

Word of Life Christian Learning Center

Sermon NOTES

The Doctrines of Grace 2023

(TULIP summary)

T – Total depravity

U – Unconditional Election

L – Limited Atonement

I – Irresistible Grace

P – Perseverance of the Saints

Three schools of thought concerning the Doctrines of Grace

Pelagianism

Pelagianism derives its name from Pelagius who lived in the 5th century A.D. and was a teacher in Rome, though he was British by birth.

- Pelagianism teaches that **man's nature is basically good.**

Thus it **DENIES original sin [is the doctrine which states that human nature has been morally and ethically corrupted due to the disobedience of Adam and Eve, mankind's first parents, to the revealed will of God. As a result, all of humanity has been rendered powerless to rehabilitate themselves, unless rescued by God.]**

He said that **Adam only hurt himself** when he fell, and all of his descendants **were not affected** by Adam's sin.

- In other words, it denies the fact that Adam's sin tainted every person born into the world.

- Morally speaking, man was unaffected by **the Fall [is the traditional term referring to the first sin of Adam and Eve which brought judgment upon both nature and mankind. This came about because Adam and Eve disobeyed God's commandment not to eat of the "tree of knowledge of good and evil."].**

AS A RESULT, it is taught that **people have the ability to fulfill the commands of God by exercising the freedom of human will APART FROM the grace of God.**

In other words, **a person's free will is TOTALLY CAPABLE of choosing God WITHOUT THE AID of Divine intervention.**

A person's free will is TOTALLY CAPABLE of choosing to do good or bad

Pelagius taught that a person is **BORN with the SAME purity and MORAL abilities** as Adam was when he was first made by God.

BOTTOM LINE, people can choose God by the exercise of their free will and rational thought.

God's grace, then, is merely **an aid** to help individuals come to Him.

- It denies **total depravity**

- It denies **substitutionary atonement** [substitutionary atonement refers to the doctrine that **Christ died on the cross as a substitute for sinners. God imputed [assigned, accredited] the guilt of our sins to Christ, and he, in our place, bore the punishment that we deserve. This was a full payment for sins, which satisfied both the wrath and the righteousness of God, so that He could forgive sinners without compromising His own holy standard.**]

- It believes that man possesses a **libertarian free will** [Libertarian free will means that our choices are free from the determination or constraints of human nature and free from any predetermination by God. All "free will theists" hold that *libertarian freedom* is essential for moral responsibility, for if our choice is determined or caused by anything, including our own desires, they reason, it cannot properly be called a free choice. Libertarian freedom is, therefore, the freedom to act contrary to one's nature, predisposition and greatest desires. Responsibility, in this view, always means that one could have done otherwise.]

- **With regards to salvation**, it teaches that man has the ability in and of himself (*apart from divine aid*) to obey God and earn eternal salvation.

Charles G Finney

Heresy –this doctrine is in complete opposition to the word of God.

Arminianism

Arminianism is named after Jacob Arminius (1560—1609), a Dutch theologian.

According to Jacob Arminius, man's nature is so corrupted by the fall that apart from grace no one would ever make the choice to convert to the Christian faith.

Arminians affirm the doctrines of original sin and total depravity.

Human salvation is completely dependent upon God's grace, without which we would be helpless.

However, God in His grace had mercy on the human race.
GOD DECIDED TO GIVE prevenient grace to all men.

Universal prevenient grace

This grace purportedly restores man's free will which was impaired by the effects of original sin and enables him to choose or refuse the salvation offered by God in Jesus Christ.

PREVENIENT GRACE DOESN'T CONVERT, BUT FREES THE WILL OF MEN TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY NOW CAN CHOOSE TO ACCEPT OR REJECT THE GOSPEL.

Semi-Pelagianism

Semi-Pelagianism (advocated by Cassian at Marseilles, 5th Century) **does not deny original sin** and its effects upon the human soul and will; but, it taught that **God AND man COOPERATE to achieve MAN'S SALVATION.**

This cooperation is in the ability of a person to **make a free will choice.**

The semi-Pelagian teaches that **MAN CAN MAKE THE FIRST MOVE toward God by SEEKING God out of his own free will**, and that **man can cooperate with God's grace** even to the keeping of his faith through human effort.

This would mean that **GOD RESPONDS to the initial effort of man**, and that **God's grace is not absolutely necessary to maintain faith.**

The problem is that **THIS IS NO LONGER GRACE.**

Island of righteousness, that part of the soul of man that was untainted by the fall.

BILLY GRAHAM

Five points of Semi-Pelagianism

Partial depravity

Partial Depravity – humanity is depraved but still able to seek God.

We are fallen and tainted by sin but not to the extent that we cannot chose to come to God and accept salvation, with the help of prevenient grace from God.

Given such grace, human will is free and has the power to yield to the influence of the Spirit.

THEY BELIEVE IN AN ISLAND OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

****Note: many Arminians reject partial depravity and hold a view very close to Calvinistic total depravity.

Conditional election

This point holds that **man is the final arbiter of his election**, and that **God elects him on the basis of foreseen faith** which is exercised by libertarian free will, thus making man ultimately decisive.

God has decreed to save through Jesus Christ, out of fallen and sinful mankind, those foreknown by Him who through the grace of the Holy Spirit believe in Christ; but God leaves in sin those foreseen, who are incorrigible and unbelieving.

This is in contrast to the Calvinist doctrine of unconditional election.

Unlimited (or universal) atonement

Christ's death was suffered on behalf of all men and benefits all men alike.

God then elects for salvation those whom he foresees will believe in

Christ of their own free will.

This is in contrast to the Calvinist doctrine of Limited atonement.

Arminians believe that whatever the atonement accomplished, it did so universally for all alike, NOT JUST THE ELECT.

This point rejects that the atonement has any component which is decisive or effectual in gathering of the elect.

Rather, the atonement is seen as a universally effective propitiation and the basis for a universal offer of salvation. The key verse used for this position is 1 John 2:2.

Resistible grace

This point holds that God NEVER overcomes the resistance of man to His saving grace.

While both Calvinists and Arminians hold that men often resist God's grace, Arminianism teaches that this resistance is rarely conquered by God because this would be a violation of man's libertarian free will.

The grace of God works for good in all men, and brings about newness of life through faith.

But saving grace can be resisted, even by the regenerate.

