

Ephesians Handout Week Four

We have to think about it. It's a view from above.

Undeniable common ground.

1. Is God all loving all the time? 1 Jn. 4:7-8, 1 Jn. 4:10, Ps. 36:5, Eph. 2:4

2. Is God completely sovereign over all things, at all times-having both power and control?

Isa. 46:9, Job 42:2, God is never

Prov. 16:4. Prov. 16:9,

Lam. 3:37

Providence of God: Combines both love and sovereignty. God's constant care for and absolute rule over all creation for His own glory and the good of His people.

Must ask yourself, is God loving and sovereign over all things or just some things.

Rev. 3:7

Back to Ephesians...

Eph. 1:3-6 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace....

What we know at this point-- God chooses. He always has. He chose before anything was made. His choice is not based on anything about us.

1 Jn. 4:19 IF we love this, why do we have trouble believing it in other areas.

The Big Objections

1. Free will: It's not that you absolutely cannot. It is that you absolutely will not.

Jn. 3:19

2. Doesn't God choose everyone?

3. That's not fair! Where this comes from...

-A place of love.

Enjoy and hurt at the same time.

-A warped sense of goodness and entitlement.

-A disordered idea of rank. Jn. 21:20 Rom. 9:14, 19

The Triangle

4. Why evangelize, then? Why pray? Election doesn't lead to this thinking and neither do any of the Biblical writers.

Mat. 28:16 Acts 18:10, 2 Tim. 2:10, 2 Tim. 1:8-9, Rev. 7:9

Prayer?

How did Jesus teach us to pray?

Great blessings of election.

-Anyone can get saved at any moment.

-We cannot lose our salvation. Jude 1:24, Heb. 7:25, Jn. 10:28, Rom. 8:29 ensures 8:38
1 Sam. 2:6, Ps. 139, Ps. 138:1

-We have no need for continual guilt for unsaved friends and family.

-We have infinite, eternal worth.

-No pressure club membership.

-No stupid pride/no comparison.

-Eternal security now. 1 Pt. 1:3-5, Rom. 11:29, 1 Pt. 5:10, Rev. 17:14

-Fearlessness. Rom. 8:31

5. Some seemingly bothersome verses and some admittedly bothersome verses.

It's a matter of exegesis-getting the meaning from the text as opposed to putting the meaning into the text.

World-Kosmos and all-pas

Jn. 3:16 For God so loved the world (kosmos) that He gave His only son.

1 Jn. 2:15 Do not love the world (kosmos) nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

2 Pt. 3:9 all who? 2 Pt. 1:1, 3:3 Now read 8-9 Patient toward...

1 Tim. 2:1-4

All without distinction but not all without exception. It's a very inclusive, exclusive club. Rom. 10:11

2 Cor. 5:14

And yet Paul still pleads... Christ's death on the cross is not vague and contingent. It is personal and effective.

Jn. 1:12

The famous Jn. 3:16

All people of the world without distinction, who, without exception, believe in Him will without fail receive eternal life.

This verse isn't about election. Salvation is still limited to believers. How one comes to believe is not addressed here.

Remaining difficulties. Antinomy Jn. 6:44 Jn. 5:40