

I believe the following things with respect to God's election, man's free will, etc.

1. Man is fallen.

- a. He has original guilt, that is he is guilty by virtue of Adam's sin.

Romans 5:12–14 (NKJV)

¹² Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—¹³ (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. ¹⁴ Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

1 Corinthians 15:21–22 (NKJV)

²¹ For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

- b. He is dead in trespasses and sins

Ephesians 2:1 (NKJV)

¹ And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

- c. He is spiritually blind

2 Corinthians 4:3–4 (NKJV)

³ But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

1 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

2. No one seeks God or does Good

Psalm 14:3 (NKJV)

³ They have all turned aside, They have together become corrupt; *There is none* who does good, No, not one.

Psalm 53:3 (NKJV)

³ Every one of them has turned aside; They have together become corrupt; *There is none* who does good, No, not one.

John 5:40 (NKJV)

⁴⁰ But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

Romans 3:10–18 (NKJV)

¹⁰ As it is written: “*There is none righteous, no, not one;*” ¹¹ *There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.* ¹² *They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.*” ¹³ “*Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit*”; “*The poison of asps is under their lips*”; ¹⁴ “*Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.*” ¹⁵ “*Their feet are swift to shed blood;*” ¹⁶ *Destruction and misery are in their ways;* ¹⁷ *And the way of peace they have not known.*” ¹⁸ “*There is no fear of God before their eyes.*”

Romans 3:23 (NKJV)

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 8:6–8 (NKJV)

⁶ For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

⁷ Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Romans 1:18–20 (NKJV)

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

Genesis 6:5 (NKJV)

⁵ Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.

Men do not seek God because they will not to seek God. If they were willing they would seek. The fact that none do means that none are willing.

3. Because of points 1 and 2, each person born into the world stands judged and condemned.

Romans 3:18 (see above)

John 3:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 3:36 (NKJV)

³⁶ He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

God is under no obligation to redeem any. He does not owe any a second chance. Whether he pardons one or a million is up to him and the ones who are not pardoned have not been treated unjustly in any way. The doctrine of original sin is that each person is guilty of Adam's sin and his own sin and therefore is justly under the condemnation of God.

If we say that God must bring each person to a position where the free will has a neutral choice before he can justly condemn him means that the person is not born condemned but is condemned for choices he makes later in life. I think this is contrary to Scripture.

4. **God has a people, elect from all eternity whom He has chosen to redeem and pardon. He calls them a people, his sheep, etc.**

Ephesians 1:4 (NKJV)

⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

2 Thessalonians 2:13 (NKJV)

¹³ But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,

1 Peter 1:2 (NKJV)

² elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

John 10:27 (NKJV)

²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

John 6:39–40 (NKJV)

³⁹ This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. ⁴⁰ And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

Romans 8:29–30 (NKJV)

²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

5. **God's election does not depend upon the actual or foreseen behavior or response of the individual nor does it depend on the will of man in any way.**

Romans 9:11–13 (NKJV)

¹¹ (for *the children* not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls), ¹² it was said to her, “*The older shall serve the younger.*” ¹³ As it is written, “*Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.*”

Romans 9:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ So then *it is* not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.

John 1:13 (NKJV)

¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

6. All of God’s elect will certainly come and be saved. None will be missed.

Isaiah 53:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put *Him* to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see *His* seed, He shall prolong *His* days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.

Isaiah 55:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.

John 6:37 (NKJV)

³⁷ All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

Romans 8:29–30 (NKJV)

²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

John 17:12 (NKJV)

¹² While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

John 17:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ “Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

7. The reaching and saving of the elect does not take place in a vacuum but rather through the word of God and belief of the Gospel.

Romans 10:14–15 (NKJV)

¹⁴ How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is

written: *“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!”*

2 Thessalonians 2:13 (NKJV)

¹³ But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,

Romans 1:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

1 Peter 1:23 (NKJV)

²³ having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

Mark 16:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

Matthew 28:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

John 3:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 12:46 (NKJV)

⁴⁶ I have come *as* a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.

Acts 10:43 (NKJV)

⁴³ To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.”

Romans 9:33 (NKJV)

³³ As it is written: *“Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, And whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”*

Romans 10:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ For the Scripture says, *“Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”*

1 John 5:1 (NKJV)

¹ Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.

8. In the gospel presentation, men are told that God created all things, people are to be thankful and are warned of judgment and told to repent and believe the gospel which is that Christ died for sinners and was buried and rose again.

