

James Knox false teachings on election

Repelled, Refuted and Rebuked

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Introduction

James Knox is the pastor of “The Bible Baptist Church” in DeLand, Florida. This church has an active soul winning, printing and internet ministry with many online free resources. Unfortunately, however, it was from one of these very resources that we are producing this needed review. We could barely believe the large amount of false doctrines that Pr. Knox was teaching in such a short period of time during his audio message named “God’s Elect” available on his website. We are not criticizing many other good things about the church or his ministry, but since this particular material was made public, his false teachings on this subject must be opposed. The following quotes were taken from the message above and will be repelled, refuted and rebuked.

Quote # 1

“It is obvious that choosing, that election, and that foreknowledge, have nothing to do with salvation of a man’s soul.”

Refutation # 1:

This is totally **false**. When a preacher disregards the words of God, when a preacher omits the task of doing his exegesis, when a preacher refrains himself from defining the words, he becomes the ultimate authority over his hearers. When this unfortunate practice is used, the preaching, instead of being a blessing, is turned into confusion. Some people did exactly that during the apostolic ministry, twisting sound doctrine to fit their own concepts. As those early misguided people were rebuked by the apostles, so Pr. Knox must be rebuked also because of this sorry mishandling of the word of God. Pr. Knox used 3 texts to come up with this nonsense quoted above.

The first is John 6:70 when the Lord Jesus Christ said that he chose the twelve apostles and one of them was the devil. Pr. Knox concludes then, with his childish logic, that:

1. If Judas was chosen by the Lord Jesus Christ;
2. If Judas went to perdition;
3. Then all choosing by God is not unto salvation.

The logical fallacy here is easily recognized because we have the same word (chosen), which has two or more senses, being falsely restricted to only one explanation by Pr. Knox. We have the two first premises, restricted to Judas, which cannot lead to an universal conclusion. Let us examine some verses with the verb "chosen" to clarify the issue:

"Jesus answered them, Have not I **chosen** you twelve, and one of you is a devil?" (John 6:70 KJV)

"I speak not of you all: I know whom I have **chosen**: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me." (John 13:18 KJV)

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have **chosen** you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you." (John 15:16 KJV)

"If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have **chosen** you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you." (John 15:19 KJV)

Let us clear the passage and explain what Pr. Knox failed to do.

The Lord Jesus Christ did choose the twelve apostles. Eleven of them were **chosen positively** unto salvation (John 18:9) and unto the ministry (Luke 6:13) of apostleship. Little is explained about the lives of the eleven apostles before the choosing of the Lord, but we know they were taking care of their lives with no showing signs of salvation whatsoever (Mt. 4:18-22; 10:2-4). The simultaneous choosing to salvation and to the ministry was done also in the same way with the apostle Paul (Ac. 9:6, 15; 22:14; 26:16). Judas, however, **was not chosen positively unto salvation**, but to be an apostle only. The **process** is the same to both

categories of people: the eleven saved apostles at one side and the traitor at the other, but the **purpose** , **nature** and **destiny** of the choosing the two groups were totally different. When The Lord Jesus speaks of election unto salvation he excluded the traitor: “I speak not of you all: I know whom I have **chosen**...” (John 13:18). God indeed performed His purpose in the choosing of Judas according to John 13:18; 17:12 and Ac. 1:16. It was to fulfill God’s purpose expressed in Bible prophecy and the revelation of the counsel of God’s will (At. 4:23; Ro. 9:22) that is: to make certain all the events leading to the fulfillment of Christ’s redemption to guarantee the eternal salvation to the elect through the crucifixion.

Let us do what Pr. Knox omitted to do:

The verb “chosen” in all the verses above, including Ac. 9:15, is **eklegomai** which simply means what it says, “to make a choice” among many options, through calling, or simply: “to call out of”. The particle **ek** is a preposition meaning “out of”; **legomai** is from the verb lego meaning “to call”.

The verb is **eklegomai** and the associated adjective is **ekklektos** which are the ones who receive the action of **eklegomai** (being chosen). The expression “the chosen ones” or “elect” are used interchangeably in the Bible. Foreknowledge of God is an action of relationship and not mere previous knowledge as arminians misdefine. We conclude therefore, that the verb “chosen” which is the same as “election” has everything to do with the salvation of a man’s soul. This is the exact opposite of what Pr. Knox said... His declarations are wrong and misleading and should not be taken seriously by God’s people.

