

John 12:40 and Selected Scriptures
Election and Reprobation: What, When, Why, and Who Cares?

Current Mini-Series: “Why don’t they believe? A biblical theology of unbelief.”
What is meant in John 12:40, *For this reason they could not believe lest...?*

The particular love of God for His chosen ones is _____

9 Introductory Remarks (recap of 5/1/22 sermon)

- 1) Election and Reprobation are Biblical Doctrines that Must be Studied and Preached! Work hard!**
(Acts 20:27; 2 Tim. 4:1-2; Romans 9:6-24; Eph. 1:3-14; John 12:37-40; Matt. 22:37)
- 2) Certain Biblical Texts and Doctrines are “More Difficult to Understand.” Take heart!**
(2 Peter 3:16-18; 2 Timothy 2:15; Psalm 119:18; Ezra 7:10)
- 3) Good and Godly Saints Do Sometimes Disagree on the Finer Points of Theology! Be humble!**
(2 Peter 3:16-18; Colossians 3:12-14; Duet. 29:29)
- 4) God Justifies Undeserving Sinners by Grace alone, through Faith alone, in Christ alone. Rejoice!**
(Eph. 2:1-8; Romans 5:8-10; Titus 3:5-7; Gal.1:6-10; 1 Cor. 15:1-4)
- 5) Salvation is of the Lord Alone and Damnation Wholly from Ourselves.**
(John 3:3-10; Psalm 3:8; Mt 11:27; Romans 1-3; Rom. 6:23; 1 Cor 1:26-33; Heb. 9:27)
- 6) God is Meticulously Sovereign!**
(Ps. 115:3; Lam. 3:38; Amos 3:6; Prov. 16:33; Acts 2:22-23, 13:48; Job 1:20-22; Eph. 1:4f;)
- 7) At the same time, Man is fully responsible for his sin and unbelief! Be biblically balanced!**
(Acts 2:22-23; Romans 1:18-3:20; 9:30-10:21)
- 8) The Lord Never Turns Away a Truly Penitent Sinner (Who Comes on God’s terms)!**
(John 6:37; 44, 64-66; 1 John 1:9; Psalm 32)
- 9) There is No Injustice with God! He is the Potter, we are the clay. No one is treated unfairly by God!**
(Romans 9:6-25; Prov. 17:15; 24:12; Eccl. 12:14; Dan. 9:14; Rev. 20:10-15)!

Election and Reprobation: What, When, Why, and Who Cares?

<p><u>WHAT?</u></p>	<p><u>Election</u>- Eph. 1:3-14; Acts 13:48, John 6:44, 15:16; 1 Pet 1:1-4, Rom. 8:28-33; Titus 1:1-2; 2 Thess. 2:13; 1 Jn 4:10.</p> <p><i>Election has to do with Holy God _____ certain individuals to be the special beneficiaries of His sovereign _____ according to His infinite wisdom.</i></p> <p>“Christians, you who are vessels of election – were by nature as wicked as others – but God had compassion on you and plucked you as brands out of the fire! He stopped you in your course of sinning – when you were marching to hell! He turned you back to Him by sincere repentance. Oh, here is the banner of love displayed over you!” Thomas Watson</p>	<p><u>Reprobation</u>- John 12:40; Rom 9:6-23; Jude 4; 2 Thess. 2:11-12. Proverbs 16:4.</p> <p><i>Reprobation has to do with Holy God _____, and justly determining to punish, those whom He has decided in His sovereignty not to rescue from <u>their sin</u>.</i></p> <p>“The non-elect are simply left in their previous state of ruin and are condemned for their sin. They suffer no unmerited punishment, for God is dealing with them not merely as men but as sinners.” Non-elect sinners will one day face the just punishment their sins deserve. L Boettner.</p>
<p><u>WHEN?</u></p>	<p>ETERNITY PAST</p> <p>Eph 1:3-14; 3:8-11; Rom 9:23f; Rev 13:8; 1 Pet. 1:18-21.</p>	<p>ETERNITY PAST</p> <p>Romans 9:22; Jude 4; 1 Pet 2:8, Prov. 16:4;</p>
<p><u>WHY?</u></p>	<p>Eph 1:3-14, Ex 34:5-8; Rev. 5:9-14; Isa 43:7; 48:9-21; Deut. 7:6-8</p> <p><u>All of God’s Attributes are God-glorifying!</u></p> <p>“You are good, and what you do is good” (Psalm 119:68)</p>	<p>Romans 9:6-23, Exodus 4:13-23; 9:16</p> <p><u>All of God’s Attributes are God-glorifying!</u></p> <p>“Righteous are You, O LORD, and upright are all of your judgments” (Psalm 119:137)</p>

