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BASIC CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

A Study of the Articles of Faith



Fort Washington Baptist Church
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BASIC CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE A Study of the Articles of Faith



SESSION 48

IX. Of God's Purpose of Grace

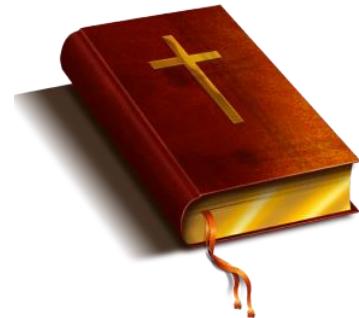
We believe the Scriptures teach that **election** is the eternal purpose of God, according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, **it** comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that **it** is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy and unchangeable; that **it** utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy; that **it** encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that **it** may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the Gospel; that **it** is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain **it** with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.¹

¹ [Articles-of-Faith.pdf \(nationalbaptist.com\)](https://nationalbaptist.com/Articles-of-Faith.pdf)

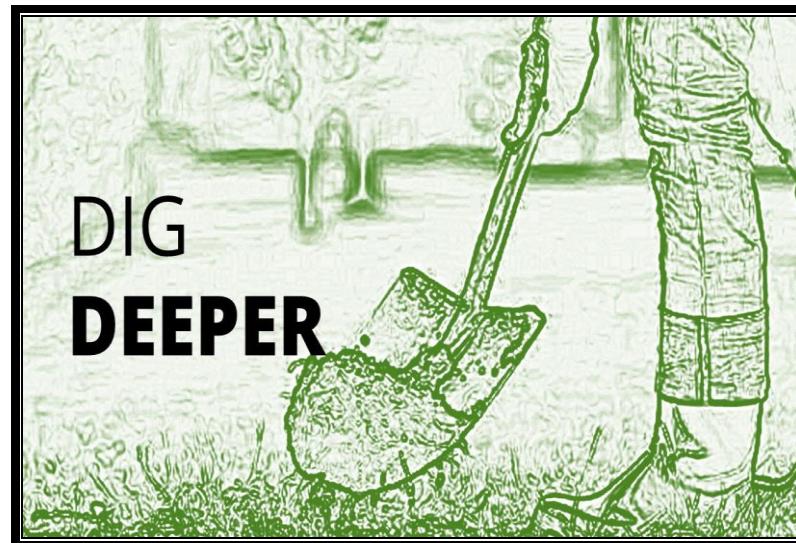
According to Article IX:

1. **Baptists believe** that the Scriptures teach that **election** is the eternal purpose of God, according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners...
2. **Baptists believe** that the Scriptures teach, that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, **it (election)** comprehends all the means in connection with the end...
3. **Baptists believe** that the Scriptures teach, that **it (election)** is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy and unchangeable...
4. **Baptists believe** that the Scriptures teach, that **it (election)** utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy...
5. **Baptists believe** that the Scriptures teach, that **it (election)** encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that **it (election)** may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the Gospel...
6. **Baptists believe** that the Scriptures teach, that **it (election)** is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain **it (election)** with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.

The Doctrine of Election



Let's Dig Deeper into Understanding Article IX



- I. Baptists believe** that the Scriptures teach that **election is the eternal purpose of God**, according to which he graciously **regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners**.
 - a. Election** is the eternal purpose of God for sinners, predating creation. God uses **election to accomplish** three things in the life of sinners.
 - b. The first thing** God accomplishes through **election** in the life of sinners **is regeneration**, because without regeneration no one will be able to perceive of the Kingdom of God or enter the Kingdom of God to experience all that God desires for humanity (**Jn. 3:3-6**).
 - c. The second thing** God accomplishes through **election** in the life of sinners **is sanctification**, where the believer, through the in-dwelling Holy Spirit, grows to become more like Christ, living in God's will (**Gal. 5:16-26; 1 Thess. 4:3-8**).
 - d. The third thing** God accomplishes through **election** in the life of sinners **is salvation** (**Tit. 3:5**).

Conclusion: Election points to all that God does in the life of sinners so that sinners can be saved! Without election salvation no one would be saved. **Sinners would never experience regeneration, sanctification, or salvation without election.**

II. Baptists believe that the Scriptures teach, that **it (election)** is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely **free, wise, holy and unchangeable...**

1. **Election is infinitely free.** It comes without cost to sinners. However, a price was paid for **election.** God Himself, paid the price for the sinner's election so that sinners could experience regeneration, sanctification, and salvation with the blood of His Son, Jesus Christ, (**Jn. 6:35; Acts 20:28; I Cor. 6:20; Rev. 5:8-10; 21:7.**) **This is God's Sovereign goodness on display.**

2. **Election is infinitely wise.** It is the wisdom of God Who knows that without election no one would experience salvation (**I Cor. 1:18-31**).