Uncertainty of perseverance

Those who are incorporated into Christ by a true faith have power given them through the assisting grace of the Holy Spirit, sufficient to enable them to persevere in the faith.

However, it may be possible for a believer to fall from grace. This is in contrast to the Calvinist's Perseverance of the saints.

Not all Arminians have historically embraced this fifth point as stated.

Some have embraced a form of eternal security which does not require perseverance in the faith and an attitude of repentance for final salvation.

The majority of Arminians, regardless of their position on this point, still affirm that man retains libertarian free will throughout the entirety of earthly life.

The following are also distinctive doctrines and emphases of Arminianism:

Libertarian free will

A key tenet of Arminianism is libertarian free will. This means that our choices are free from the determination or constraints of human nature and free from any predetermination by God. All "free will theists" hold that libertarian freedom is essential for moral responsibility, for if our choice is determined or caused by anything, including our own desires, they reason, it cannot properly be called a free choice.

Calvinism, Augustinianism, Reformed

TOTAL DEPRAVITY

TOTAL INABILITY – TO OBEY, COOPERATE, TO BELIEVE, ETC.

totally – completely, wholly, entirely, absolutely, fully

depravity – immoral, corrupt, wicked, evil

The doctrine of total depravity (or total inability) says that all men, as a consequence of the Fall, are **born morally corrupt, enslaved to sin, at enmity with God** in this state we hate and are hostile to God, and **unable to please Him and unable to turn to Christ for salvation.** (Thus the necessity of unconditional election.)

This does not mean that we are as sinful as we could be or that every person is as bad as they could possibly be.

It means that we are **completely/totally affected by sin.**

That means **every area of thought and conduct** including the **heart**, the **emotions**, the **will**, the **mind**, and the **body** is affected by sin

In that sense, we are **completely/TOTALLY** sinful.

Sin has affected **every single person** and **every part of every single person.**

Psalms 51:5

5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and **in sin** did my mother conceive me.

Psalms 58:3

3 The wicked are **estranged from the womb**; they **go astray from birth**, speaking lies.

Psalms 143:2

2 Enter not into judgment with your servant, **for no one living is righteous before you.**

Isaiah 64:6

6 We have **all** become like one who is unclean, and **all our righteous deeds** are like a polluted garment.

We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

Romans 3:10-12

10 as it is written:

"None is righteous, no, not one;

11 no one understands;

no one seeks for God.

12 All have turned aside; together they [all] have become worthless; **no one does good, not even one."**

Romans 3:13-19

13 "THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE,

WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING,"

"THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS";

14 "WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS";

15 "THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD,

16 DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS,

17 AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN."

18 "THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES."

SKIP TO **VERSE 23**

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 5:12

12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because **all sinned**—

Romans 7:18

18 For I know that **nothing good dwells in me**, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the working out of the good is not.

It means that we are **completely/totally affected by sin**.

That means **every area** of **thought** and **conduct** including the **heart**, the **emotions**, the **will**, the **mind**, and the **body** is affected by sin

In that sense, we are **completely/TOTALLY** sinful.

The doctrine of total depravity (or total inability) says that all men, as a consequence of the Fall, are **born morally corrupt**, **enslaved to sin**, at **enmity with God**, and **unable to please Him** and of themselves **unable to turn to Christ for salvation**. (Thus the necessity of unconditional election.)

LET'S NOW TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT THE FALL/TOTAL DEPRAVITY LOOKS LIKE

Mankind is dead spiritually.

Ephesians 2:1-5

1 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. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when **we were dead in our trespasses**, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved—

Colossians 2:13

13 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,

Mankind is dead spiritually.

Mankind's heart/mind is only evil

Genesis 6:5

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**.

Genesis 8:21

21 The Lord smelled the soothing aroma; and the Lord said to Himself, "I will never again curse the ground on account of man, **for the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth**; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done.

Psalm 10:4

4 The wicked, in the haughtiness of his countenance, **does not seek *Him*. All his thoughts are, "There is no God."**

Proverbs 23:7

7 For as he **thinks/calculates *within himself***, so he is.
He **says** to you, "Eat and drink!"
But his heart is not with you.

Jeremiah 10:7-8,14

7 Who would not fear You, O King of the nations?
Indeed it is Your due!
For among all the wise men of the nations
And in all their kingdoms,
There is none like You.

8 But **they are altogether stupid and foolish**
In their **discipline of delusion** — their idol is wood!

14 **Every man is stupid, devoid of knowledge;**
Every goldsmith is put to shame by his idols;
For his molten images are deceitful,

And there is no breath in them.

Jeremiah 17:5-10

5 Thus says the Lord,

"Cursed is the man who **trusts in mankind**

And makes **flesh his strength,**

And whose **heart turns away from the Lord.**

6 "For he will be like a bush in the desert

And will not see when prosperity comes,

But will live in stony wastes in the wilderness,

A land of salt without inhabitant.

7 "Blessed is the man who **trusts in the Lord**

And whose **trust is the Lord.**

8 "For he will be like a tree planted by the water,

That extends its roots by a stream

And will not fear when the heat comes;

But its leaves will be green,

And it will not be anxious in a year of drought

Nor cease to yield fruit.

9 The heart is **deceitful sly** - clever in concealing one's aims or ends; knowing, clever, shrewd, ingenious, skillful, **insidious** – To proceed in a gradual, subtle way, but with harmful effects;

syn: sneaky, dangerous, subtle, devious, **slippery**, untrustworthy, shifty, dodgy, dishonest above all things,

and desperately incurably sick; who can understand it NO ONE HUMAN? **Proverbs 28:26 He who trusts in his own heart is a fool,**

But he who walks wisely will be delivered.

10 "I, the Lord, search the heart,

I test the mind,

Even to give to each man according to his ways,

According to the results of his deeds.

Ecclesiastes 9:3

3 Also, the **hearts** of the children of man are **full of evil**, and madness is in their **hearts** while they live, and after that they go to the dead.

Mark 7:21-23

21 For from within, **out of the heart of man**, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery,

22 coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness.

23 All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

Romans 1:28-31

28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them over to an **unfit mind**, to do those things which are not proper, **29** having been filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips,

30 slanderers, haters of God, violent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,

31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;

Ephesians 4:17-18

17 This I say, and testify in the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the **futility of their mind**,

18 being **darkened in their mind**, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the **hardness of their heart**.