Quote # 2

“**Election is not God deciding to save someone** and not saving someone else, it is not God choosing someone to salvation and not choosing someone else to salvation...”

Refutation # 2:

Since God is the one who saves people, and the vast majority is not saved, then He alone decides who is the object of His choosing. This process is defined in the Bible as **election**. We learn that God’s election is free and eternal (Eph. 1:4). Nothing and nobody outside God Himself has any part in it. Election is unconditional, undeserving and unmerited. God is the agent of the action not man. The Lord Jesus Christ made this truth very clear:

“Ye have not chosen me, but I have **chosen** you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.” (John 15:16 KJV)

Let us recall a verse in the Old Testament:

“For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath **chosen** thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor **choose** you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.” (Dt. 7:6-8)

Let us look upon the word **because**. It tells us the cause, or in this case not the cause of God’s actions. In this particular passage, God is telling his people the reason why He chose Israel to be the recipients of His blessings, His word, and consequently his salvation. The answer is: His love. There is nothing in the people of Israel themselves that would motivate God in choosing them. Choosing or election is **unconditional**. It is a deep and unsearchable mystery in God Himself that we shouldn’t dare to investigate (Ro. 11:33).

Foreknowledge is the **cause**, Election is the **process** and predestination is the **goal** of our salvation.

“But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning **chosen you to salvation** through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.” (2Th. 2:13)

Despite Pr. Knox confused mind and false teachings, we learn many things from this verse :

1. The author of choosing: It is God who is the author of the action;
2. The time of choosing: It is done in the eternity past: “from the beginning”;
3. The action: is choosing.
4. The result of choosing: salvation.

We learn once more that the Bible clearly teaches that **election IS God deciding to save someone** the very opposite of what Pr. Knox teaches. He is **distorting, twisting** and **mishandling** the Bible to prove his **arminian** views. That is shameful deception.

Quote # 3

“[Election] has to do to those who already believe...”

Refutation # 3:

Pr. James Knox is distorting and twisting the Bible to prove his point. That is deception. Let us stress this point once again: An individual is elect **before the foundation of the world**. **At the foundation of the world**, nobody yet believes. Election happens in eternity, regeneration and salvation happens in time. To the elect people the Lord will say:

“Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom **prepared for you from the foundation of the world:**” (Mt. 25:34)

Election happens when nobody yet believes. In other message, Pr. Knox insisted on this same error saying: “Nobody is predestinated until they are saved.” This statement is so silly and ridiculous that is easily refuted. The very word pre-destinate (proorizo) means exactly what it says: before (preposition **pro**) a person responds to the word of God, there is already something that God did in eternity past, in favor of that person, determining (word **horizo**) beforehand his or her destiny. This word is used only with reference to God’s plan or purpose of salvation. The Greek word for “predestinate” occurs 6 times: Acts 4:28; Rom. 8:29, 30; 1 Cor. 2:7; Eph. 1:5, 11; and in all of them it has the same meaning.

They teach that the eternal, sovereign, immutable, and unconditional decree or “determinate purpose” of God governs all events. Predestination is not a “myth” as Pr. Knox carelessly refers to it, it is not a catholic doctrine, nor taken from the Greek philosophy. It comes direct from the Bible. Speaking of the catholic church, it is interesting to note that the Council of Trent, the official doctrinal statement of the Catholic Church repudiated and denied all the great doctrines of grace and embraced what we know as arminianism defended by Pr. Knox. Thus, people like Pr. Knox believe exactly what the Roman Catholic Church teaches on the subject! Roman Catholicism and Arminians walk hand in hand.

Quote # 4

“**You** are never said to be God’s elect, **I** am never said to be God’s elect, **no group of men or women** is ever said to be God’s elect...”

Refutation # 4:

What a big **lie** we find in these expressions above! Every believer, every saved individual, every born again, every child of God, which are different expressions to define and describe the same category of a person, is an elect of God.

“For Jacob my servant’s sake, and **Israel mine elect**, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me.”
(Is. 45:4 KJV)

“And I will bring forth a seed out of Jacob, and out of Judah an inheritor of my mountains: and **mine elect** shall inherit it, and my servants shall dwell there.” (Is. 65:9 KJV)

“They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and **mine elect** shall long enjoy the work of their hands.” (Is. 65:22 KJV)

“And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the **elect’s sake** those days shall be shortened... For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the **very elect**.” (Mat. 24:22, 24 KJV)

“Therefore I endure all things for the **elect’s sakes**, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”
2Ti 2:10

“Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of **God’s elect**, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;” Tit 1:1

“**Elect** according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.” 1Pe 1:2

“The elder unto the **elect lady** and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth;”
2Jo 1:1

“The children of thy **elect sister** greet thee. Amen.” 2Jo 1:13

It is sad to see how far from the Bible a preacher will go to prove his stubbornness.

