

Salvation and Sovereignty

A two-part Seminar on the Doctrines of Grace

Worship

How deep the Father's love for us
 How vast beyond all measure
 That He should give His only Son
 To make a wretch His treasure
 How great the pain of searing loss
 The Father turns His face away
 As wounds which mar the Chosen One
 Bring many sons to glory

Behold the man upon a cross
 My sin upon His shoulders
 Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
 Call out among the scoffers
 It was my sin that held Him there
 Until it was accomplished
 His dying breath has brought me life
 I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything
 No gifts, no power, no wisdom
 But I will boast in Jesus Christ
 His death and resurrection
 Why should I gain from His reward?
 I cannot give an answer
 But this I know with all my heart
 His wounds have paid my ransom

Recap Session 2

The Supremacy and Sovereignty of God. God is the Supreme and primary being. It's all about him. All things exist for his good pleasure and to accomplish his purposes. God is sovereign over all things. 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. (This is the basis for what follows later. We first must establish the sovereignty of God)

The Extent of the Effect of Sin on Man. 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.

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.

Tonight we will cover the final three points:

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.

4. The Faithfulness of the Son: Jesus Unfailingly Saves all Whom the Father Gave Him.

The Grace of The Son's Atoning Death for the Elect. God the Father gave his elect people to the Son in order to secure their salvation, and it is for them specifically and effectually that Jesus fulfills his High Priestly work of atonement and intercession. While there may be a general aspect of the atonement that benefits all men, this does not result in salvation for all men.

Expanded Doctrinal Statement

7- God's Son died to accomplish the forgiveness of sin and rose from the dead to accomplish the infilling of new life, applied by faith.

God, motivated by love and justice, transferred human sin onto Jesus at his death, poured out his just punishment, and accomplished the forgiveness of sins. And, through the resurrection of Jesus, those who were spiritually dead are born again into a victorious new life, which is eternal. Through faith in this Gospel, believers are united with Christ in his death and resurrection and, as their substitute, his redemptive work is counted as their own.

Passages that indicate Jesus' death is universal in extent

John 1:29 - *The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"*

John 3:16-17 - *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."*

1 Timothy 2:3-6 - *This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.*

1 John 2:2 - *He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.*

John 4:42 - *They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."*

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 - *For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.*

Passages that indicate that Jesus' death is particular in extent

Matt. 1:21 - *"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."*

John 10:11, 14-15 - *I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep... I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.*

Acts 20:28 - *Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.*

1 Peter 2:24 - *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.*

Colossians 2:13-14 - *And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.*

The Value and Intent of the Atonement

John 10:14-15 - *I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.*

John 6:38-39 - *For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.*

The High Priestly Prayer (John 17)

2-3 - *"Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him."*

6 - *"I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word."*

9-10 - *I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them.*

12 - *While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.*

20 - *"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,*

The Difference between General and Special Grace



Why This Doctrine is precious.

1. It is Personal.

2 Timothy 2:8-10 - *Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.*

2. It is Effective.

3. It is Just.

4. It is Finished.

The Savior of the World? (1 John 4:14)

5. The Power of the Spirit: The Holy Spirit brings life and Salvation to the Elect

The Grace of The Spirit's application of Redemption. God the Spirit was sent to apply all the work of Christ to the elect. He first does the work of regeneration, where he gives a new heart to the elect so that when they hear the gospel message, they are free of the enslaving power of sin and are by God's grace finally able to freely choose to believe the gospel, and they will do so unfaithfully.

Expanded Doctrinal Statement

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 General Call of the Gospel

John 6:35 - *Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.*

Matt 11:28 - *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

Romans 10:13-15 - For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

The Effectual Call of the Spirit

John 6:36-40, 44 - But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. 37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. 40 For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day...No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day."

John 6:60-65 - When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?" But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, "Do you take offense at this? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe." (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father."

Luke 16:31 - He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'

John 10:25-27 - Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

Regeneration precedes Conversion

John 3:3-8 - Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Ezekiel 11:19 - *And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, 20 that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God.*

Ezekiel 36:26-27 - *And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.*

So what about free will?

Romans 6:16-18 - *Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, 18 and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.*

Does God override our Will? Does God force us to love him against our wills?

"It's true that, on a Calvinistic view, the Holy Spirit does not ask our permission before working this change in our hearts. But the change that he works is a change that makes us more free, not less."
- The Joy of Calvinism, Greg Forster, 34.

Prov 21:1 - *The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will.*

6. The Unbreakable Chain: The Perseverance/Preservation of the Saints

The Grace of a Faith that Will Result in Salvation. All the Father has chosen, the Son has ransomed, and the Spirit has Redeemed will not fall away, but are kept in the faith by the power of God. All who are saved will remain in faith until the end and will be raised on the last day.

Expanded Doctrinal Statement

9- God's Spirit fills all who believe with daily strength, spiritual gifts, and enduring faith.

God the Holy Spirit fully immerses every believer at the moment of regeneration, and yet the believer should continually seek to be filled by the Spirit. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit empowers the believer to commune with God in prayer, walk in purity, and be a witness for Christ. He distributes gifts – including service gifts, proclamation gifts, leadership gifts, prophetic gifts, and sign gifts – to every believer for the edification of the Church and furthering of the Kingdom. Those who are true believers in the Gospel, receiving faith and being truly regenerated, will be upheld by God's Spirit until the end.

Kept by the Power of God

John 10:27-30 - *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one."*

John 6:37, 39 - *All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out... And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.*

Romans 8:30 - *And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*

The Son Intercedes for the Elect

Rom 8:34 - *Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.*

Luke 22:31-32 - *"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."*

John 17:12 - *While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.*

The Spirit Seals us for Salvation

Ephesians 1:13, 14 - *In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.*

God keeps us through faith

1 Peter 1:5 *who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

Believers already possess eternal life

John 6:47 - *Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.*

John 5:24 - *Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.*

Justified believers can never condemned again

Romans 8:1 - *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

Romans 8:33, 34 *Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.*

God's Glory is tied to the salvation of his elect

"God will sooner at one blow destroy all the wicked of the world than that one of his Saints should be lost... if you are assured of your conversion, you may withal be assured that God, the Supreme Lord of heaven and earth, sets a higher value upon you than upon all the reprobates of the world, that God has set so high of value upon you that he has given the blood of his own son for your ransom. ~Jonathan Edwards.

What about Warning passages and Verses suggesting we can fall away?

Hebrews 6:4-6 - *For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.*

Heb 3:12 - *Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.*

(See also Heb 2:1-4; 37-4:13; 5:11-6:12; 10:19-39, and 12:14-29)

1 Cor 15:1-2 - *Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.*

Gal 5:4 - *You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.*

Luke 8:13 - *Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.*

Response

1. The Doctrines of Grace

2. Clear Scriptures on the security of salvation

3. Believers stumble and fall but not forever, not eternally

4. A warning about falling into sin

5. Not all professors are believers

2 Peter 1:10 - *Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.*

6. Falling away is a mark of false believers.

1 John 2:19 - *They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.*

7. Praying for those who are wayward.

Closing- God's Unbreakable Love

Romans 8:31-39 - *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written,*

*"For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."*

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Resources

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