

## **ELECTION OR ATHEISM – NO MIDDLE GROUND**

by Don Fortner

"So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy. For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth. Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth." Romans 9:16-18

If you receive the Bible as the Word of God, you have no choice, you must believe the doctrine of election. If you believe the Bible, you have to take it all as the Word of God. You cannot say, "I believe what the Bible teaches about heaven; but I just cannot accept the idea of hell." You cannot say, "I believe in God; but I simply cannot believe in election." Election is so much a part of divine truth that it cannot be expunged from the Book of God without completely destroying the Word of God. It is taught in Genesis, in Revelation, and everywhere between. TO DENY THE DOCTRINE OF ELECTION IS TO DENY THE WORD OF GOD, REJECT THE RELIGION OF JESUS CHRIST, AND TO ENGAGE IN THE PRACTICE OF UTTER ATHEISM; FOR THE DENIAL OF ELECTION IS THE DENIAL OF THE GOD OF ELECTION!

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Yes, you read that right. I said the denial of election is a denial of God! It is A DENIAL OF HIS SOVEREIGNTY. It denies that God has the right to do with his own what he will. Those who deny election deny God's government of the world and his right to govern. It is also A DENIAL OF GOD'S JUSTICE. Those who deny election say that God has no right to punish the wicked. They would oblige God to save. If you deny election, you make your will, not God's will, the overriding, governing principle. Your denial of election asserts that men's will governs the universe, not God's. You would tear down the walls of heaven, break the scepter of righteousness, throw the Almighty off his throne, and elevate yourself to the lofty position of utter supremacy!

A denial of sovereign election is AN UTTER DENIAL OF GOD. Those who do so may call themselves Christians; but they practice atheism. A god whose hands are tied is no God at all. A god who cannot exercise a sovereign prerogative to have mercy on whom he will, is no God. Such a pigmy god is smaller and less significant than the Governor of the State of Kentucky who can pardon and refuse to pardon whom he will. A god without election is a god without a throne, a god without purpose, a god without reverence, and NO GOD AT ALL!  
*Don Fortner is pastor of Grace Baptist Church of Danville, Danville, Kentucky*

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