3. **Election is infinitely holy.** It's set apart. It's one activity of God **ALONE** that enables sinners to experience all that God desires for sinners.
4. **Election is unchangeable**...because it is eternal. God for all eternity past, present and future, does all things for the purpose of **election**...that leads to salvation. **Election is -** timeless – eternal (**Rom. 11:25-32**)!

All that God has does and has done beginning with Adam, with Abraham, with Isaac, with Jacob, with Israel, with Moses, with Joshua, with David, with the Prophets, with Mary, with John the Baptist, with Jesus Christ, with the Apostles, with the disciples, with the Holy Spirit, with the Church, with the evil one and the unsaved, with all trials and tribulations is for the purpose of **election** that leads to salvation...**this is unchangeable!**

- III. **Baptists believe** that the Scriptures teach, that **it (election)** utterly **excludes** boasting and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy...

“Boasting,” can be a noun that describes someone possessing “excessively proud and self-satisfied talk about one’s achievements, possessions, or abilities.” “Boasting” could also be an adjective where someone’s comments are “exhibiting or characterized by excessive pride or self-satisfaction.”²

Boasting is what someone may do when that person perceives that his/her achievements, possessions, or abilities **are the result of their own** effort, diligence, or some other quality. Boasting occurs when someone is **self-satisfied** with what he/she has gained or accomplished through his/her own effort, diligence, persistence, ability, or some other quality.

Relative to **election**, where is boasting? What quality, what effort, what diligence, what persistence, or what ability do sinners possess that obligate God to bestow election for the purpose of regeneration, sanctification, and regeneration that can cause sinners to feel self-satisfied...deserving...worthy of these things? Sinners possess nothing that obligate God to bestow election upon them. The thing sinners possess that obligate God to do anything...is sin...and God, based upon His own Law, is obligated to respond to sin with death.

² [meaning of boasting - Search \(bing.com\)](#)

¹⁶The LORD God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; ¹⁷but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will **surely die**” (**Genesis 2:16-17**)

Point: Adam and Eve ate from the tree. God was now obligated to satisfy His Law of death for sin, for disobedience to His command. Ezekiel prophesied saying,

⁴Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine. The soul who sins will die” (**Eze. 18:4**).

20 The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father’s iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son’s iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself. **21** “But if the wicked man **turns from all his sins** which he has committed and observes all My statutes and practices justice and righteousness, **he shall surely live; he shall not die.** **22** All his transgressions which he has committed will not be remembered against him; because of his righteousness which he has practiced, he will live. **23** Do I

have any pleasure in the death of the wicked,” declares the Lord GOD, “rather than that he should turn from his ways and live? (**Ezekiel 18:20-23**).

Scripture declares over and over that all have sinned:

1. ⁴⁶“When they sin against You (for there is no man who does not sin) (**I King 8:46a**)
2. I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD”; And You forgave the guilt of my sin (**Psalm 32:5**)
3. Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. ²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And **cleanse me from my sin**. ³For I know my transgressions, **And my sin** is ever before me. ⁴Against You, You only, **I have sinned**, And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak, And blameless when You judge. ⁵Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me (**Psalm 51:1-5**)
4. ²³for **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God (**Romans 3:23**)

5. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (**Romans 6:23**).

Point:

All have sinned. God is obligated to satisfy His law of death for sinners. There is nothing in sinners that sinners can boast about that obligate God to elect them for regeneration, sanctification, and salvation. Those who have realized their election, have nothing to boast about. They realize that what they deserve for their sin condemnation...not election. Election is because of God's promise and God's love for sinners and not anything within sinners that obligate God to elect sinners. Israel was elected by God to be in a covenant relationship with God, to experience God's delivering power from Egypt, and to inherit the Promised Land. How much of their election was based on qualities within Israel?

Listen to God speak through His servant Moses to Israel.

¹¹ “Beware that you **do not forget the LORD your God** by not keeping His commandments and His ordinances and His statutes which I am commanding you today; ¹² otherwise, when you have eaten and are satisfied, and have built good houses and lived *in them*, ¹³ and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and gold multiply, and all that you have multiplies, ¹⁴ then **your heart will become proud** and **you will forget the LORD your God who brought you out** from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

¹⁵ **He led you through** the great and terrible wilderness, *with its* fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water; **He brought water for you** out of the rock of flint. ¹⁶ In the wilderness **He fed you manna** which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do good for you [f]in the end.

