

EVANGELISM

Lesson #2

How Sinners Are Saved By Grace

When seeking to evangelize the lost, it is critical to understand *how* people are saved by God. Failure to do this will often lead to unbiblical ideas about salvation and unbiblical methods for doing evangelism. God knows all things. Before the world was created God knew Adam and Eve would sin and as a consequence creation would be cursed. He knew the human race would be in need of salvation from sin and its consequences or more specifically, from His holy justice and wrath. In His eternal plan, He chose to provide a Savior who would pay the penalty for the sins of men. Knowing that fallen mankind would love darkness rather than light and that none would not seek Him on their own, He chose some unworthy sinners before the foundation of the world to be adopted as sons. The elect would be granted mercy, grace, repentance, and faith so that they would be saved. God would open their hearts to understand His truth and draw them to His Son by the Holy Spirit. He would lavish upon them the riches of His grace, making them trophies of His unconditional love. While only a remnant would be saved, the call to salvation is universal for “many are called, but few are chosen” (Mt. 22:14).

In this study we will look at the process of salvation *in a chronological order* starting with predestination. *It must be noted that the gospel, not predestination and election, should lie at the center of our doctrine of salvation.* The danger of looking at salvation chronologically is overemphasizing predestination and election, disregarding man’s responsibility, or thinking predestination is part of the gospel message when it is not. Predestination and election are doctrines to encourage those *who have already believed*; they are not doctrines that should limit, control, or modify the gospel and how we evangelize the lost.

I. REVIEW OF HOW SIN HAS AFFECTED ALL MANKIND

Before we work through this lesson, below is a summary chart of what we learned in the previous lesson. We must keep in mind the reason *why* men need salvation, in order to understand *how* men are saved by God’s grace.

SUMMARY OF HOW ALL MEN ARE AFFECTED BY SIN	
“Evil thoughts continuously” Gen. 6:5	“Blinded by Satan” II Cor. 4:4
“Incurably wicked heart” Jer. 17:9; Mk. 7:21-23	“Can’t see the gospel” II Cor. 4:4
“Accustomed to doing evil” Jer. 13:23	“Love darkness” Jn. 3:19
“Futile in their speculations” Rom. 1:21	“Do not come to the light” Jn. 3:20
“Foolish, darkened heart” Rom. 1:21	“Unwilling to come to Jesus” Jn. 5:40
“Exchange truth for a lie” Rom. 1:23	“Dead in trespasses and sins” Eph. 2:1
“They don’t seek God” Rom. 3:11	“Satan working in them” Eph. 2:2
“Set their minds on the flesh” Rom. 8:5	“Futile in their mind” Eph. 4:17
“Hostile toward God” Rom. 8:7	“Darkened understanding” Eph. 4:18
“Do not submit to God” Rom. 8:7	“Without the life of God” Eph. 4:18
“Cannot submit to God” Rom. 8:7	“Ignorant of the truth” Eph. 4:18
“Cannot please God” Rom. 8:8	“Hard Hearted” Eph. 4:18
“See spiritual truth as foolishness” I Cor. 2:14	“Calloused conscience” Eph. 4:19
“Cannot understand the Bible” I Cor. 2:14	“Given over to sensuality” Eph. 4:19
“Gospel is veiled from their eyes” II Cor. 4:3	“Practicing every kind of impurity” Eph. 4:19

