

in their path; He freely invites sinful human beings to come to Him, to believe in Him, to choose life rather than death. The reason why some people do not respond favorably to the gospel message is not because they believe that God has not chosen them; it is rather that they don't want to turn from their sinful desires and habits, they don't want Christ to deliver them from their sins, they don't want to live their lives as disciples of Christ, and they don't want to go the way of righteousness and holiness.

If they denounce the doctrine of election and complain that God is unfair in not choosing them, the truth of the matter is that they don't want to be saved from their sinful desires and habits. If they really wanted to be saved, they would be received with open arms and joyful praise!

Simply stated, the reason why some people respond favorably to the gospel is that God chooses them, enables and inclines them to turn from their sinful desires and habits, and enables and inclines them to trust in Jesus Christ and His saving work for their salvation.

This is merely another way of saying that salvation in its entirety is a product of God's marvelous, infinite, matchless grace – His saving favor given to those who do not deserve it or earn it, but instead deserve condemnation and death.

How can persons know whether or not God has chosen them?

BY THE WAY THEY RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL MESSAGE!

Those who receive the gospel and trust savingly in Jesus Christ and His atoning work may know that God has chosen them. They may look to Christ as though they were looking into a mirror, and there they will see clearly reflected the reassuring message, "Chosen in Him."

Those who reject the gospel and remain in their sins stand under the wrath of God and can only expect God's final condemnation on the day of His righteous judgment.

SUMMARY

What have we learned in this lesson?

First, we have found that our basic definition of the gospel – the good news of deliverance from sin and its consequences to God's righteousness and