1 - **“If…”**

**Matthew 16:24**

**What about predestination or “Unconditional Election”?**

2 - **Many Say We Do Not Have A Choice…**

Some teach…

* We are born in a sinful, condemned state.
* That we are chosen by God apart from any decisions we make.
* That if chosen, there isn’t anything we can do to lose our salvation.
* That if not chosen, there isn’t anything we can do to be saved!

3 - **False Doctrines Often Focus On Lack Of Choice… Accountability**

* One of the most destructive false doctrines ever taught originated with a man named John Calvin.
* Calvinism has five principle tenets:
1. **Total Hereditary Depravity.**
2. **Unconditional Election.**
3. **Limited Atonement.**
4. **Irresistible Grace.**
5. **Perseverance of the Saints.**

4 - **Unconditional Election**

**What is it?**

* **Predestination** of **specific individuals** to be **saved** while others are determined before they are born to be **lost**, based solely on **God’s sovereign will** and **aside from anything that man** may, or may not, **do**.
* The number of the saved is **fixed/unalterable**.
* It must be concluded that if so, **God doesn’t desire all to be saved** and is **NOT impartial**.

**5 - Unconditional Election**

**What does the bible teach?**

* **The bible does teach about predestination,** (Ephesians 1:3-5; Romans 8:29; ) but whether the object is specific souls or a group or type of souls.
* **God’s choice… how & where salvation is found. God chose to save those in the church** (Ephesians 3:8-12) who He added by obeying His revealed will.
* **Our choice (for ourselves only)… whether to respond by faith.** (Joshua 24:15; 1 Kings 18:21)

**6 - Unconditional Election**

**What does the bible teach?**

* **God does desire all to be saved.** (1 Timothy 2:4;
2 Peter 3:9; Titus 2:11-12)
* **God is impartial.** (Acts 10:34-35; Romans 2:11-13; 1 Peter 1:17)
* **All are invited!** (Acts 2:22; Revelation 22:17; Matthew 11:28-30)
* **All are accountable**! (2 Corinthians 5:10)

7 - **Understanding & Appreciating God’s Grace**

**We are lost without it.** (Ephesians 2:8)

**We must “continue” and grow in it.** (Acts 13:43; 20:32; 2 Corinthians 6:1)

**We must work to propagate it. (Acts 14:26)**

**Requires our active, obedient faith.** (Romans 1:5; 2:4-8; 5:1-2; 6:16-17;James 2:14ff)

**Example**: **John 9** and the man born blind.

8 - **God’s Word Repeatedly Uses The Word “IF”**

* If **anyone hears My voice** (Revelation 3:20;
cf., Hebrews 4:7)
* If anyone is **in Christ** (2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 3:27)
* If you are **in, and continue in, the faith**(2 Corinthians 5:17; 13:5; Colossians 1:23)
* If we **endure and do not grow weary**(2 Timothy 2:12; Galatians 6:9)

9 - **We All Have A Choice!**

* If you prove **zealous for what is good**…
(1 Peter 3:13)
* If **these qualities are yours** and are **increasing**… (2 Peter 1:8)
* If we **walk in the light**… (1 John 1:7)
* If we **confess our sins** (1 John 1:9)
* If we **walk by faith and are obedient**
(Hebrews 5:9; Romans 6:17)