

# PREVAILING LOVE

A STUDY ON DIVINE PREDESTINATION



# LEFT TO SELF

Clearing Misconceptions about the **Flip Side of Election**

# THE TWOFOLD DIFFICULTY

1. If God unconditionally and actively elects people to be damned, then His decree is fatalistic and the cause of damnation lies in God rather than the sinner.
2. If God's election is the cause of salvation for those He elects and at the same time is not the cause of damnation for those He does not elect, and these are the only two possible destinies, then there appears to be some form of divine special pleading (a logical fallacy).

# THE TWOFOLD DIFFICULTY

**1. Theological** Problem

**2. Logical** Problem

# The Theological Problem

Unbiblical Depictions of God and the Gospel

# The **Theological** Problem

If non-election is an exact opposite of election:

- 1) **Fatalism** – does violence to man's moral culpability and personal responsibility (no need for compatibilism)
- 2) Makes God the author of **sin**
- 3) Makes divine **justice** a charade
- 4) Makes the **gospel** offer disingenuous

# The **Logical** Problem

Election's Antinomy

# The **Logical** Problem

If God only predestines in love for salvation:

- 1) A non-election is an election by the rules of antithesis
- 2) To **not** elect one for life is to elect that one for death



# Logical Analysis

Chosen by God for **Salvation**

Chosen by God for **Damnation**

Is “chosen” the efficient cause of “damnation”?



# Logical Analysis

Chosen by God for **Salvation**

**Not** chosen by God for Salvation

BETTER

# Logical Analysis

Chosen by God for **Salvation**

Left to **Self**

CONCLUSION

# Logical Analysis

(A) electoral	chosen	not chosen
(B) moral	Christ	self
(C) judicial	redemption	retribution

# Logical Analysis

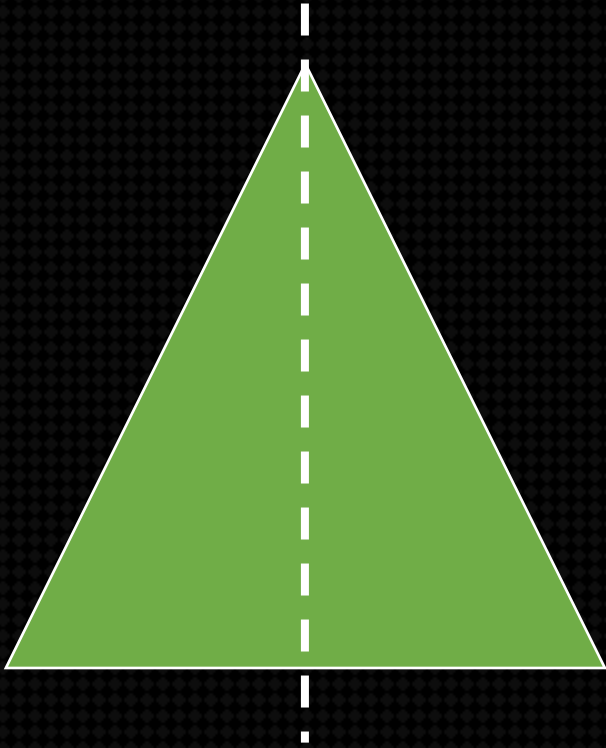
		Elect	Non-Elect
(A)	Divine <b>Initiative</b>	Actively <b>Chosen</b>	Left to Self
(B)	Human <b>Merit</b>	Actively <b>Imputed</b>	Left to Self
(C)	Divine <b>Reckoning</b>	Actively <b>Justified</b>	Left to Self

# Asymmetry

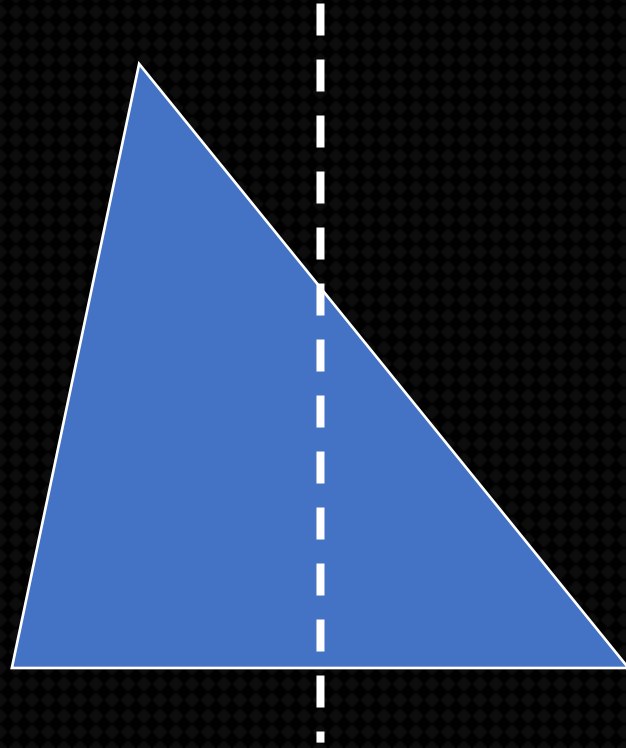
The key to understanding election and predestination

# Principle of Asymmetry

**Symmetrical**



**Asymmetrical**



The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.”

Exodus 34:6–7



He chose us in him before the foundation of the world,  
that we should be holy and blameless before him. **In love  
he predestined us for adoption** to himself as sons  
through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,  
to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has  
blessed us in the Beloved.

Ephesians 1:4–6

For the **wages** of sin is death,  
but the **free gift** of God is eternal life  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe **is condemned already**, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

John 3:18

He rejected the tent of Joseph;  
he did not choose the tribe of Ephraim,  
but he chose the tribe of Judah,  
Mount Zion, **which he loves.**

Psalms 78:67–68

His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather **his** wheat into the barn, but **the** chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.

Matthew 3:12

But the **free gift** is not like the **trespass**. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.

Romans 5:15

Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ...

Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

Matthew 25:34–41

And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.”

John 6:65



And those whom he predestined **he also** called,  
and those whom he called **he also** justified,  
and those whom he justified **he also** glorified.

Romans 8:30

And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.

Acts 13:48

I tell you, in that night there will be two in one bed.  
One will be taken  
and the other left.

Luke 17:34

# Themes of **Asymmetry**

# Biblical Themes of Asymmetry

Elect	Non-Elect
Adopted	No change
Atoned for	No change
Called	No change
Converted	No change
Convicted of Sin	No change
Forgiven	No change
Glorified	No change
Granted Faith	No change
Granted Repentance	No change

Elect	Non-Elect
Imputed	No change
Justified	No change
Preserved	No change
Purchased	No change
Reconciled	No change
Redeemed	No change
Regenerated	No change
Sanctified	No change
Saved	No change

# Biblical Themes of Contrasting Asymmetry

Salvation	Condemnation
Undeserved	Deserved
Grace	Justice
God delights	God does not delight
By substitution	By self

# **Theological** Considerations

# Key Doctrines

- The Justice of God
  - Principles of retribution
- The Grace and Mercy of God
  - The biblical emphasis
- "Passover" Salvation
- Predestination "in love" and "in Christ"
  - Book of Life
- The Glory of Christ