

The Doctrine of Election Throughout Church History

Among the traditional tenets of the Christian faith is the belief that God chooses or elects people for salvation. For some Christians, such an affirmation is an indication of God's sovereign and perfect will. For others, such a notion is troubling for it seems to downplay the significance of human agency and choice. Throughout the church's history, Christians have sought to understand the meaning of relevant biblical texts and debated this theological conundrum.

With care and insight, theologian Mark Lindsay surveys the development of the Christian doctrine of election. After exploring Scripture on this theme, he turns to the various articulations of this doctrine from the early church fathers, including Augustine, and medieval theologians such as Aquinas, to John Calvin's view, the subsequent debate between Calvinists and Arminians, Karl Barth's modern reconception of the doctrine, and reflections on election in the shadow of the Holocaust.



"God Has Chosen is a brilliant contribution to a biblically grounded, historically sensitive, and theologically generous vision of election. May Lindsay's plea for a more expansive and comprehensive understanding of the doctrine find a wide readership and warm reception in the academy and in the church."

CHRISTOPHER R. J. HOLMES
University of Otago, New Zealand

"In this fine study, Mark Lindsay moves at pace and with sharp insight over the complex historical-theological terrain required for us to understand the doctrine of election in its long and contested development to the present day."

PHILIP G. ZIEGLER
University of Aberdeen

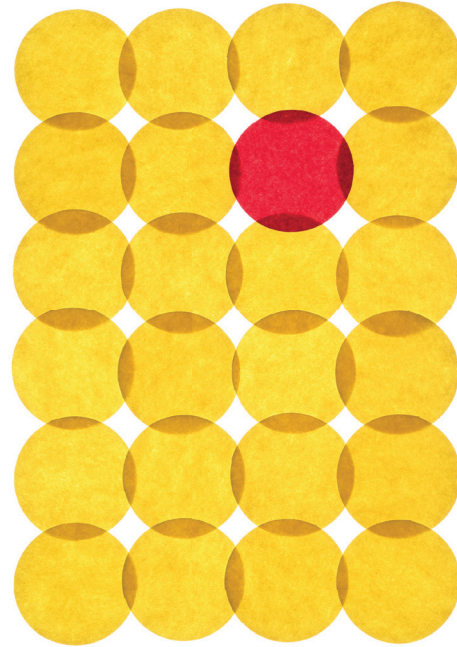
"Eschewing the well-worn path of focusing primarily on issues of election and individual salvation, Lindsay highlights the ecclesial and sociopolitical contexts of key articulations of the doctrine. Of particular note are his reflections on how Christian accounts of election speak of the Jewish people, and on Jewish approaches to election post-Holocaust."

SUZANNE MCDONALD
Western Theological Seminary



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MARK R. LINDSAY GOD HAS CHOSEN THE DOCTRINE OF ELECTION THROUGH CHRISTIAN HISTORY



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