II. THE DOCTRINES OF ELECTION, PREDESTINATION, AND FOREKNOWLEDGE

- A. **Definition of Election:** Election describes God's sovereign *act of choosing, selecting, or electing* before the foundation of the world certain unworthy sinners to be saved by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.
- B. **Definition of Predestination:** Predestination describes *the eternal plan* of God to bring about the salvation of those He has elected to salvation.
- C. **Definition of Foreknowledge:** Foreknowledge is *to know relationally or have an intimate understanding of something or someone beforehand*. Literally, "knowing someone/something before." God "knows relationally" those He predestines and elects unto salvation before the foundation of the world.
- D. **What Predestination, Election, and Foreknowledge Do Not Mean**
1. Predestination, election, and foreknowledge do not mean God looks into the future, sees who is going to seek and believe in Jesus, and then in response to what He sees sinners doing in the future unaided by His saving grace, then chooses, elects, and predestines them to salvation. *Remember, no one, unaided by God's saving grace seeks the Lord, not even one* (Rom. 3:10-18).
 2. Predestination, election, and foreknowledge do not describe God's *reaction or response to anything men do* by their works or will. The three doctrines of predestination, election, and foreknowledge are gracious acts of God which He performs by His own sovereign choice and will, completely independent from any merit, works, or influence of men. Remember, men are spiritually dead before Jesus saves them (Eph. 2:1-3), hostile to God (Col. 1:21), enemies of God (Rom. 5:10), unable to please God (Rom. 8:5-8), and incapable of discerning and understanding the Word of God (I Cor. 2:14).
 3. Predestination, election, and foreknowledge do not mean that God predestines and chooses all men and then allows most of His elect to reject Him so that they become "un-elected," "un-predestined," and "un-chosen" before the foundation of the world. Remember, all that the Father gives to the Son, come to Him, and He loses none (Jn. 6:37, 39, 44, 65).
- E. **Scriptural Support for Predestination, Election, and Foreknowledge**
1. Mt. 22:14 – "For many are called, but few are chosen."
 2. Acts 13:48 – "And 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."

3. Rom. 8:29-30 – “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren; and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”
4. Eph. 1:4-5, 11 – “. . . just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, . . . 11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will.”
5. II Tim. 1:9 – “. . . who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity.”
6. I Pet. 1:1-2 – “Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in fullest measure.”

F. **Common Questions People Have About Predestination and Election**

1. "Why does God elect, predestine, choose, and foreknow only some people and not all people?" Rom. 9:6-24 discusses the subject at length, but the specific reasons given by Paul are because of “God’s purpose” and “choice” (vs. 11). God has mercy and compassion on whomever He pleases (vss. 15-16, 18, 23). God has a right to do what He wants (vs. 21).
2. "Why does God need to elect, choose, or predestine sinners to salvation?" The answer is found in the previous study on “Man and Sin.” Left on their own, men *never seek God*. Second Thess. 2:10 sums it up well, “because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.”

G. **Common Objections to Predestination and Election**

Most people who reject the doctrines of predestination and election do so, not because it is not clearly taught in the Bible, but *because they don't understand how the doctrines apply* or because they have a faulty or shallow view of man's sin and how sin has affected mankind. They usually object to the doctrines of election and predestination on rational, not biblical grounds. They reject the clear teaching of the Bible because it doesn't make sense to them. Below are examples of some of the common objections that professing Christians have for rejecting the doctrines of election and predestination.

1. If God has already predestined and chosen who will be saved, then why witness?
2. If God chooses those who will believe, then isn't it only logical to say He chooses others to sin and go to hell?
3. If predestination is true, then doesn't that make God unjust or unfair because He only chooses some people to be saved?
4. Why pray for the unsaved if God has already chosen who will be saved?
5. If only the elect can be saved, then isn't it a deception to offer the gospel to all men knowing only some will believe and be saved?
6. How can it be true that "no one seeks God" (Rom. 3:11) when the Bible speaks of those who seek and find the Lord (Deut. 4:29; II Chron. 15:2; Isa. 55:6; Acts 15:17)? Also, isn't it the personal experience of many that they sought and found the Lord?
7. Don't texts like John 3:16 make salvation available to all, saying that "whoever" believes in Jesus will not perish, but have everlasting life?
8. Don't the doctrines of election, predestination, and foreknowledge take away man's responsibility to believe?
9. Since people can't save themselves, how can God condemn men to hell for not being predestined?

H. **What the Scriptures Teach us About God's Desire for All Men**

1. Isa. 45:22 -- "Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other."
2. Ezek. 18:23, 32 -- "Do I have any pleasure in the death of the wicked," declares the Lord God, "rather than that he should turn from his ways and live? . . . 32 "For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies," declares the Lord God. "Therefore, repent and live."
3. Ezek. 33:11 -- "Say to them, 'As I live!' declares the Lord God, 'I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! Why then will you die, O house of Israel?'"
4. Acts 17:30-31 -- "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, 31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."