Titus 1:15-16

15 To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, **nothing is pure**, but **both their mind** and their **conscience** are **defiled**.

16 They profess to know God, but by their works they deny Him, being **detestable** and **disobedient** and **unfit** for any good work.

Mankind is dead spiritually.

Mankind's heart/mind is only evil

Mankind's will/choosing is enslaved to sin

John 8:34

34 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the **slave of sin**.

Romans 6:20

20 When you were **slaves of sin**, you were free in regard to righteousness

Galatians 4:8-9

8 However at that time, when you did not know God, you were **slaves** to those which by nature are no gods.

9 But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be **enslaved** all over again?

2 Timothy 2:25-26

25 with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth,

26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been **held captive** by him to do his will.

Titus 3:3

3 For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, **enslaved** to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another

Mankind is dead spiritually.

Mankind's heart/mind is only evil

Mankind's will/choosing is enslaved to sin

Affections and desires perverted

Genesis 3:4-6

4 The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die!

5 "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

EVE SINNED RIGHT HERE AT THIS MOMENT...IN HER HEART

6 When the woman **saw** that the tree was good for food, and that it was a **delight to the eyes**, and that the tree was **desirable** to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

EVE DESIRED THAT WHICH WAS FORBIDDEN

Genesis 3:16

16 To the woman He said,

"I will greatly multiply

Your pain in childbirth,

In pain you will bring forth children;

Yet your **desire*** will be for your husband,

And he **will rule** over you."

***DESIRE** Genesis 4:7

7 "If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."

Proverbs 21:10

10 The soul of the wicked desires evil;

His neighbor finds no favor in his eyes.

John 3:19

19 "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men **loved the darkness** rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.

John 8:44

44 "You are of your father the devil, and you **want to do the desires** of your father *and your will is to do your father's desires*. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Romans 1:24-27

24 Therefore God gave them over in the **lusts of their hearts** to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them.

25 For they exchanged the **truth of God for a lie**, and worshiped and **served the creature** rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

26 For this reason God gave them over to **degrading passions**; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural,

27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

Mankind is dead spiritually.

Mankind's heart/mind is only evil

Mankind's will/choosing is enslaved to sin

Affections and desires perverted

LET'S NOW TAKE A FURTHER LOOK AT THE RESULTS OF THE FALL THAT LEAD TO THE TOTAL DEPRAVITY OF MAN

He does not seek for God

Romans 3:10-12

10 as it is written:

"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."

He does not seek for God

He does not and cannot understand the word of God

1 Corinthians 2:14

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.

Ephesians 4:17-18

17 Therefore this I say, and testify in the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind,

18 being **darkened in their mind**, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart.

**He does not seek for God
He cannot understand spiritual things
He is hostile towards God**

Romans 8:7

7 because the mind set on the flesh is **hostile toward God**; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so,

**He does not seek for God
He cannot understand the Word of God
He is hostile towards God
He is the enemy of God**

Romans 5:10

10 For if while **we were enemies** we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

**He does not seek for God
He cannot understand the Word of God
He is hostile towards God
He is the enemy of God
And, is by nature a child of wrath of God**

Ephesians 2:3

3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh *a way of life lived in harmony with our unrenewed flesh—a life lived without the Spirit/power of God., carrying out doing the desires of the body and the mind* *mind—Greek, "our thoughts." Mental suggestions and purposes (independent of God), as distinguished from the blind impulses of "the flesh."* **and were by nature** *Nature," in Greek, implies that which has grown in us as the peculiarity of our being, growing with our growth, and strengthening with our strength, as distinguished from that which has been wrought on us by mere external influences: that which is inherent, not acquired e.g being a human being children of wrath* *children of wrath—not merely "sons," as in the Greek, "sons of disobedience" (Eph 2:2), but "children" by generation; not merely by adoption, as "sons" might be. The Greek order more emphatically marks this innate corruption: "Those who in their (very) nature are children of wrath" e.g being a human being, like the rest of mankind.*

**He does not seek for God
He cannot understand the Word of God
He is hostile towards God
He is the enemy of God
And, is by nature a child of wrath of God**

REMEMBER...Mankind's heart/mind is only evil continually

Mankind's will/choosing is enslaved to sin

After the fall, man's Free will was compromised as a result Liberty was Lost

Free will, in its simplest terms, is the power or the ability to choose what you want. Augustine

Liberty - the moral power and the freedom to be godly to be righteous...to choose godliness.
Augustine

WHEN ADAM SINNED His will WAS free, but his liberty is NOW in bondage to his evil nature; therefore, he no longer has the freedom to choose good over evil in the spiritual realm.

Free will - the faculty of choosing by which we as volitional creatures choose to do what we want to do.

Free will is a will that acts according to the desires of the person who is making the choice and is not being forced against their will through **external coercion** to do something that they don't want to do.

In the beginning, Adam and Eve, had the faculty of choosing and the moral power to use that faculty of choice to embrace virtue, righteousness...the things of God.

The power was there to be sinless... To be perfect.

Then came the fall

Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden

Genesis 2:16-18

16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden,

17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

MAN, AT THIS POINT, HAS FREE WILL AND THE LIBERTY TO CHOOSE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL.

ONCE HE SINNED, **GENESIS 3:4-6**, MAN LOST HIS LIBERTY/FREEDOM TO CHOOSE BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG.

FROM THIS POINT ON, MAN COULD ONLY CHOOSE WRONG.

Genesis 6:5

5 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

HE BECAME A SLAVE TO SIN!!!!!!

Romans 6:17

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,

...skip to verse 20

20 When you were **slaves of sin**, you were free in regard to righteousness.

AS A RESULT OF MAN BEING A SLAVE TO SIN HE IS THEREFORE ALIENATED FROM GOD

Ephesians 2:12

12 remember that you were at that time **separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God** in the world.

Ephesians 2:12 LSB

12 *remember* that you were at that time 1) **without Christ**, 2) **alienated from the citizenship of Israel**, and 3) **strangers to the covenants of promise**, having 4) **no hope** and 5) **without God** in the world.

It is impossible for man to choose or desire God ON HIS OWN/APART FROM GOD

Man **is incapable of** choosing or desiring God ON HIS OWN/APART FROM GOD

He is unable of himself to savingly believe the gospel ON HIS OWN/APART FROM GOD

John 6:44

44 **No one can come to me** unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

draws - SEE ENGLISH MEN'S CONCORDANCE IN PC STUDY BIBLE

HOWEVER, WHEN WE ARE BORN AGAIN, WE REGAINED OUR FREEDOM/LIBERTY.

