

Biblical Reasons to Dismiss the Unconditional Election Doctrine

(U) – Unconditional Election

Matthew 11:25-27 (no one knows the Son except the Father)

Matthew 11:25-27

25. At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from [the] wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes.

26. "Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.

27. "All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and [the one] to whom the Son wills to reveal [Him].

1. no one knows the Son except the Father

i. To know the Father, Jesus must reveal Himself to you.

a) Jesus' ministry was partially veiled to the public, but since His resurrection, He has revealed Himself at a much larger level

b) The next verses demonstrate that part of Him revealing Himself to people is for them to step forward in faith, taking His yoke upon them, so Jesus does expect something from people.

c) There are conditions for knowing God.
Jesus chooses to reveal God the Father to those who come to Him.

d) Jesus does not say here on what basis He wills to reveal the Father to some and not to others. This is not necessarily an unconditional election that Jesus is talking about.

ii. No one can know Jesus in all His fullness except God the Father.

a) Also, only the Father knows the Son fully.

b) This should get us to realize that one's theology doesn't have to 100% be where we think it needs to be in order for them to be right with God, since we can't "know" everything about God the Father anyway, according to Jesus.
And whatever is revealed is through what Jesus reveals.

2. Total Depravity?

i. If people are totally unable to come to God in faith without being born again as Calvinism holds, then why does Jesus have to hide anything from any person's eyes if they are unable to come to faith in Him to begin with?

This is one of the double-speak problems in Calvinism; if their view is true, God does some really weird things that don't make sense.

It would be like shooting a dead deer after it has been dead for a week – why?

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Make sure your election is sure

2 Peter 1:1 (God gives faith)

2 Peter 1:1

1. Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, **To those who have obtained like precious faith with us** by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

1. The Greek word for knowledge that Peter uses is "epigenosco", which is thorough, complete, full knowledge of something.
 1. Otherwise, "ginoski" means to know something, but not with full knowledge.
2. **To those who have obtained like precious faith with us** means 2 Peter is written to Christians.
3. **Obtained ... faith**
 1. Is a pro-Calvanist proof-text verse.
This goes along the concept that faith is a gift.
 2. Steve Gregg Commentary:
"Calvinists would say that God has unconditionally elected certain people to be saved, and those people that he has elected he has given faith to, and repentance. And that without having been given faith and repentance by God, a person would have no hope of ever having faith or repentance. And therefore, that these Christians are those who have received faith like a gift."
 3. "There certainly are places in the Bible where it appears that Paul, for example, says that faith is a gift, that God has given to every man a measure of faith. Paul says that you have been granted not only to believe, but also to suffer with Christ. So, you've been granted by God the privilege of believing."
 4. This passage does tell us that faith is obtained by God – He gives it.
Does God therefore hold people accountable for whom He does not give faith then?
Or does He give faith to those who had noble hearts like the Bereans, or people who are truly interested in truth? This passage doesn't say any of those, but are found in other scriptures when the topic of faith is mentioned.
When Peter walked on the water with Jesus, Jesus said 'o ye of little faith' when Peter sank. Jesus didn't say – 'oops, i forgot to give you more faith' – 'my bad'...
Instead, Jesus expected Peter to have more faith.
Something Jesus expected that Peter could have done if he wanted to.
Otherwise, why would Jesus criticize Peter for something He knew Peter could not do?

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Faith given

By the word of God

5. Romans 10:17

17. So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

1. Maybe faith comes by hearing the word of God taught.
2. Therefore this 2 Peter 1:1 passage need-not by necessity mean that God arbitrarily decides to give some people faith and not others.
If God causes His gospel message to go forth, He is then giving people the gift of faith, should they be willing to accept it.
Some accept it – others reject it.
3. The passage could be understood in a Calvinistic framework, but does not have to by necessity.
4. God certainly does not give faith to people because people earn it.

Faith to Gentiles also, not only mostly jews

It could be that Peter is emphasizing that God as of the New Covenant, has chosen to give Faith to the Gentiles in a major way, compared to the Old Covenant times when it was mostly jews who God was giving the gift of faith.

God was giving His word to the jews previously,
but was not giving His word to Gentiles too.
Hence, God was giving faith to Gentiles.

2 Peter 1:10 (make sure your call to election is certain)

2 Peter 1:10

10. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;

1. be even more diligent to make your call and election sure
1. If God called the Church corporately to election, but you have to be in Christ to be part of that election, then Paul is warning that there are those who can be part of, then no longer be part of the election.
One can fall away. Peter is warning against that.

Acts 3:16,19 (Repentance wipes away sin, not predestination)

Acts 3:16,19

16. "And on the basis of faith in His name, [it is] the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; and the faith which [is] through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all.

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19. "Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;

1. the faith which [is] through Him

- i. Some cite this as a Calvinist proof text for the doctrine of Total Depravity, where it is stated that unless God gives you faith, you are totally unable to accept the call to salvation.
- ii. Elsewhere, we are told

Romans 10:17

17. So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

- a) If God's word is revealed to people, they can either accept it in faith or reject it in unbelief.

This **Acts 3:16** passage could be interpreted in the Calvinistic Total Depravity sense, or could also be understood in a non-Calvinistic way.

Nothing in the passage explicitly demands that one or the other must be the case.

- b) There is definitely nothing in the passage suggesting one is born again before he can have faith, as Calvinists hold.

If anything. v19 says repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, not "you had better hope you're elected by God, or else this gospel of Jesus won't do you any good no matter what".

R. C. Sproul said that Armenians believe there is way more power in the gospel message than he does, and he's right.

The sins being wiped away have to do with you and I doing something.

The non-Calvinist finds no reason to boast, anymore than the prodigal son had any reason to boast after he *came to his senses* and decided to go back home to the father in repentance.