5. I Tim. 2:1-6 -- First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. 3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.
6. II Pet. 3:9 -- The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

I. **A Common Mistake People Make When Thinking about Predestination, Election, and Foreknowledge *Is to Apply These Doctrines to Unbelievers***

1. *Who is the gospel message for?*
 - a. Matt. 24:14 --“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come.”
 - b. Mark 13:10 --“The gospel must first be preached to all the nations.”
 - c. Luke 24:46-47 – “He said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.”
 - d. Acts 1:8 --and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”
2. *Who is the message of predestination for?*
 - a. Eph. 1:1 – “Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are at Ephesus. . .”
 - b. I Pet. 1:1 – “Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen.”
 - c. **NOTE:** Almost all of the problems people have with predestination, election, and foreknowledge come from **TRYING TO APPLY THESE DOCTRINES TO UNBELIEVERS.** The Scriptures only speak of those who are saved as being predestined, chosen, or foreknown. These doctrines are designed to be an encouragement to believers. Only God knows who He has chosen to save.

Our job is to preach the gospel. It is God’s job to save people through the preaching of the gospel. God’s message to all unbelievers is “repent and believe in Jesus Christ, crucified and resurrected from the dead.”

Someone has illustrated the doctrines of predestination and election this way, “It is like a huge sign hanging over the narrow gate to heaven that reads, “Come! Whoever will believe in Jesus Christ alone for salvation.” Those who believe can enter the narrow way and after entering, when they look on the backside of the sign, they discover it reads, “Chosen before the foundation of the world!”

Thus, the doctrines of predestination, election, and foreknowledge *have nothing to do with evangelizing the lost*. There is a clear message for all unbelievers; it is the gospel call to “repent and believe in Jesus Christ crucified and resurrected from the dead.”

Some who refer to themselves as “Calvinists” often refuse to offer the gospel to all people, for fear of telling the non-elect that Christ died for them. This is an error and not what the Bible teaches. For instance, in I Cor. 15:1-4 the Apostle Paul reminds the Corinthians of the gospel he preached to them before they were saved:



- “Christ died for our sins”
- “Christ was buried”
- “Christ was raised on the third day”

PREDESTINATION & SALVATION

The doctrine of predestination is difficult for many to understand. Much of this difficulty arises when predestination is applied to unbelievers, something the Scriptures never do. We must not take something written to unbelievers or all men and try to apply it to believers or try to apply texts of Scriptures written to believers and apply it to all men or unbelievers.

OUR SINFUL NATURE

All are sinners (Rom. 3:23).
Conceived in sin (Ps. 51:5).
Sinful from birth (Ps. 58:3).
Sinful from youth (Gen. 8:21).
Sin is imputed to us in Adam (Rom. 5:17-19; 1 Cor. 15:22).
We are sinful by nature (Eph. 2:3).

OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD GOD

No one seeks God (Rom. 3:10-12).
Men love darkness not light (Jn. 1:4-5; 3:19-20).

THE LIMITED FREEDOM OF OUR WILL

Men cannot understand God's Word (1 Cor. 2:14).
Men are blinded from the truth (1 Cor. 4:3-4).
Men are unable to please God (Rom. 8:5-8).

SIN AND MAN'S ABILITY TO REASON

Our heart is corrupt (Jer. 17:9).
Our minds are subjected to futility (Eph. 4:17).
Our hearts are darkened (Rom. 1:21).
Our conscience is defiled (Titus 1:15).
Our hearts are evil (Mk. 7:21-23).
Our thoughts and intentions are evil (Gen. 6:5).

GOD'S MESSAGE TO ALL MEN

God commands all men to repent (Acts 17:30)
Confess and believe (Rom. 10:8-10).
Believe that Jesus died, was buried and rose again on the third day (1 Cor. 15:3-5).
Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 16:31).

GOD'S DESIRE FOR ALL MEN

God desires all men to be saved (1 Tim. 2:1-4).
God is not willing that any should perish (1 Pet. 3:9).

ALL MEN ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE

God's invisible attributes, eternal power, and divine nature can be clearly seen in creation. God also made Himself known to us by putting His law in our hearts and giving us a conscience sensitive to right and wrong. Yet, man universally suppressed the truth in unrighteousness and served God's creation instead of God hence man is without excuse before God (Rom. 1:18-23; 2:14-16).

