

Man's Plan and God's Plan (2)

God's plan of election"

Ephesians 1:9



Man's Plan of Salvation

Religion, created by man, is a plan of salvation through human deeds.

1. Judaism: rejects faith in Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God as revealed in the biblical law, and teaches that one is saved by the deeds of the Law of Moses.

Romans 9:30 "What shall we say then? The Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have obtained righteousness, that is, righteousness by faith.

9:31 But Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, did not attain to it.

9:32 Why? Because they pursued after them, as if by works, and not by faith. For they have stumbled at the stumbling block."

The teachings of pagan religions are,
salvation entirely through man's work

2. Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism and all other
pagan religions:

It teaches that one can attain Buddhahood and
be saved **through deeds** such as Nembutsu,
meditation, animal sacrifice, self-sacrifice, good
deeds, and idolatry worship.

God's elective plan for man's salvation

■ **God does not do all things without a plan.**

God had a plan to save sinful mankind through a wonderful plan in eternity past.

Isaiah 25:1 "You are my God, O LORD, I will praise You and glorify Your name.

For you have done wondrous deeds before, and you have fulfilled in truth **the plan that you set before you from of old.**"

2 Timothy 1:9 "For God has saved us and called us with a holy invitation, **not according to our works, but according to his own plan, and grace**, which was given to us in Christ Jesus from eternity past."

That plan of salvation was planned by God before heaven and earth were created.

Ephesians 1:4 "He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blemish,

1:5 For he hath predestinated us in love, according to the good pleasure of his will, that we should receive the sonship of God through Jesus Christ."

1:9 He has shown us the depths of His will **according to His own predetermined plan.**

1:10 It is none other than **His plan that will be fulfilled in the fulness of time. ...**

1:11 For we have been predestinated in Christ and chosen to be God's people for his purpose, who do all things according to his will."

Such **foreknowledge, predestine, and election of** God concerning our salvation is God's plan made possible by omniscience (all knowing) based on the love of Almighty God.

**It is indeed by God's grace that
we sinners are saved, through faith.**

Ephesians 2:8 “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.

2:9 Never by works, For no one boasts.”

God's Plan of election

■ The reason I was able to believe in Jesus was because of God's election and predestination behind it.

Acts 13:46 "Paul and Barnabas spoke boldly, saying, "The word of God had first to be spoken to you.

But **you have rejected it and made yourselves unworthy of eternal life.**

13:48 "When the Gentiles heard this, they rejoiced and praised the word of the Lord.

And **all who were destined for eternal life believed."**

Jesus' words about God's election

John 15:16 "You did not choose me, but I chose you. I have chosen you."

■ **How do we know God's election? :**

If we could hear the gospel and believe it, we would know that God had chosen such a sinner to be saved at that moment.

God already knew everything before heaven and earth were created, though.

Calvinist error

The Protestant Reformed (Presbyterian) Church teaches that the person was not saved because he was not chosen by God.

God has chosen some to be saved, but the reverse is also true: God has chosen some to perish.

Therefore, it teaches that Christ did not shed His blood of atonement for unbelievers who would perish. (**Limited Atonement**)

What does the Bible say?

Titus 2:11, "The grace of God that saves all men has appeared."

2:14 "**a chosen people** zealous for good works"

1 John 2:2 "He is an offering of atonement for our sins. **But not only for our sins, but for the sins of the whole world.**"

1 Timothy 2:4 "God desires all men to be saved and to come to a realization of the truth."

Acts 13:46 ... But you have rejected it, and have made yourselves unworthy of eternal life."

Perdition as self-responsibility

■ On the contrary, it is not God's election and predestination to go to eternal perdition by divine judgment for rejecting the gospel and not having faith in Jesus Christ,

For although the way of salvation is offered to all, they rejected the gospel of Christ and chose their own path of destruction at **their own risk**.

As it says, they "**have** rejected it [the gospel of Christ] and **have made themselves unworthy of eternal life**."

Acts 13:48 "And when the Gentiles heard this, they rejoiced, and did not cease to praise the word of the Lord. And **all who were destined for eternal life believed**."

Why is salvation by God's election and predestination?

■ Even faith presupposes God's election and grace.

1. for it is not for anyone to boast of himself.

We give thanks to God, thinking that everything is by His election and grace.

2. "I am but a nothing, a sinner. But all is only the grace of the all-knowing and all-powerful, loving God," to praise His glory.

Invitation to Salvation For Unbelievers

Do you think you can redeem your sins and save yourself by your works?

Psalm 49:7 "Truly no man can vindicate himself. No man can pay the price of his life to God.

49:8 For it is too costly to pay for his life, that he should live beyond and not see the grave."

■ Therefore, God sent Jesus Christ, the Redeemer, to purchase all your sins by the sacrifice of His precious blood.

If you reject this atonement of Christ, you are on your own account to continue redeeming your own sins in the eternal lake of fire.

- **Revelation 20:15**, "Everyone whose name is not written in this book of life was thrown into the lake of fire."
- **John 3:16** "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in **him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

Dear Believers

- Do you believe in Jesus Christ and think that you were saved by your own choice and plan, your own good works and power?
- No, it is not.
- Knowing that your salvation is entirely by God's gracious election, and that even your faith is by God's election and plan,
- Let us praise and thank the Almighty, loving God and serve Him faithfully.