John 8:32

32 and you will know **the truth**, and the truth will **make you free.**"

John 8:36

36 So if the Son **sets you free**, you will be free indeed.

Romans 8:2

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has **set you free** from the law of sin and of death.

2 Corinthians 3:17

17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, **there is freedom.**

UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

Acts 13:48

48 When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had **been appointed to eternal life** believed.

Romans 8:28,30

28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are **called according to His purpose**.

29 For those whom He **foreknew**, He also **predestined** to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

30 and these whom He **predestined**, He also **called**; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

Romans 9:23-24

23 And He did so to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He **prepared beforehand** for glory,

24 even us, whom **He also called**, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles.

Romans 11:5-6

5 In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious choice.

6 But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.

Rom 11:5-6 TEV

5 It is the same way now: there is a small number left of those whom God has chosen because of his grace.

6 His choice is based on his grace, not on what they have done. For if God's choice were based on what people do, then his grace would not be real grace.

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

13 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because **God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation** through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

14 It was for this **He called you** through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:9

9 But you are A **CHOSEN RACE**, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; NASU

COMMENTARY

God's choice of certain individuals unto salvation before the foundation of the world rested solely in His own sovereign will.

He chooses the elect according to the kind intention of His will without taking into account the quality, value or worth of an individual.

God's choice was completely unmerited undeserved and unearned.

God does not look into the future to see who would pick Him.

His choice of sinners was not based on any foreseen response or obedience on their part, such as faith, repentance, altar call etc.

On the contrary, it is God who gives **faith** and **repentance** to each individual whom He has personally selected.

These acts [**faith** and **repentance**] are the **RESULT** of God choosing us, not the **CAUSE** of God's choice.

Election therefore was not determined by or conditioned upon any virtuous quality or act foreseen in man.

IN OTHER WORDS, God does not base His election on anything He sees in the individual.

John 1:12-13

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,

13 **who were born**, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but **of God**.

John 6:44

44 **No one** can come [is able – not, may come, but can come] to me [Jesus] unless the Father who sent me draws [*hel ku' se e* - drags, compels – to make something happen by force; **Acts 16:19; 21:30**] him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

John 14:6

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one **comes to the Father except through me**.

Ephesians 1:4,11

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 through Jesus Christ, **according to the purpose of his will,**

SKIP TO VERSE 11

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,**

Ephesians 2:1-10

1 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.

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were **dead in our trespasses**, [GOD] **made us alive together with Christ**— by grace you have been saved—

6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might **show the immeasurable riches of his grace** in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not **your own doing**; it is the gift of God,

9 **not a result of works**, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship [craftsmanship], created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

THE DOCTRINE OF ELECTION AS SEEN IN ROMANS, CHAPTER 9

Actually, election is introduced in the latter part of chapter 8.

Romans 8:29-30

29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; **30** and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

No, let's go to chapter 9

Romans 9:6-26

ISAAC AND ISHMAEL

6 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel spiritually speaking as chosen by God who are descended from Israel naturally, biologically, physically; 7 nor are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants like Ishmael, but:

"THROUGH ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL BE NAMED." **Gen 21:12**

8 That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are **children of God**, but the children of **the promise** are regarded as descendants of God.

9 For this is the word of promise: "AT THIS TIME I WILL COME, AND SARAH SHALL HAVE A SON...not Hagar." **Gen 18:10**

JACOB AND ESAU

10 And not only this, but there was **Rebekah** also, when she had conceived **twins** by one man, our father **Isaac**; before it was two brothers by the same father and different mothers as in the case of Ishmael and Isaac

11 for though the twins were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that [here's the reason] **God's purpose** of election and selection according to **His choice** would stand, **not because of works** but [here's the reason] because of **Him who calls** inward effective call,

12 it was said to her Rebecca, "THE OLDER Esau WILL SERVE THE YOUNGER Jacob." Just as in the case of Isaac and Ishmael. God chose the younger over the older brother. **Gen 25**

13 Just as it is written, "**JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED** when compared for my love for Jacob, My regard for Esau looks like hate."

The question behind this paragraph is a question of **God's fairness**. If He only chose some to be the heirs of promise, and not others, people will say He is unfair.

Paul had just reminded his Jewish readers that God sovereignly chose **Isaac above Ishmael** and **Jacob above his twin brother Esau** before they were born (Rom 9:6-13).

They were not **chosen or rejected** because of who they were or would be or because of what they had done or would do, "but because of Him who calls" (v. 11), that is, wholly on the basis of God's sovereign will.

Isaac and Jacob were "the children of the promise" (v. 8); Ishmael and Esau were not. So, in the sense of spiritual salvation, God has chosen some to believe.

The natural human response is to assert that God was unjustly arbitrary in choosing one over the other long before they would have opportunity to trust or reject Him or to be obedient or disobedient.

Arbitrary - based on random choice or personal whim, rather than any reason or system:
Synonyms: random, erratic, haphazard, casual, unmotivated, motiveless, unreasoned, unreasonable, irrational, illogical, unjustified, discretionary [flexible, open, unrestricted]

That natural response, however, is tantamount to saying that there is injustice with God. So Paul asks rhetorically if we have a right to accuse God of being unjust.

14 What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be No, no! a thousand times no!! As one writer said,

The very idea that God could be unjust or unrighteous to the slightest degree is blasphemy.

1 John 1:5-7

5 This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that **God is Light**, and in Him there is **no darkness at all**.

6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;

15 For He says to Moses, "I WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHOM I HAVE MERCY, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOM I HAVE COMPASSION." **Ex 33:19** Where God was showing some of his glory to Moses

16 So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.

[It depends not on one's own willingness nor on his strenuous exertion as in running a race, but on God's having mercy on him.]

17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE I RAISED YOU UP, TO DEMONSTRATE **MY POWER** IN YOU, AND THAT **MY NAME** MIGHT BE PROCLAIMED published THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EARTH." ...But I in particular, His chosen/elect, so that they would put their faith, their trust, and their hope in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob...and not Pharaoh, who was the most powerful man in all of the earth...