QUESTIONS

1. **If God is the one who saves and only His elect believe then why witness?** God commands us to make disciples and confess Christ before men. If we don't we are sinning (Mt. 10:32-33; Mt. 28:19-20; 1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:8-15).
2. **Why pray for people if God has already decided who He will save?** God tells us to pray at all times, to pray about all things, and to pray for the salvation of all men. If we don't we are sinning (Eph. 6:18; Phil. 4:6-7; 1 Tim. 2:1-4).
3. **How can you call God just if He chooses some and not others?** We must remember that all men are sinners (Rom. 3:23). It is just for all men to suffer hell because of their sin (Rom. 6:23). The question is not why are some saved but why don't all perish? God saves us by His mercy and grace which are undeserved and supersede justice (Eph. 2:8-9; Tit. 3:5; Mt. 20:1-16; Rom. 9:14-20).
4. **Don't all people have the possibility of being saved?** Christ's sacrifice is sufficient for all. The call to salvation is universal. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation for all who believe (Rom. 1:16). God gives natural revelation and reveals Himself through nature, in our consciences, and through His law written in our hearts, but all men, apart from the grace of God, suppress the truth in unrighteousness and therefore are without excuse (Rom. 1:18-23; 2:14-16).
5. **If only the predestined are saved then it seems logical that God must predestine the others to hell.** The scriptures never say that God predestines people to hell, it says He predestines hell for sinners. People choose hell when they reject God (see **THOSE WHO DISBELIEVE** section).
6. **How can God not be willing for any to perish but not choose all men?** God has two kinds of will. One is His absolute will another is his desirous will or what He wishes but does not cause to have happen. Election unto salvation is an act of God's absolute will (Acts 13:48). God's desire for all men to be saved is just that, His desire, just like He desires that believers not be anxious or sin in any other way. Yet they sin, even though it is God's will (desirous will that they do not). (Rom. 9:5-33).

ALL
MEN

GOD CHOOSES SOME

God predestines some (Eph. 1:4-5; 1 Pet. 1:2).
The predestined believe (Acts 13:48; Rom. 8:29-30; Tit. 1:1).
God chooses some (Mt. 22:14; 11 Thess. 2:13).

GOD SAVES EVERYONE HE CHOOSES

The Father gives some to Christ and all which are given come (Jn. 6:37, 39).
No one comes to Christ unless the Father draws them (Jn. 6:44, 65).
The Lord opens the hearts of those who believe (Acts 16:14).
The Lord grants people the ability to believe (Matt. 11:27; 1 Tim. 2:24-26; Phil. 1:29).
Saved by God's grace (Eph. 2:8-9).
Saved by God's mercy (Tit. 3:5).

THOSE
WHO
BELIEVE

GOD LOSES NONE

Jesus loses none which are given (Jn. 6:39; 10:27-30).
God's call is irrevocable (Rom. 11:29).
God confirms us to the end (1 Cor. 1:8-9).
God seals us with the Spirit until the day of redemption (Eph. 4:30).
God continues His work in us until the day of Christ Jesus (Phil. 1:6).
God brings our salvation to pass (1 Thess. 5:23).

These two categories relate to those who have died and whose eternal fate has been revealed

THOSE
WHO
DISBELIEVE

WHY GOD CONDEMNS MEN TO HELL

They reject God's manifestations of Himself (Rom. 1:18-32).
They regard as foolishness the Word of the cross (1 Cor. 1:18).
They are disobedient to the Word (1 Pet. 2:7-8).
They do not believe the truth but love wickedness (2 Thess. 2:10-12).
They do not obey God (Jn. 3:36).
They do not repent (Lk. 13:3, 5; Rom. 2:5).
They deny Christ (Mt. 10:33).
They are selfish and obey unrighteousness (Rom. 2:8).
They willfully sin, trample underfoot the Son of God, regard as unclean the blood of the covenant, and insult the Spirit of grace. (Heb. 10:26-31)
They chose to not seek God (Rom. 3:11).

