (Evelyn Bonner)
- ◆ June 26-30—Junior Camp
- ◆ July 17-22—Senior Camp
- ◆ August 5-7—Discipleship University—Dripping Springs, TX.
- ◆ August 19-25—Polishing The Pulpit—Sevierville, TN.
- ◆ Sept. 16-18—5th & Grape Lectureship
- ◆ Oct. 1—Ladies Day @ Dublin.
- ◆ Oct. 6-8—Texas Ladies for Christ Retreat [Brady]
- ◆ Oct. 9-12—Lubbock Lectures
- ◆ Oct. 27-29—ACS Class: *"The Bible and Archaeology"* (Dewayne Bryant)—Dripping Springs, TX

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nally damned while favoring those who are of His elect. Calvinists who insist that since God is sovereign and can arbitrarily choose who to save do not realize that if God were to do that He would violate His own nature for He is also just (Psa. 89:14). God has not exempted anyone from the opportunity to obtain eternal life (1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9).

**Salvation is not wholly dependent on God.** The origin of salvation is utterly dependent on Him (Eph. 2:4-10). The reception of salvation is dependent on man (Rev. 22:17; Phil. 2:12). The reception of salvation comes through meeting the conditions God has provided through His grace. God placed on man the responsibility of obtaining the salvation which He foreordained or predestinated. God foreordained the gospel (1 Cor. 2:7-8; 2 Tim. 1:9-10) but man must obey it in order to receive the benefits of it (1 Pet. 4:17). God predestinated that Christ should die for man (1 Pet. 1:20; Rev. 13:8), but man must obey Him to receive His blessings (Heb. 5:9). God foreordained that redemption would be in Christ (Eph. 1:4-7) but man must do those things to be found in Him (Gal. 3:26-27). The church was predestinated (Eph. 3:9-11) but one must be baptized into it to be a part of it (1 Cor. 12:13). God wants all persons saved (1 Tim. 2:3,4; 2 Pet. 3:9). He has not arbitrarily doomed any individual without giving him a chance at eternal life.

**Unconditional Election nullifies the great commission** (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16). Nothing could be more foolish than to preach the gospel to all if only people whom God arbitrarily chooses are able to understand it. If nothing can change anyone's status in relation to salvation or condemnation, why preach it? Why warn people to flee from the wrath to come (Matt. 3:7)? If they are elect, they will not incur the wrath of God regardless of what they do or do not do. If they are not elect, they cannot flee anyway. Unconditional Election nullifies the universal invitation of Christ (Matt. 11:28-30; Rev. 22:17). Why would Jesus plead with people to do the impossible?

### Conclusion

The Bible does teach predestination but not the Unconditional Election that Calvinists teach. It does not teach that individuals have been foreordained to life or death no matter what they do. It states that we are free moral agents with the ability to accept or reject God's commandments thus determining whether we will ultimately be saved or lost.

The predestination or foreordination of God determined that He would save sinful man through the sacrifice of His Son. Those who would respond to the gospel, His power unto salvation (Rom. 1:16), and its call (2 Thes. 2:14) would become part of His elect. Those who reject the gospel and its message would be damned eternally. God will render judgment on all in the final day based on what they have done. The righteous will have life. The wicked will face the second death. Each person, not the predestination of God, determines what his/her destiny will be (Rom. 2:3-11).

**Gene Taylor** ([www.centervilleroad.com/articles/calvinism-3.html](http://www.centervilleroad.com/articles/calvinism-3.html))

## Celebrate

*"Rejoice with those who rejoice..." (Romans 12:15)*

**May Birthdays:** Ian Barnum (5), Rosa Fuller (6), **Barbara Bannister (10), Pam Teague (14), Nita Boyd (14)**, Caitlin Barnum (15) Billy Chism (15), Zelma Leslie (16), Peg Moore (17), Gracen Hardy (30).

**May Anniversaries:** Joe & Lasha Dennis (6), Ryan & Tammy Rudloff (7).

*Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...*



## Records

	Apr. 24, 2016	May 1, 2016
Bible Class	44	48
AM Worship	62	63
PM Worship	43	51
Wednesday PM	37	34
Contribution	\$2,495	\$2,125

# Privileged To Serve

"...be ready to every good work" (Titus 3:1)

This Week: 5/8/16		Next Week: 5/15/16		<b>May 2016</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Don Smith <b>Prepare Communion:</b> Joe Dennis Family <b>Clean Building:</b> John Barnum Family <b>Hostess Committee:</b> Jessica Stultz's group  <b>June 2016</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Ken Maninger <b>Prepare Communion:</b> James & Cindy Fuller <b>Clean Building:</b> Huckaby / Bland <b>Hostess Committee:</b> Jessica Stultz's group
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
<b>Greeters</b>	Tom Wilcox / Hank Wheeler	Allen & Linda Griffith		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Allen Griffith	John Barnum		
<b>Communion</b>	Gene Bannister*, Randy Huckaby James Thomas, Ryan Rudloff	Tom Wilcox*, Allen Bland Don Smith, Larry Petty		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	John Barnum	Allen Griffith		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Ian Barnum	Jaceten Evetts		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Joe Dennis		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Mike Bannister	Gene Bannister		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Tom Wilcox	James Fuller		
<b>Communion</b>	Gene Bannister	Tom Wilcox		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Don Smith	James Thomas		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	May 11 Prayer Night	May 18 Tom Wilcox	May 25 Don Smith	June 1 Prayer Night