Moses was a Jew, whereas Pharaoh was a Gentile; but both of them were sinners.
 Both were murderers, and
 Both witnessed God's miracles.
 Yet Moses was redeemed and Pharaoh was not.
 God raised up Pharaoh in order to reveal His own glory and power, and
God had mercy on Moses in order to use him to deliver His people Israel.
 Pharaoh was a ruler, whereas Moses' people were slaves under Pharaoh.
 But Moses received God's mercy and compassion, because that was God's will.
 The Lord's work is sovereign, and He acts entirely according to His own will to accomplish His
 own purposes. **v11**
 The issue was not the **presumed rights** of either men but rather **the sovereign will of God**.

18 So then He has mercy on whom He desires and the ones he desires to have mercy on are the ones he has elected chosen and selected, **and He hardens** to make stubborn, to make obstinate and unyielding in the heart towards the truth **whom He desires**.

Make no mistake, God did not put fresh evil into the heart of Pharaoh, PERIOD!!!

GOD simply, through His command to Pharaoh, to "let My people go!." incited the evil that was already in Pharaoh's heart.

It is like a child throwing a tantrum because his/her parents told them to do something that he didn't want to do.

The tantrum was the child's response to his parents' command.

In this case, the parent(s) incited and aroused the response the tantrum through their command for the child to do something.

James 1:13-14

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

HOW DID GOD HARDEN, MAKE STUBBORN THE HEART OF PHAROAH?

1. GOD GAVE THE COMMAND THROUGH MOSES TO LET MY PEOPLE GO
2. WHEN PHAROAH REFUSED, GOD BEGAN SENDING PLAGUES
3. THE SIN, THE WICKEDNESS, THE EVIL THAT WAS IN THE HEART OF PHAROAH WAS INCITED Provoked, Motivated stimulated AND HE BECAME PERSISTENT IN HIS DISOBEDIENCE
4. THE MORE THE PLAGUES WERE SENT THE MORE STUBBORN THE HEART OF PHAROAH BECAME!!!

EVERY TIME GOD SENT A PLAGUE, PHAROAH BECAME MORE DETERMINED TO NOT BEND OR BOW TO THE WILL OF GOD

THIS IS WHAT HARDENING OF THE HEART LOOKS LIKE!!!!

ITS MORE THAN **ROM I:26**TURNING THEM OVER OR ABANDONING ONE TO THEIR OWN SIN

GOD DIDN'T JUST GET OUT OF THE WAY AND LET PHAROAH DO HIS THING, HE ACTIVELY PROVOKED PHAROAH'S HEART REPEATEDLY UNTIL PHARAOAH WAS DESTROYED!!!

LET'S CONTINUE IN ROMANS CHAPTER 9 VERSE 19

19 You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?"

In other words, if God sovereignly has mercy on whom He desires and hardens whom He desires, how can human beings be held responsible? How can they be blamed for their unbelief and sin, when their destiny has already been divinely determined? Again, such reasoning challenges God's justice and righteousness.

As Israel was conquering Canaan,

Joshua 11:18-20

18 Joshua waged war a long time with all these kings.

19 There was not a city which made peace with the sons of Israel except the Hivites living in Gibeon; they took them all in battle.

20 For it was of the Lord to harden their hearts, to meet Israel in battle in order that he might **utterly destroy** them, that they might **receive no mercy**, but that he **might destroy** them, just as the Lord had commanded Moses. **Ps 2:1-3, Rev 20:8-10**

Such commands of God, with which the Old Testament abounds, seem **totally capricious**, erratic, unpredictable, impulsive, flighty and **cruel to worldly, carnal minds**, which **accept only** what fits **their preconceived ideas of right and wrong, justice and injustice**. Consequently, they **judge even God** by their own **finite, biased, and sin-tainted standards**.

God's outright sovereign will is just as clearly taught in the New Testament....

Romans 11:7

7 What then? What Israel is seeking, it has not obtained, but those **who were chosen** obtained it, and the **rest were hardened**;

1 Thessalonians 5:9

9 For **God has not destined** us for wrath, **but for** obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

In His perfect wisdom, and in perfect righteousness and justice, **God has destined** some people **for salvation** by **His grace** and, because of **their sin and unbelief**, has left others to damnation **by His wrath**.

Many critics of such doctrine election/predestination, **supposedly coming to the defense** of **God's justice**, **fail to acknowledge** that **every human being since the Fall has deserved nothing but God's just condemnation to an eternity in hell**.

If God were to exercise ONLY His justice, no person would ever be saved. It is therefore hardly unjust if, according to His sovereign grace, He chooses to elect some sinners for salvation.

It is not, of course, that we can fully understand what God reveals about His sovereign election and predestination. It can only be accepted by faith, acknowledging its truth simply because God has revealed it to be true.

As believers, we know that, in ourselves, we deserve only God's rejection and condemnation.

But we also know that, **for His own sovereign reasons**, God has elected us to be His children and, in His own time and way, brought us to saving faith in Jesus Christ.

20 On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? Cf. 14Rom 9:14 What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be! The thing molded will not say to the molder, "Why did you make me like this," will it?

Continuing simply to **proclaim God's sovereign righteousness and justice rather than trying to explain it**, Paul turns a question back on those who would question the Lord. On the contrary, he says, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? In other words, it is **blasphemous** even to question, not to mention **deny, God's right to hold men accountable according to His sovereign will.**

It is obvious from Paul's wording that the ones who might be asking such questions would **NOT** be seeking God's truth but rather **self-justification.**

Attempting to excuse their own unbelief, sinfulness, ignorance, and spiritual rebellion, they find it fitting to accuse God of injustice.

21 Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use?

22 What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction?

23 And He did so to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory,

24 even us, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles.

25 As He says also in Hosea,

"I WILL CALL THOSE WHO WERE NOT MY PEOPLE, 'MY PEOPLE,'
AND HER WHO WAS NOT BELOVED, 'BELOVED.'"

26 "AND IT SHALL BE THAT IN THE PLACE WHERE IT WAS SAID TO THEM, 'YOU ARE NOT MY PEOPLE,'
THERE THEY SHALL BE CALLED SONS OF THE LIVING GOD."

LIMITED/ACTUAL/SPECIFIC/DEFINITE ATONEMENT

Most people in the church believe in an **unlimited atonement.**

Meaning that Jesus died for everyone.

Folks who believe this say they do not believe in a **limited atonement**, instead, they say they believe in an **unlimited atonement**.

That's not true.

They believe in an atonement that is limited in its power, that is limited in its effect, that is limited in its impact to the will of the sinner.