Quote # 5

“You couldn’t possibly be elect from **before the foundation of the world....**”

Refutation # 5:

It is a sad and frightful situation when a preacher, because of his faulty personal bias, puts himself so far from the clear teachings of the Bible that he ends up in deceiving himself and others, denying so blatantly the Scriptures. Pr. Knox is not ashamed of what he clearly denied.

Let us simply quote the Bible and see the comparison with the false teaching of Pr. Knox:

“According as he hath chosen us in him **before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:” (Eph. 1:4)

As we have already said on Refutation # 1, the expression “the chosen ones” or “elect” are used interchangeably in the Bible.

We learn also that the reprobates were left to their sins since the foundation of the world:

“The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names **were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world**, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.” (Rev. 17:8)

Quote # 6

“I will buy a lunch this afternoon to anybody who finds the word sovereign in the Bible....”

Refutation # 6:

Very “profund” statement of Pr. Knox... Here lies his great prejudice and sin against God’s sovereignty. The word **trinity** does not occur in the Bible, the word **rapture** does not occur in the Bible and even the word **Bible** does not appear in the Bible! The word **missionary** does not appear in the Bible. What then, will the Bible believer do with this foolish argument of Pr. Knox? Will the Bible believer now discard and throw away these great and important words to ride in Pr. Knox’s bandwagon of misinformation and faulty and silly logic? That’s foolishness and one’s choice, but certainly not God’s choice, not God honoring, but humanistic despicable and carnal thinking. God is Sovereign. Denying this important and essential attribute would disintegrate to pieces anyone’s theology and unfortunately that’s exactly what this poor preacher has done to himself. Woe unto him and unto his listeners who trust him and give any credit to this kind of heretical preaching.

Quote # 7

“We haven’t found a passage yet that said you are the elect.”

Refutation # 7:

Answered on Refutation # 4.

Quote # 8

“Christ is the elect....”

Refutation # 8:

This statement is correct. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Elect of God. But he is not the only elect the Bible mentions. Pr. Knox made a point in Titus 1:1 trying to prove that only Christ is the elect and nobody else.

This is not true at all. Even though the Bible teaches that Christ is the elect of God (Is. 42:1; 1Pe. 2:6) this usage of the word elect means “excellent”, or “preeminent”, or “singular”, or “precious”. It is obvious that the Messiah is not chosen in the same sense that a sinner needs to be chosen. It is clear that the Lord Jesus does not need to be regenerated or saved because he has no sin. In Titus 1:1, Paul states:

“Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of **God's elect**, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;” (Tit. 1:1 KJV)

During his preaching, Pr. Knox tries in vain to prove that the elect in this verse means the Lord Jesus Christ. Obviously betrayed by his ignorance, lack of study of the word, or by other unknown reason, typical to the obstinate arminians, the preacher does not realize that the word **elect** here is in its **plural** form, that is: **eklekton** ! To be more exact, it is in the third person, masculine, plural, equivalent to “them”. That **does not** refer to the Lord Jesus Christ **whatsoever**. This argument totally dismantles his point of his whole mistaken preaching because it is obvious that the word means the collective group of all saved people which are called elect (plural). We can see this exact same usage in Ro. 8:33 and Col. 3:12. This sorry interpretation of applying and forcing the word into a particular and private redefinition (2Pe. 1:20) is the final drop which exposes and disqualifies Pr. Knox at least to say anything on this subject.

Quote # 9

“We aren't the elect...”

Refutation # 9:

To say that all saved persons are not the elect is a blatant denial of Bible doctrine. If he says he is not the elect, he is a reprobate. There is no middle ground on that.

Conclusion

One must raise the question that if the preacher here refuted, employs this awful methodology in all his preaching, the inevitable result would be unreliable teaching. How do we know if the same faulty handling of the Bible will be used elsewhere? He is losing all credibility if he continues with this nonsense. He is putting to shame the name baptist, but worse than that, he is twisting the words of God to whom he will give account. May he rethink, repent and retract, otherwise he should be repelled, refuted and rebuked.