## Search the Scriptures

*Be like the Bereans who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)*

### Studies for the week of May 8, 2016

Sunday Class ..... Acts 27:9ff: Paul in the Hands of Enemies  
Wed. Class ..... Man's Problem—Sin; God's Solution—Jesus Christ

<p><b><u>God Is Omnipotent (All Powerful)</u></b></p> <p>I. God shows His power on three levels: cosmic, corporate, personal.</p> <p>A. <u>Cosmic</u> obviously serves as the greatest display of God's power.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth".                     <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. With no pre-existent materials with which to work – God executed the divine blueprint for a sprawling universe.</li> <li>b. "Is there anything too hard for Me?" (Jer. 32:27).</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>B. God demonstrates His power on the <u>corporate</u> level with His people.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. One particularly noteworthy case is the exodus from Egypt.</li> <li>2. Egypt was one of the superpowers of the ancient Near East.                     <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. During this time it was believed that wars were fought on two levels: the human and the divine.                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) With Egypt ruling substantial territory in the Near East and the Hebrews serving as slaves – it was clear to the man on the street which side had the most powerful gods.</li> <li>2) The Ten Plagues were not only catastrophic disasters on the Egyptians – but also the triumph of Yahweh over Egypt's gods.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>C. God demonstrates His power is on the <u>personal</u> level.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Signs and miracles demonstrate the power of God.</li> <li>2. Jesus became God incarnate.                     <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. He was God – but He also experienced the full range of human emotions and experiences.</li> <li>b. The death and raising of Lazarus (John 11).</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>II. Omnipotent – But Not To Absurdity.</p> <p>A. We sometimes say God can do anything – which is not entirely true.</p> <p>B. God can do anything that does not go against His nature or violate His character.</p> <p>III. Sometimes Power Is Restraint – seen in the life &amp; death of Christ.</p> <p>IV. Our "Weak" God.</p> <p>A. We confess God's power is immeasurable – yet act quite differently.</p> <p>B. What do people do in the face of a weak God? Whatever they want!</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Less compulsion to do right – more temptation to do wrong.</li> <li>2. Man becomes the master – God the slave.</li> <li>3. No wonder many people perceive Christianity as weak – a weak God only makes us look pathetic!</li> </ol> <p>C. OUR GOD IS NOT WEAK – HE IS AN AWESOME GOD!!!</p>	<p><b><u>Commonly Held False Doctrines Concerning the Plan of Salvation (2)</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Baptism is Not Essential to Salvation</u></b></p> <p>I. Verses to consider.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. John 3:3-5 "...unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ... unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."</li> <li>2. Matthew 28:18-20 "Go...make disciples...baptizing them...teaching them..."</li> <li>3. Mark 16:16 "He who believes and is baptized will be saved..."</li> <li>4. Acts 2:38 "Repent, and...be baptized...for the remission of sins..."</li> <li>5. Acts 22:16 "Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins..."</li> <li>6. Romans 6:1-6.</li> <li>7. Galatians 3:27-29 "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ... And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."</li> <li>8. 1 Peter 3:21 "There is also an antitype which now saves us — baptism..."</li> <li>9. Acts 18:8 "...the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized."</li> <li>10. 1 Corinthians 1:17 "For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel..."</li> </ol> <p>B. Baptism is important...IF:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If...the great commission is important – Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16.</li> <li>2. If...salvation in the name of Jesus is important – Luke 24:47; Acts 2:38.</li> <li>3. If...receiving the remission of sins is important – Acts 2:38; 22:16.</li> <li>4. If...walking in new life is important – Romans 6:1-6; Colossians 3:1.</li> <li>5. If...calling upon the name of the Lord is important – Acts 2:21; 22:15; Romans 10:13.</li> <li>6. If...being in Christ is important – Ephesians 1:3,7; 1 John 5:10-11; 2 Timothy 2:1,10; Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:27.</li> <li>7. If...being connected with Abraham's promise is important – Genesis 12:1-3; Galatians 3:27-29.</li> <li>8. If...the new birth is important – John 3:3-5; Acts 2:38.</li> <li>9. If...obeying God's commandments is important – Hebrews 5:8-9; Luke 6:46; Acts 10:48.</li> <li>10. If...being saved is important – Luke 19:10; Mark 16:16.</li> <li>11. If...having a good conscience is important – 1 Peter 3:21; 1 John 3:20-21.</li> <li>12. If...the working of God is important – Colossians 2:11-12.</li> </ol>
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