III. GOD SAVES SINNERS THROUGH THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL

We learned in the previous lesson that “*there are none who seek after God*” (Rom. 3:10ff). Yet, most believers would say they sought God, found Jesus Christ, understood the gospel, believed, and were saved. The obvious paradox arises, “*Since no one seeks God (Rom. 3:10-18), since all unbelievers hate the light and do not come to the light (Jn. 3:19-21), since Satan blinded the minds of the unbelieving (II Cor. 4:4), since they cannot understand the gospel (I Cor. 2:14), etc., how is it that some sinners seek God, understand the gospel, repent, and believe?*” Let’s get answers to these questions from the Bible. First, let’s look at *the means* God uses to save sinners.

- A. Luke 3:16-18 – “John . . . preached the gospel to the people.”
- B. Luke 20:1 – “He [Jesus] was teaching the people in the temple and preaching the gospel, that the chief priests and the scribes with the elders confronted Him.
- C. Rom. 1:16 -- 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.
- D. I Cor. 1:17-18, 23; 2:2 – “For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, that the cross of Christ should not be made void. For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. . . 23 but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness, . . . 2 For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.
- E. I Cor. 15:1-4 -- “- Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”
- F. From the verses above, “What is the means God uses to save sinners?” This may seem to be an easy question to answer, but be assured, many people seek to do evangelism without ever preaching the gospel. We will look at some of the methods of “evangelism” that exclude the gospel in later lessons.

IV. THE LORD USES THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO SAVE THE ELECT

A. The Elect Have Their Minds Illuminated to Understand the Gospel

- 1. Mt. 11:27 -- “All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son, except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father, except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.”

2. Mt. 13:11 – “Jesus answered them, “To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted.”
3. I Cor. 2:12-14 –Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, 13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. 14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.”
4. I Jn. 5:20 – “And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.”

B. The Elect Are Given to the Son, Drawn to Christ, and Granted the Ability to Believe in Jesus, So That They Are Saved, Not Lost, and Resurrected

1. Jn. 6:37 -- “All that the Father gives Me shall come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.
2. Jn. 6:39 --“And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.
3. Jn. 6:44 --“No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.
4. Jn. 6:65 --And He was saying, “For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me, unless it has been granted him from the Father.”

C. The Elect Have Their Hearts Opened By the Lord to Receive the Gospel

Acts 16:14 – “And a certain woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.”

D. The Elect Are Granted Saving Faith So That They Believe

1. Jn. 6:29 –Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.”
2. Eph. 2:8 –For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.

3. Phil. 1:29 – “For to you it has been granted for Christ’s sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake.”

E. The Elect Are Granted Saving Repentance

1. Acts 3:26 “For you first, God raised up His Servant and sent Him to bless you by turning every one of you from your wicked ways.”
2. Acts 5:30-31 “The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross. 31 “He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.
3. Acts 11:18 When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, “Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life.”
4. Rom. 2:4 Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?
5. II Tim. 2:24-26 And the Lord’s bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, 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.
6. *Summary:* From the texts in Point IV, what do we learn about the work of God’s saving grace in the Elect?
 - a. The Son reveals the Father to the elect (Mt. 11:27).
 - b. Only the elect are granted the ability to know the mysteries of the kingdom (Mt. 13:11).
 - c. The elect are illumined to the truth of the gospel by the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 2:12-16).
 - d. The Son gives the elect the ability to understand the gospel (I Jn. 5:20).
 - e. The Father gives the elect to the Son to be saved and none are lost (Jn. 6:37).
 - f. Only the elect are given by the Father to the Son, and they will be resurrected on the last day (Jn. 6:39).
 - g. Only the elect are granted the ability to come to the Son (Jn. 6:44).
 - h. It is the work of God that the elect believe (Jn. 6:65).
 - i. Saving faith is not of ourselves, but a gift of God’s grace (Eph. 2:8).
 - j. The elect are granted saving faith to believe in Jesus (Phil. 1:29).
 - k. The Lord turns the elect from their wicked way to faith in Jesus (Acts 3:26).

- l. The Lord grants saving repentance to the elect (Acts 5:30-31; 11:18; II Tim. 2:25).
- m. The Lord's kindness leads the elect to repentance (Rom. 2:4).