<p><u>WHY?</u> (continued)</p>		
<p><u>WHO CARES?</u> <u>(So What? Now What?)</u></p>	<p>Application/Implications</p>	<p>Application/Implications</p>

For Further Reflection/Application: *Lord help us to be “effectually doers” of the Word!*

How were you particularly comforted/encouraged/challenged as you listened to the word of God this morning? What do you want to study further as a result of today’s sermon?

Have you ever been troubled, saddened, and/or baffled over someone’s stubborn refusal to believe the Gospel? If it’s appropriate, briefly share the details with a fellow saint.

All of God’s attributes are God-glorifying! Explain the significance of this simple yet profound statement. “The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever!” How is God glorified in the salvation of undeserving sinners? How is He glorified in the judgment of unrepentant sinners?

Romans 9:6-23. Provide your own biblical definition of “reprobation.” Compare that with Pastor Caleb’s. Ephesians 1:3-14. Provide a biblical definition of “election.” Compare yours with mine.

After today’s message you should be able explain the What, When, Why, and the So What of Election and Reprobation. All of God’s Word is inspired and spiritually profitable. Thus, no biblical doctrine is insignificant or pointless (2 Timothy 3:15-17; 4:1-5). Theology is life! (Matt. 4:4; 28:18-20)

Review the “9 Introductory Remarks” (biblical principles) from last Sunday (see p. 1).

God’s reprobating activity is sometimes described in relation to Yahweh’s just response to human unbelief/sin (eg. Judges 2:1-5; 9:23-24; Psalm 81:11-12; Isaiah 6:8-13). Other times, the Biblical text highlights God’s reprobating activity in relation to Yahweh’s overarching plan to majestically display His power, holiness, and justice; (note Exodus 9:16; Romans 9:17; Exodus 4:13-22; 7:7:1-5; 13; 22; 8:15; 10:1-2; 11:9; 14:4, 7-18). God is who He is. “I Am.” He is worthy to be praised! Exodus 34:5-8.

The Bible has a lot to say about godless Pharaoh and Judas (the apostate) in terms of Divine Sovereignty and Human Responsibility. Concerning Judas (the betrayer) note Luke 22:3; John 6:64-66; Psalm 41:9/Jn 13:18/Acts 1:16; Matthew 27:4; John 12:4-6; Acts 4:27-28. One theologian noted, “In all the reprobate there is a blindness and an obstinate hardness of heart; and when any, like Pharaoh, are said to have been hardened of God we may be sure that they were already in themselves worthy of being delivered over to Satan. The hearts of the wicked are, of course, never hardened by the direct influence of God, --He simply permits some men to follow out of the evil impulses which are already in their hearts, so that, as a result of their own choices, they become more and more calloused and obstinate.” L. Boettner.

The doctrine of reprobation needs to be understood in relation to the doctrine of original sin/the depravity of man (Psalm 51:5; Eph. 2:1-3; Gen. 8:21; Prov. 22:15; Psalm 14:2-3; Jeremiah 13:23; 17:9; Col. 1:21). Remember what I’ve taught you the past 5 years concerning post-fall, pre-conversion man; (we won’t understand the finer points of salvation/election/reprobation if we do not have a biblical anthropology).

When talking about Jesus, salvation, and Israel’s hard-hearted rejection of her Messiah BOTH John and Paul mention ELECTION and REPROBATION! Why? Because you cannot really understand why *some sinners* (note Eph. 2:1-8) *believe* the Gospel and *why most sinners don’t* if you ignore these twin doctrines! What question do you wrestle with the most: Why didn’t God choose to save everyone? The more mysterious question is actually, why did Holy God decide to save anyone, especially, someone like me? 1 Timothy 1:12-17. “Amazing Grace...that saved a wretch like me!” Undeserved kindness!

Related passages John 12:37-43; 5:40; 6:37-66; Matthew 25:41; Acts 13:48; 28:25-31; Romans 3:1-5; 8:1; Romans 9:6-24; Isaiah 45:9-11; 2 Thess. 2:11-12; 2 Tim. 2:10; 1 Peter 2:1-12; Rev. 13:7-8; 20:11-15.

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