

Salvation and Sovereignty

A two-part Seminar on the Doctrines of Grace

Introduction - The Doctrines of Grace

The Supremacy and Sovereignty of God

The Extent of the Effect of Sin on Man

The Grace of The Father's Election to Salvation

The Grace of The Son's Atoning Death for the Elect

The Grace of The Spirit's application of Redemption

The Grace of a Faith that Will Result in Salvation

An Invitation

1. The Doctrines of Grace will change the way you think about God for the better
2. The Doctrines of Grace will humble you
3. The Doctrines of Grace will help the Bible make more sense to you.
4. The Doctrines of Grace will nourish your heart and your mind
5. The Doctrines of Grace produce assurance and comfort
6. The Doctrines of Grace will empower your evangelism with confidence

1. God is in Control - The Absolute Sovereignty of God over all things

Expanded Doctrinal Statement

3- God has a good and sovereign plan encompassing all events, people, and spiritual beings. *God – who is fully loving, personal, righteous, just, and powerful – is sovereign over all things, events, people, and angelic beings, both good and evil, orchestrating them according to his plan, for his glory and ultimate good.*³¹ *God has given man a true and voluntary will, yet it is subject to his ultimate governance.*³²

The Supremacy and Sovereignty of God. God is the Supreme and primary being. All things exist for his good pleasure and to accomplish his purposes. God is sovereign over all things and nothing comes to pass without his say so. He has a plan for all things, and everything that does happen, even the choices of man, are according to his unchanging counsel and decree, which he made before the foundation of the earth.

The Supremacy of God.

Rom 11:36 *“For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.”*

Col 1:15-17. *“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”*

The Sovereignty of God

Ps 115:3 *“Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.”*

Matt 28:18 *And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”*

The Plan of God

“It is unthinkable that a God of infinite wisdom and power would create a world without a definite plan for that world.” ~Loraine Boettner

Psalms 139:16. *Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.*

The Decree of God - Predestination

Isaiah 46:8-11. *Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, 9 remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, 10 declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,' 11 calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.*

Acts 4:27-28. *"for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, 28 to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place."*

Eph 1:11. *"In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,"*

The Providence of God

Eph 1:11. *In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,*

Prov 16:33. *"The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord."*

Heb 1:3. *"He upholds the universe by the word of his power."*

Divine Sovereignty and Human Responsibility

Prov 16:4 *The LORD has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.*

God-Centered Theology

Deut 29:29. *"The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.*

2. It's Worse than We Thought - The Fall of Man into Sin and its Terrible Consequences

Expanded Doctrinal Statement

4- God regards all people as disobedient, rebellious, separated from him, and needing his forgiveness.

God appointed the first man, Adam, to represent humanity, and so the state of sin into which he walked has been attributed to all of mankind.³³ Correspondingly, each person willingly chooses to turn from God and live in disobedience and rebellion from him.³⁴ In his unregenerate state, man is spiritually dead, enslaved to his sin, and incapable of pleasing God or repairing the relationship in his own strength.³⁵

The fall of man into sin has corrupted every aspect of mankind. We are not merely sick and weak spiritually, needing a little help; we are dead in sin, unresponsive, blind, enslaved to evil. Sin has put us at war with God, as such, the human heart is unwilling and incapable of voluntarily submitting to God. No one seeks God or responds to God on his own.

Total Depravity / Inability

We have Sinful Bodies

We have sinful minds

Rom 1:21. *For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.*

Eph 4:17-18. *Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. 18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.*

1 Cor 2:14. *The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.*

We have Sinful Hearts

Gen 6:5 *"The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. "*

Jer 17:9 *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?"*

We have sinful wills

John 8:34. *Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.*

Rom 6:22. *But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.*

Sinners are NOT neutral towards God. It is not as though human beings are on the fence concerning God and may be tipped one way or the other. We are hostile toward him.

Rom 8:7. *For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.*

Rom 10:11-12. *"None is righteous, no, not one;*

11 no one understands;

no one seeks for God.

12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;

no one does good,

not even one."

We are Dead in Sin

Eph 2:1-3. *And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.*

3. The Love of the Father: God's Plan to Rescue Specific People

Expanded Doctrinal Statement

1- God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – created all things for his glory and humanity for relationship with him.

God – the tri-unity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit – created and sustains the world and all that exists, out of nothing, by the power of his Word, for his own glory. God formed humanity, male and female, in his image and likeness, distinct from the rest of creation, to reflect his glory, represent him on earth, care for his world, and live in loving relationship with him. Knowing this relationship would be broken by human rebellion, God planned, before the foundation of the world, to send a Savior to restore this relationship through his death and resurrection.

8- God rescues people from death into life based on his initiative and grace.

God distributes forgiveness and new life solely based on his own grace and not any merit or inclination of man. Desiring to glorify himself through his mercy and love, God chose some to have the blindness of sin removed, receive the gift of faith, and voluntarily accept the offer of salvation made to all people. Seeing fit to glorify himself through his justice and judgment, God leaves others in their natural state of sin resulting in eternal death.

The Grace of The Father's Election to Salvation. Before the foundation of the world, and according to his own counsel and will and not due to any foreseen faith or merit, God the Father lovingly chose some from every tribe, tongue, and nation out of the whole of fallen humanity, whom he would save through Jesus Christ, so that he might make known to them the riches of his glory and grace. Those whom he has not elected to salvation, he has chosen to leave in their fallen state to face his just wrath.

Defined: Before the foundation of the world,

Ephesians 1:3-6. *3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.*

Rev 13:8 *"and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.*

And according to his own counsel and will and not due to any foreseen faith or merit,

Rom 9:11-13. *Though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls— 12 she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” 13 As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”*

2 Timothy 1:9. *“God, 9 who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began*

2 Thess 2:13-14. *But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. 14 To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Rom 8:29-30. *For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*

Acts 13:48. *And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.*

God the Father lovingly chose

Ephesians 1:5. *. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,*

some from every tribe, tongue, and nation out of the whole of fallen humanity

Acts 8:9-11. *And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, “Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, 10 for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.” 11 And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.*

whom he would save through Jesus Christ,

2 Tim 1:9, 10. *“who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, 10 and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,”*

so that he might make known to them the riches of his glory and grace.

Rom 9:23 "in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory."

Those whom he has not elected to salvation, he has chosen to leave in their fallen state to face his just wrath.

Ezk 33:11 *As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways,*

Charles Spurgeon on Election:

I believe the doctrine of election, because I am quite certain that, if God had not chosen me, I should never have chosen Him; and I am sure He chose me before I was born, or else He never would have chosen me afterwards; and He must have elected me for reasons unknown to me, for I never could find in myself why He should have looked upon me with special love. So I am forced to accept that great Biblical doctrine.

Some Observations about Election