¹⁷ Otherwise, **you may say in your heart**, ‘**My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth.**’ ¹⁸ **But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth**, that **He may confirm His covenant** which He

swores to your fathers (**This is the reason God elected Israel for these glorious blessings**), as *it is* this day.¹⁹ It shall come about if you ever forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I testify against you today that you will surely perish.²⁰ Like the nations that the LORD makes to perish before you, so you shall perish; because you would not listen to the voice of the LORD your God” (**Deu. 8:11-20**).

Point: Israel was elected for such a great salvation, not because of anything within them that obligated God, but because of God’s covenantal promises that He swore to their fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Israel’s election was because of God’s character...not Israel’s character. Listen to chapter 9 of Deuteronomy.

“Hear, O Israel! You are crossing over the Jordan today to go in to dispossess nations greater and mightier than you, great cities fortified to heaven, **2** a people great and tall, the sons of the Anakim, whom you know and of whom you have heard *it said*, ‘Who can

stand before the sons of Anak?’ **3** Know therefore today that it is the **LORD your God who is crossing over before** you as a consuming fire. **He will destroy them and He will subdue them** before you, so that you may drive them out and destroy them quickly, just as the **LORD** has spoken to you.

4 “**Do not say in your heart** when the **LORD your God** has driven them out before you, ‘**Because of my righteousness** the **LORD** has brought me in to possess this land,’ but *it is because of the wickedness* of these nations *that* the **LORD** is dispossessing them before you. **5** **It is not for your righteousness** or for the uprightness of your heart that you are going to possess their land, but *it is* because of the wickedness of these nations *that* the **LORD your God** is driving them out before you, in order to confirm the oath which the **LORD** swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

6 “Know, then, **it is not because of your righteousness** *that* the **LORD your God** is giving you this good land to possess, for you are a stubborn people. **7** Remember, do not forget how **you provoked the LORD** your God to wrath in the wilderness; from the day

that you left the land of Egypt until you arrived at this place, you have been rebellious against the LORD. **8** Even at Horeb you provoked the LORD to wrath, and the LORD was so angry with you that He would have destroyed you.

9 When I went up to the mountain to receive the tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant which the LORD had made with you, then I remained on the mountain forty days and nights; I neither ate bread nor drank water. **10** The LORD gave me the two tablets of stone written by the finger of God; and on them *were* all the words which the LORD had spoken with you at the mountain from the midst of the fire on the day of the assembly. **11** It came about at the end of forty days and nights that the LORD gave me the two tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant. **12** Then the LORD said to me, ‘Arise, go down from here quickly, **for your people whom you brought out of Egypt have acted corruptly. They have quickly turned aside from the way which I commanded them; they have made a molten image for themselves.**’ **13** The LORD spoke further to me, saying, ‘I have seen this people, and indeed, it is **a stubborn people.** **14** Let Me

alone, that I may destroy them and blot out their name from under heaven; and I will make of you a nation mightier and greater than they.'

15 "So I turned and came down from the mountain while the mountain was burning with fire, and the two tablets of the covenant were in my two hands. **16** And I saw that you had indeed sinned against the LORD your God. You had made for yourselves a molten calf; you had turned aside quickly from the way which the LORD had commanded you. **17** I took hold of the two tablets and threw them from my hands and smashed them before your eyes. **18** I fell down before the LORD, as at the first, forty days and nights; I neither ate bread nor drank water, because of all your sin which you had committed in doing what was evil in the sight of the LORD to provoke Him to anger.

19 For I was afraid of the anger and hot displeasure with which the LORD was wrathful against you in order to destroy you, but the LORD listened to me that time also. **20** The LORD was angry enough with Aaron to destroy him; so I also prayed for Aaron at the same time. **21** I took your sinful *thing*, the calf which you had made, and

burned it with fire and crushed it, grinding it very small until it was as fine as dust; and I threw its dust into the brook that came down from the mountain.

22 “Again at Taberah and at Massah and at Kibroth-hattaavah you provoked the LORD to wrath. **23** When the LORD sent you from Kadesh-barnea, saying, ‘Go up and possess the land which I have given you,’ then you rebelled against the command of the LORD your God; you neither believed Him nor listened to His voice. **24** You have been rebellious against the LORD from the day I knew you.

25 “So I fell down before the LORD the forty days and nights, which I did because the LORD had said He would destroy you. **26** I prayed to the LORD and said, ‘O Lord GOD, do not destroy Your people, even Your inheritance, whom You have redeemed through Your greatness, whom You have brought out of Egypt with a mighty hand. **27** Remember Your servants, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; do not look at the stubbornness of this people or at their wickedness or their sin. **28** Otherwise the land from which You brought us may say, “Because the LORD was not able to bring them into the

land which He had promised them and because He hated them He has brought them out to slay them in the wilderness.” **29** Yet they are Your people, even Your inheritance, whom You have brought out by Your great power and Your outstretched arm.’ (**Deu. 9:1-28**).