V. THE SALVATION OF THE ELECT IS NOT BY HUMAN WORKS

Salvation is the work of God, not men. Men can do nothing to either earn or deserve salvation. The love, grace, and mercy of God that leads to salvation is neither deserved nor earned. What this means is that no one deserves to be saved or even deserves a chance to be saved. God could condemn all men to hell and be perfectly just. Many people, however, have too high an opinion of themselves and too low a view of their own sin. People naturally want to play a small part in their salvation, to help Jesus out, and to be able to boast, "I did seek God on my own," or "I did repent on my own," or "I did place my faith in Christ on my own." Thus, they add a little human merit to the gospel of grace, which nullifies the gospel, and is a damning heresy.

- A. Rom. 3:20, 28 – "because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin. 28 For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law."
- B. Gal. 2:16 – "nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we may be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified."
- C. Eph. 2:8-9 – "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, that no one should boast."
- D. II Tim. 1:9 – "who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity."
- E. Titus 3:5 – "He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit."
- F. *Summary:* According to the verses above in Point V, which of our good works or acts of obedience assist Jesus in saving His elect?
 - 1. Obeying God's law doesn't justify a sinner (Rom. 3:20).
 - 2. The elect are justified by faith apart from the works of the law (Rom. 3:28).
 - 3. The elect are not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, for the works of the law can't justify a sinner (Gal. 2:16).
 - 4. God saves the elect by grace. The elect are passive, and God is active in salvation. The elect receive saving faith to believe (Eph. 2:8).

5. God doesn't save the elect by their works, but by His own purpose and grace, granted to the elect from all eternity (II Tim. 1:9).
6. God doesn't save the elect because of their good deeds done in righteousness, but according to His mercy and the washing and regenerating work of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5).

VI. MAN'S RESPONSIBILITY TO APPROPRIATE THE GOSPEL

Sinners are responsible before God to respond to the gospel message. The key word is "respond," which implies that *God does something first*. We have learned above that God, out of love for sinners: 1) predestines, 2) chooses, 3) foreknows, 4) illumines, 5) draws, 6) gives, 7) grants repentance, 8) grants grace, 9) grants mercy, 10) grants faith, and yes, *after God works on the elect by grace*, they willingly respond to the gospel message. God takes the sinner's unwilling, sin-loving, spiritually dead heart, and enables it to understand the truth of the gospel, so that they respond in faith and be saved. This way God gets all the glory, and no man can boast. Compare what the Bible says to the many extra-biblical ways people are told to appropriate the gospel.

- A. Isa. 30:15 For thus the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, has said, "In repentance and rest you will be saved, In quietness and trust is your strength." But you were not willing.
- B. Isa. 45:22 --"Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other.
- C. Isa. 55:6-7 --Seek the Lord while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. 7 Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the Lord, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.
- D. Mt. 11:28 -- "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.
- E. Lk. 1:37 --So he began saying to the crowds who were going out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"
- F. Lk. 9:23 -- "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.
- G. Lk. 14:26 --"If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.
- H. Lk. 14:27 --"Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.
- I. Lk. 14:33 --"So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.

- J. Lk. 17:33 -- “Whoever seeks to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.
- K. John 1:12-13 – “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, who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”
- L. Jn. 3:16 -- “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.”
- M. Acts 17:30 “Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent.”
- N. Rom. 10:8-9 – “But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart”—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, 9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.”
- O. Summary: According to the Scriptures above in Point VI, what responsibility do sinners have in responding to or appropriating the gospel message?
 - 1. They must repent of their sin and rest from their works (Isa. 30:15).
 - 2. They must seek the Lord (Isa. 55:6).
 - 3. They must call upon the Lord (Isa. 55:6).
 - 4. They must forsake their wicked way (Isa. 55:7).
 - 5. They must forsake their unrighteous thoughts (Isa. 55:7).
 - 6. They must turn to the Lord (Isa. 55:7).
 - 7. They must “turn to” or “look to Christ” for salvation (Isa. 45:22).
 - 8. They must come to Jesus (Mt. 11:28; Jn. 5:40; 6:37, 44, 65).
 - 9. They must receive Jesus Christ as their Savior (Jn. 1:12-13).
 - 10. They must believe in Jesus Christ (Jn. 1:12; 3:16).
 - 11. They must repent of their sin and turn in faith to Jesus Christ (Lk. 13:3, 5; Mk. 1:15; Acts 17:30).
 - 12. They must confess Jesus as Lord and believe in their heart that God raised Jesus from the dead (Rom. 10:8-9).
- P. Many people when evangelizing the lost, use extrabiblical terms and/or add extrabiblical works after preaching the gospel. This should be avoided for it has led multitudes to believe they are saved *because of what they have done*, not what the Lord has done for them. Many people when asked to give their testimony, run to their extra-biblical works as assurance for being saved and never mention Jesus Christ. Here are some common examples:
 - 1. If you want to become a Christian, come forward at the altar call.
 - 2. If you want to become a Christian, raise your hand.
 - 3. If you want to become a Christian, sign a prayer card.
 - 4. If you want to become a Christian, go to the anxious bench.
 - 5. If you want to become a Christian, pray the sinner’s prayer.
 - 6. If you want to become a Christian, ask Jesus into your heart.