Acts 10:34–43 (NKJV)

³⁴ Then Peter opened *his* mouth and said: “In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. ³⁵ But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. ³⁶ The word which *God* sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ—He is Lord of all—³⁷ that word you know, which was

proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. ³⁹ And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree. ⁴⁰ Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, ⁴¹ not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, *even* to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. ⁴² And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God *to be* Judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.”

Acts 14:15–17 (NKJV)

¹⁵ and saying, “Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them, ¹⁶ who in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways. ¹⁷ Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.”

Acts 17:25–31 (NKJV)

²⁵ Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. ²⁶ And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, ²⁷ so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; ²⁸ for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also His offspring.’ ²⁹ Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man’s devising. ³⁰ Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, ³¹ because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

Acts 20:21 (NKJV)

²¹ testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 26:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and *then* to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.

1 Corinthians 15:1–4 (NKJV)

¹ Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. ³ For I

delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

9. Faith and repentance are gifts of God's grace.

Ephesians 2:8 (NKJV)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God,

Acts 5:31 (NKJV)

³¹ Him God has exalted to His right hand *to be* Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

Acts 11:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life."

2 Timothy 2:25 (NKJV)

²⁵ in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,

1 Corinthians 4:7 (NKJV)

⁷ For who makes you differ *from another*? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive *it*, why do you boast as if you had not received *it*?

2 Thessalonians 3:2 (NKJV)

² and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith.

10. A person's will is changed because by grace God regenerates the dead and fallen sinner. Because of this change, he is now able to understand and willing to believe the gospel.

2 Corinthians 4:4–6 (NKJV)

⁴ whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. ⁵ For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

John 6:44 (NKJV)

⁴⁴ No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

Ephesians 2:4–7 (NKJV)

⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 2:13 (NKJV)

¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.

11. The basis for God's pardon and forgiveness is the finished work of Christ on the cross.

1 Corinthians 1:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:21 (NKJV)

²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

1 Corinthians 1:23 (NKJV)

²³ but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness,

Ephesians 1:7 (NKJV)

⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

Luke 11:4 (NKJV)

⁴ And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one."

12. All men are commanded to repent and believe the gospel

Acts 17:30 (NKJV)

³⁰ Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

13. God will not turn away or reject any who come to him.

John 6:37 (NKJV)

³⁷ All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

14. A person is not saved by his own will yet they are not saved unwillingly.

Romans 9:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ So then *it is* not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.

John 1:13 (NKJV)

¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Philippians 2:13 (NKJV)

¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.

15. People who persist in unbelief do so because they are not His sheep.

John 10:26 (NKJV)

²⁶ But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you.

The order here is important. They do not believe because they are not His sheep. If they were his sheep they would believe. It does not say they were not sheep because they didn't believe.

16. Not all men have faith.

2 Thessalonians 3:2 (NKJV)

² and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith.

Since faith is a gift of God and is given without merit, the reason some people have faith and some do not is within God and not within the person. We should not be questioning God's motives or why he still finds fault, etc.

17. It is God who makes people differ.

1 Corinthians 4:7 (NKJV)

⁷ For who makes you differ *from another*? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive *it*, why do you boast as if you had not received *it*?

18. Christ's death was of sufficient power and extent to cover anyone and everyone.

1 John 2:2 (NKJV)

² And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

John 3:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

19. God foreknew, predestined and called, etc.

Romans 8:28–30 (NKJV)

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also

called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

1 Peter 1:2 (NKJV)

² elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

God does not call all otherwise he would be justifying all.

All of this is based on the foreknowledge of God which I interpret to mean more than just knowing ahead of time. Our salvation has nothing to do with anything foreseen in us.

Romans 9:11–13 (NKJV)

¹¹ (for *the children* not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls), ¹² it was said to her, “*The older shall serve the younger.*” ¹³ As it is written, “*Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.*”

It is not of works but of him that calls. Same word as used in Romans 8:30.

20. God saves through the means of sanctification of spirit and belief of truth

2 Thessalonians 2:13 (NKJV)

¹³ But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,

I take this to mean there is no salvation without sanctification. Sanctification is part of salvation. It is part of what is given to us by grace.

21. Anyone who seeks God will find him.

Jeremiah 29:13 (NKJV)

¹³ And you will seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart.

22. It is the Lord who opens the hearts.

Acts 16:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Now a certain woman named Lydia heard *us*. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.

23. The Gospel is to be preached to every creature.

Mark 16:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.