Point: Since election is because of God’s character and not the character of sinners, sinners are commanded over and over to refrain from boasting. God condemns the boasting of sinners...who prove over and over their sinners by boasting...for boasting is sin. The evidence that there is nothing within sinners that obligate God to elect sinners...is the boasting of sinners. ...revealing yet again that there is nothing good in sinners that obligate God to their election. Boasting is screaming proof that sinners are sinners and need to be saved. God condemns to sin of boasting.

Israel was warned to not boast that they have peace with God while walking in stubbornness (**Deu. 29:19**). God would not allow all the men of Israel to fight alongside

Gideon because He did not want Israel to boast saying, “My own power has delivered me” (**Jud. 7:2**). Hannah is her song of praise to God sang, “Boast no more so very proudly, Do not let arrogance come out of your mouth; For the Lord is a God of knowledge, And with Him actions are weighed” (**1 Sam. 2:3**). The Psalmist declared, “The boastful shall not stand before Thine eyes; Thou dost hate all who do iniquity” (**Psalm 5:5**). “For the wicked boasts of his heart’s desire, and the greedy man curses and spurns the Lord” (**Psalm 10:3**). The Lord proclaimed, “I said to the boastful, ‘Do not boast; and to the wicked, ‘Do not lift up your horn on high, do not speak with insolent pride’” (**Psalm 75:4-5**).

Through Jeremiah the Lord commanded saying, “Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches” (**Jer. 9:23**) and “Behold, I am against those who have prophesied false dreams,” declares the LORD, “and related them and led My people astray by their falsehoods and reckless boasting; yet I did not send them or command them, nor do they furnish this people the slightest benefit,” declares the LORD (**Jer. 23:32**). Through the Apostle Paul, the Lord condemned boasting as

the behavior of those with a depraved mind along with slanderers, haters of God, inventors of evil and a host of others engaged in wickedness and moral depravity (**Rom 1:30**).

The only boasting that is celebrated is boasting in the Lord. The Psalmist declared, “some boast in chariots and some in horses, but we will boast in the name of the Lord, our God” (**Ps. 20:7**) and “My soul will make its boast in the Lord; the humble will hear it and rejoice (**Ps. 20:7**) and “In God we have boasted all day long, and we will give thank to Your name forever” (**Ps. 44:8**). Jeremiah declared, “but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,” declares the Lord” (**Jer. 9:24**).

Boasting is not only sin, but harmful to others who hear it...for others may also come to engage not only the sin of boasting, but the sin one is boasting about (**1 Cor. 5:6**). Even being called to preach is nothing one should ever boast about (**1 Cor. 9:16**).

For those who are saved, there is no boasting because their salvation is not because of their works but because of faith in what God has accomplished for their salvation through Jesus Christ (**Rom. 3:21-30**). Paul made it clear that Abraham was justified by faith and not works and therefore had nothing to boast about (**Rom. 4:1-2**). Paul believed, that in Christ Jesus, he had reason for boasting, because of all that Christ accomplished through him that resulted in Gentiles being obedient (**Rom. 15:17-18**). No man had reason to boast before God because it is by His doing that we are in Christ Jesus, that we have righteousness, sanctification, and redemption (**1 Cor. 1:29-30**). All therefore are encouraged, that if one must boast, “boast in the Lord” (**1:31; 2 Cor. 10:17**). If one must boast, not only can one boast about the Lord, but one can boast freely about the work of the Lord in the lives of others (**2 Cor. 8:24; 9:2-3; 10:8**) while even still being careful to not go too far (**2 Cor. 10:15**). The Apostle Paul was careful to boast, not about strengths, but his weaknesses which God worked through to use Paul for God’s glory (**2 Cor. 11:30; 12:1-9**). All believers are encouraged to not become boastful and if one must boast do so after carefully examining his own work in the

Lord (**Gal. 5:26; 6:1-4**). Salvation is accomplished by God through election so that no may boast (**Eph. 2:9**).

Conclusion: Therefore, election should evoke humility as one recognizes they were spared condemnation. Election should evoke praise and thanksgiving. Election should deepen our love for God. Election should cause us to continually seek God in prayer for direction so that we live our lives in His will. Election should deepen our trust in God, Who cared so much about us that He satisfied our debt for sin through the blood of His Son and saved us! Election should evoke gratitude. Election should cause us to imitate the same mercy, grace, forgiveness, and kindness towards others that God has demonstrated towards us.

5. **Baptists believe** that the Scriptures teach, that **it (election)** encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that **it (election)** may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the Gospel...