That's a **very limited atonement**.

They believe that it is **unlimited** in its extent, that it extends to the whole of the human race, but it is very limited in its effect.

Meaning that Jesus died for everyone potentially and no one actually.

He died for everybody potentially means, salvation is available to all and you can accept/receive it or not.

AS A RESULT, the actualizing of the atonement depends upon the sinner deciding to actualize the atoning work of Jesus Christ on his own behalf.

And if the sinner never believes, if he chooses never to receive Christ, then the death of Christ for Him remains an **unrealized potential** – hence limited in its effect.

It doesn't save it just offers the potential to save.

NOT WHAT THE WORD TEACHES.

The word teaches an actual atonement that is limited as to its extent.

So, the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ then, is not a potential salvation for all, it is an actual salvation for the many.

Limited/actual/definite atonement means that Jesus bore the sins of the elect (those chosen for salvation by God) **ONLY**.

See, this changes everything.

If you believe that there's this sort of hanging sort of a potential atonement floating around the world and you just have to convince sinners to pick it up, to take advantage of it, then evangelism takes on a completely different approach.

It all becomes working on the will of the sinner to get him to actualize this only potential atonement.

And you have to ask yourself who gets the credit for that one? Right?

It doesn't sound like the way to glorify God.

Again, the prevailing belief is the idea that Jesus' atonement is unlimited in its extent but very limited in its effect.

In fact, it is so limited in its effect, that by itself, it isn't enough to save you.

Is that amazing? Jesus dying on the cross, paying the penalty for our sin under that theology isn't enough to save you.

You've got to do something to COMPLETE it, which sounds to me like salvation by works.

But how is the sinner going to do that when he's absolutely unable to do that and unwilling to do that?

Dead in trespasses and sin, blinded by Satan.

The atonement is limited in its extent [not for everyone] and the question is, who limited it? Who limited it? God.

Can you imagine looking back at the cross and seeing Jesus at the very end of the cross looking up and saying, "It is started." What? "It is potential."

That's not what He said, is it?

Was the death of Christ a full and complete payment to God satisfying His just wrath for some particular chosen people?

Or was it an actual for nobody, and a potential for everybody.

So, as a result, Jesus did not bear the sins of every individual who has ever lived.

He bore the sins of a particular group.

This theology is also called "particular redemption" and "definite atonement".

Jesus only bore the sins of the elect.

Isaiah 53:4-12

4 Surely he has borne **our** griefs
and carried **our** sorrows;
yet **we** esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

5 But he was wounded for **our** transgressions;
he was crushed for **our** iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought **us** peace,
and with his stripes **we** are healed.

6 All **we** like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned every one to his own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of **us all**.

SKIP TO VERSE 8

8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away;
and as for his generation, who considered
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of **my people**?

SKIP TO VERSE 10

10 Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him;
he has put him to grief;
when his soul makes an offering for sin,
he shall see **his offspring**; he shall prolong his days;
the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.
11 Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,
make **many to be accounted righteous**,
and he shall bear **their** iniquities.
12 Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,
because he poured out his soul to death
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the **sin of many**,
and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Matthew 1:21

21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save **his people** [not all people] from **their** sins."

Matthew 26:28

28 for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for **many** [not everybody] for the forgiveness of sins.

John 10:11, 14-15

11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd **lays down his life for the sheep**.

SKIP TO VERSE 14

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

John 10:26

26 "But you do not believe because you **are not** of **My sheep**. [If you are not his sheep, He didn't die for you]

Matthew 25:32-33

32 Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from **the goats**.
33 And he will place the sheep on his right, but **the goats** on the left.

John 17:9

9 I am praying for them. I am **not praying for the world** but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours.

Acts 20:28

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**. [Who did he obtain? ... The church, not the world]

Ephesians 5:25-27

25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church **and gave himself up for her**,
26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,
27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Isaiah 53:12

12 Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,
because he poured out his soul to death
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet **he bore the sin of many** (not all),
and makes intercession for the transgressors.

If Christ died for everybody, then the sin/debt of everybody ever born has been cancelled/paid for when Jesus was nailed to the cross.

Colossians 2:13-14

13 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,
14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against **us** with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

If their sin debt has already been cancelled/paid then why do people still go to hell for their sins?

They are, in effect, paying the second time for their sin.

...because Jesus has supposedly paid for their sins already.

In reality people go to hell because they are damned.

They are damned because their sin debt was NOT cancelled.

Their sin debt was not cancelled because Christ only legally bore the sins of the elect.

Jewish racism, national pride and prejudice

Deuteronomy 7:6-8

6 "For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

7 It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples,

8 but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Romans 3:1-2

1 Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? 2 Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God.

Romans 9:4-5

4 They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. 5 To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

HOWEVER, THE ABOVE PROMISES BROUGHT ABOUT AN ATTITUDE OF ENTITLEMENT

Matthew 3:7-10

7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

8 Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.

9 **And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,'** for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.

10 Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

They believed that simply being Abraham's descendants, members of God's chosen race, made them spiritually secure.

John 8:39-40

39 They answered him, "**Abraham is our father.**" Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham did,

40 but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did.

Romans 2:28-29

28 For **no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly**, nor is circumcision outward and physical.

29 But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.

Romans 9:6-7

6 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are **descended from Israel belong to Israel,**

7 and **not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring,** but "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." 8 This means that it is **not the children of the flesh** who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring.

HOWEVER, THIS IN TURN, LED TO AN ATTITUDE OF EXCLUSIVITY.....

THAT SALVATION BELONGED TO THE JEWS AND THE JEWS ONLY!!!!!!!!!!

NO ONE ELSE COULD BE SAVED!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

JESUS BEGAN TO TEACH THEM OTHERWISE

Luke 13:28-30

28 In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out.

29 And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God.

30 And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

John 10:16

16 And **I have other sheep that are not of this fold.** I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

John 12:32

32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw **all people** to myself."

The Holy Spirit Falls on the Gentiles

Acts 10:44-45

44 While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word.

45 And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter **were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles.**

Acts 11:15-18

15 As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning.

16 And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

17 If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?"

18 When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "**Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.**"

Acts 13:46-48

46 And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, "**It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you.** Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, **we are turning to the Gentiles.**"

47 For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may **bring salvation to the ends of the earth.**"

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.

Romans 1:16

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, **to the Jew first and also to the Greek.**

Romans 3:27-30

27 Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith.

