

**Question: Please define/describe election and predestination. Are they the same or are they different? If different, how are they different?**

**Answer:** At this point in my study, I believe that election and predestination are related terms. Ephesians 1:1-14 may be the most helpful passage for sorting these truths out (both terms are used in this context). The clear teaching of Scripture is that believers have been chosen “before the foundation of the world” (Eph 1:4). This important expression teaches us that God did not choose us on the basis of our faith or what we would become. His election was unconditional (cf. Rom 9:6-23). Yet, it is important to note that election and predestination are not just to salvation, but also to sanctification and glorification (cf. Eph 1:4-5; Rom 8:28-30). In other words, those whom God has chosen are chosen not just to be saved, but also to be sanctified. Again, Paul writes, “In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will” (Eph 1:11). To emphasize either the salvation or sanctification aspect only is one-sided. God’s purposes include both.

My nutshell summary of these difficult concepts is this:

- Election took place before the world began (Eph 1:4).
- The people the Father chose were given to the Son (John 6:37).
- Those people are predestined to be saved (Rom 8:30).
- The choice was not based upon their works (2 Tim 1:9).
- Those God chose believe in time (Acts 13:48).
- Believers have been predestined to become like Jesus (Rom 8:29).