28 For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

29 **Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also,**

30 since God is one. He will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.

Ephesians 2:11-22

11 Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— 12 remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 **But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.** 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15 by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. 17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. 18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Titus 2:13-14

13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself **for us** to redeem **us** from all lawlessness and to purify **for himself a people** for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

1 Peter 2:24

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.

Revelation 5:9

9 And they sang a new song, saying,
 "Worthy are you to take the scroll
 and to open its seals,
 for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation,

Revelation 14:6

6 Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those
 who **dwelt on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people.**

What about the "world," "every" and "all" scriptures?

"WORLD" SCRIPTURES**John 1:29**

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!**

He didn't come to take away the sin of everybody.

Go back to verse 11.

John 1:11-12

11 He came to his own, and **his own people did not receive him.**

12 But to all **who did receive him, who believed in his name,** he gave the right to become
 children of God,

Acts 13:48

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.

ANOTHER WORLD VERSE**John 3:16**

16 "For God so loved the **world,** that he gave his only Son, that **whoever believes** in him should
 not perish but have eternal life.

17 For God did not send his Son into the **world** to condemn the world, but in order that the
world might be saved [*might be saved* in English is one word in Gk— *sozo* meaning to deliver, to
 rescue from danger and destruction NOT that everyone has a chance to be saved] through him.

NIV

John 3:17

17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to **save the world
 through him.**

"WORLD" IS QUALIFIED IN THE NEXT THREE VERSES**John 3:18-21**

18 **Whoever believes** in him is not condemned, but **whoever does not believe** is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

19 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and **people** loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil.

20 For **everyone who does wicked things** hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

21 But **whoever does what is true** comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God."

ANOTHER WORLD VERSE

John 4:42

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**."

He is the Savior of the world in this sense:

He's the only Savior this world will ever have.

He's the only Savior the human race will ever know.

The world has no other Savior.

John 6:33-35

33 For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the **world**."

WORLD QUALIFIED

34 They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

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.

John 12:47-48

47 If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the **world**.

48 **The one who rejects me and does not receive my words** has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.

John 14:22

22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to **us**, and not to the **world**?"

John 12:19

19 So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the **world** has gone after him."

Romans 11:15

15 For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the **world**, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead?

2 Corinthians 5:19

19 that is, in Christ God was **reconciling the world** to himself, not counting their trespasses against them [actual atonement not potential], and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

1 John 2:2

2 He is the propitiation [by the way, this is an actual atonement not a potential atonement – Jesus is the satisfaction, the placation/pacifier] for our [Jews] sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the **whole world** [Gentiles as well].

WORLD simply means that there are no racial limits, there are no ethnic limits.

Revelation 5:9

9 And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God **from every tribe and language and people and nation**,

“ALL” SCRIPTURES

Romans 5:18-19

18 Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for **all men**.

YOU MUST BE CAREFUL WITH THE PARALLEL OR ELSE YOU’LL END UP WITH EVERYONE BEING JUSTIFIED/RIGHTEOUS.

NEXT VERSE

19 For as by the one man's disobedience the **many** were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the **many** will be made righteous.

USES THE WORD MANY IN THIS VERSE TO CLARIFY THE ALL IN THE PREVIOUS VERSE!!!!!!!

Romans 8:32

32 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 IS THIS US ALL? WELL, GO BACK TO **VERSE 28**

Romans 8:28-31

28 And we know that for those **who love God** all things work together for good, for those **who are called according to his purpose**.

29 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**.

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is **for us**, who can be against us?

VERSE 32 AGAIN

32 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?

VERSE 33 SUMS UP WHO THE US ALL ARE

33 Who shall bring any charge against **God's elect**? It is God who justifies.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

14 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for **all**, therefore **all** have died;

THE ALL QUALIFIED

15 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.

IRRESISTIBLE GRACE/CALL

Also known as an **effective call**, an **efficacious call**, a **determinative call**, a **decisive call**, a **conclusive call**, and an **operative call**.

It is the call to salvation.

It is the divine summons.

It is the divine subpoena, not for judgment and not for punishment, but so that you can be declared righteous, free from condemnation, forgiven.

It is the call to salvation.

The Greek word for call comes from the root *kaleō*.

Kaleō means “to call into one’s presence,” or “to summon.”

Believers are referred to as “**the called**.”

We are the called, the church is the *ekklēsia*, not just *kaleō*, but from *ekkaleō* - to be called out.

So, the church then becomes the noun form of that verb, “the called out ones.”

So, the church is the assembly of those who have been called/summoned.

Now, the word of God lets us know that this call, this summons cannot be ignored and it cannot be resisted.

It is the **unyielding summons from God**.

It is a **subpoena to appear before Him** in His court for the purpose of –
 being declared righteous,
 being declared just,
 having all your sins forgiven,
 and being set free from any judgment or any condemnation.

SCRIPTURAL EXAMPLES OF **CALLED**

Romans 1:1-6

1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, **called** to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,

SKIP TO VERSE 5

5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, 6 including you who are **called** to belong to Jesus Christ,

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

1 Paul, **called** by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, **called to be saints** together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

SKIP TO VERSE 9

9 God is faithful, by whom you were **called** into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

SKIP TO VERSE 23

23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,

24 but to those who are **called**, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

SKIP TO VERSE 26

26 For consider your **calling** [summons, divine subpoena], brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

SKIP TO VERSE 30

30 He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus [ESV - But **by His doing** you are in Christ Jesus], who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, 31 so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."

Gal 1:11-17

11 For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel.

12 For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

13 For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it.

14 And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers.

15 But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace,

16 was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone;

17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

Ephesians 4:1-5

1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the **calling** to which you have been **called**,

2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,
 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
 4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were **called** to the one hope that belongs to **your call**—
 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

Colossians 3:15

15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were **called** in one body.
 And be thankful.

1 Thess 2:12

12 we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who **calls** you into his own kingdom and glory.

This is a call to fellowship.

This is a call into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

This is a call to holiness.

This is a call into the body of Christ, to join with the one Spirit, the one Lord, the one faith, the one God and Father of us all.

And this is a call into His Kingdom and glory.

IS THIS CALL RESISTABLE???

LET'S FIRST TAKE A LOOK AT GOD'S SOVEREIGN WILL/AUTHORITY IN SCRIPTURE

Numbers 23:19

19 God is not man, that he should lie,
 or a son of man, that he should change his mind.

Has he said, and will he not do it?

Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?

2 Kings 19:25

25 "Have you not heard
 that I determined it long ago?
**I planned from days of old
 what now I bring to pass,**
 that you should turn fortified cities
 into heaps of ruins,

Isaiah 14:24-27

An Oracle Concerning Assyria

24 The Lord of hosts has sworn:

"As I have planned,

so shall it be,

and as I have purposed,

so shall it stand,
SKIP TO VERSE 27

**27 For the Lord of hosts has purposed,
 and who will annul it?
 His hand is stretched out,
 and who will turn it back?**

Daniel 4:35

35 all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing,
 and **he does according to his will** among the host of heaven
 and among the inhabitants of the earth; **and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have
 you done?"**

Acts 5:38-40

38 So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan
 or this undertaking is of man, it will fail;
 39 but **if it is of God**, you will **not be able to overthrow them**. You might even be found
 opposing God!" So they took his advice,

Ephesians 1:11

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**,

Romans 8:28-31

28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who
 are **called** according to his **purpose**.
 29 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.

God's grace, therefore, is invincible [incapable of being conquered, defeated, or subdued]; THE
 CALL, ONCE EXTENDED, WILL ALWAYS RESULT in salvation.

LET'S LOOK AT SOME scriptures.....

John 1:12

12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, **he gave** the right to become
 children of God,
 13 **who were born**, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, **but of God**.

John 6:37

37 All that the **Father gives me** will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast
 out.

John 6:44

44 No one can come to me unless **the Father** who sent me **draws him**. And I will raise him up on the last day.

Acts 13:48

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**.

Romans 8:29-30

29 For those whom **he foreknew** [doesn't say how he came to foreknow the elect] **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**.

Romans 9:16

16 So then **it depends** not on human will or exertion, but **on God**, who has mercy.

Ephesians 2:8-10

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is **not your own doing**; it is the gift of God,

9 **not a result of works**, so that no one may boast.

10 For we are **his workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Philippians 2:12-13

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,

13 for it is **God who works in you**, both to will and to work for **his good pleasure**.

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

13 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.

2 Timothy 1:8-9

8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of 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,

1 Peter 2:9

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of **him who called you** out of darkness into his marvelous light.

THINK OF IT LIKE THIS.....

IF GOD'S CALL IS RESISTABLE, THEN THAT MEANS THAT THE SINNER CAN CHOSE TO COME WILLINGLY.

REMEMBER, no sinner has the capacity to be willing.

No sinner left to himself is willing to understand
 ... is willing to repent,
 ... is willing to believe,
 ... is willing to choose God, Christ and salvation.

Romans 3:10-17

10 as it is written:

"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."

13 "Their throat is an open grave;

they use their tongues to deceive."

"The venom of asps is under their lips."

14 "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness."

15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood;

16 in their paths are ruin and misery,

17 and the way of peace they have not known."

18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

19 Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.

20 For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Ephesians 2:1-5

1 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.

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,

5 even when **we were dead** in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved—

1 Corinthians 2:14

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.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

3 And even if our gospel is veiled, **it is veiled only to those who are perishing**.

4 In their case the god of this world has **blinded the minds of the unbelievers**, to keep them **from seeing the light** of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

The sinner only becomes willing in the day of divine power.

God must display His sovereign power in summoning us, in giving us the will to believe.

He must make the sinner willing

However, it's not that the sinner comes kicking, and screaming, and protesting, and trying to resist

...because when the summons comes, the sinner is made willing.

As sinners, people have the freedom of the will.

They operate freely.

They choose to sin.

In salvation we also have the freedom of the will, but instead of choosing sin we choose Christ and the difference is because we have been summoned with a divine call.

Jonathan Edwards said, "What we choose is not really determined by the will as if it existed independently. What we choose is really determined by the mind and what it is that the mind thinks is best."

We are free to choose what our mind thinks is best, and apart from God and apart from Christ, our mind is corrupt and it **thinks that sin is best**.

Edwards goes on to say, "When confronted with God, the mind of the sinner never thinks that following or obeying God is a good choice."

The sinner's will is never to choose God.

The sinner's mind doesn't regard submission to God and the gospel desirable...

...so unless God changes the way a sinner think, their mind will always tell them to rebel against God and the gospel.

The sinner will resist until they are **graced** from heaven – until they receive a heavenly summons.

I don't like the idea of irresistible grace because irresistible grace is redundant.

If grace is all of God, then it is irresistible because it says in Romans that God says, "I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious," also in the book of Exodus. It is by definition irresistible.

If God decides to be gracious, then it's all of Him.

The Bible doesn't call this irresistible grace, it calls it a heavenly calling, a calling to holiness, a calling to sanctification, a calling to justification, a calling to communion with the saints, a calling into the body of Christ.

And that word just under-defines that.

Ephesians 2:8-9 calls it a **gift from God... or a saving call**

BOTTOM LINE..... IT IS ALL GOD'S DOING

John 1:12-13

12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, **he gave the right** to become children of God,

13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, **but of God.**

It isn't because the sinner comes to his senses.

It isn't because the sinner is persuaded by clever preaching, or an emotional appeal.

Those are all deceptive illusions.

It isn't because you're so nice or you've made Jesus look so nice.

People are saved because God summons them, and He summons them under the proclamation of the gospel.

Forget all the nonsense.

The gospel alone is what God uses to awaken the sinner and He makes him willing, whereas he has never been willing before.

PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

All who were chosen by God, redeemed by Christ, and given faith by the Spirit are eternally saved. They are kept in faith by the power of Almighty God and thus persevere to the end. (John 3:16, John 6:35-40, John 6:44, Philippians 1:6, Philippians 2:12-13, Jude 24-25, Ephesians 1:13-14, Romans 8:28-30, Romans 8:35-39)

You cannot lose your salvation.

Because the Father has elected, the Son has redeemed, and the Holy Spirit has applied salvation, those thus saved are eternally secure.

They are eternally secure in Christ.

Some of the verses for this position are John 10:27-28 where Jesus said His sheep will never perish;

John 6:47 where salvation is described as everlasting life;

Romans 8:1 where it is said we have passed out of judgment;

1 Corinthians 10:13 where God promises to never let us be tempted beyond what we can handle;

...and Phil. 1:6 where God is the one being faithful to perfect us until the day of Jesus' return.