7. If you want to become a Christian, make a decision for Christ.
8. If you want to become a Christian, receive the love of God.
9. If you want to become a Christian, you must be baptized in water.
10. If you want to become a Christian, you must do certain sacraments.
11. If you want to become a Christian, you must join a specific local church.
12. If you want to become a Christian, you must hold to a certain creed.
13. If you want to become a Christian, you must follow a specific preacher.
14. If you want to become a Christian, you must clean up your life.

None of these common but extra-biblical works are taught in the Bible. They have led multitudes to cling to something they did to save themselves, rather than the person and work of Jesus Christ.

J. C. Ryle said,

“Then learn the enormous folly of joining anything with Christ in the matter of salvation. There are multitudes of baptized men and women who profess to honor Christ, but in reality, do Him great dishonor. They give Christ a certain place in their system of religion, but not the place which God intended Him to fill. Christ alone is not “all in all” to their souls.—No! It is either Christ and the Church,—or Christ and the sacraments,—or Christ and His ordained ministers,—or Christ and their own repentance,—or Christ and their own goodness,—or Christ and their own prayers,—or Christ and their own sincerity and charity, on which they practically rest their souls.”¹

VII. PARTIAL LIST OF WHAT GOD DOES FOR THE ELECT AT SALVATION

- A. *God justifies the elect*, (Rom. 3:23, 28; Gal. 2:16).
- B. *God atones for the sin of the elect* (Rom. 5:11).
- C. *Christ propitiates the sin of the elect* (I Jn. 2:2; 4:10).
- D. *Christ redeems the elect* (Gal. 3:13; Titus 2:14).
- E. *God regenerates the elect* (Jn. 3:1-7; II Cor. 5:17).
- F. *God reconciles the elect to himself* (II Cor. 5:18-19).
- G. *God sanctifies the elect* (Past - I Cor. 6:11; Present - II Cor. 3:18; Future – I Jn. 3:2).
- H. *God forgives the elect of all their sins* (Eph. 1:7; Col. 2:13-14).

¹ J. C. Ryle, *Holiness: Its Nature, Hindrances, Difficulties and Roots* (London: William Hunt and Company, 1889), 455–456.

- I. *God adopts the elect as His children* (Rom. 8:15; I Jn. 3:2).

VIII. **ETERNAL SECURITY OR THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS**

The doctrine of eternal security or “perseverance of the saints” is the doctrine that says once a believer is saved, God will ensure he remains saved. The saved sinner cannot lose, forfeit, reject, or commit certain sins that cause them to lose their salvation.

Scriptural support for the doctrine of perseverance

- A. Jn. 6:37,39 -- “All that the Father gives Me shall come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. 39 “And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.”
- B. Jn. 10:27-30 -- “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;28 and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. 29 “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. 30 “I and the Father are one.”
- C. Rom. 8:29-30 – “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.
- D. I Cor. 1:8-9 – “who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- E. Eph. 4:30 – “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”
- F. Phil. 1:6 – “For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.”
- G. I Thess. 5:23-24 – “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.”
- H. I Pet. 5:10 – “And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.”
 1. Do the Scriptures above in Point VIII, teach us the believer must persevere in order to keep their salvation or that God perseveres in the believer to keep their salvation?

2. If one could lose, hand back, walk away from, or sin his way out of salvation:
 - a. A person would have to be un-predestined, un-elected, un-known, un-adopted, un-sanctified, un-regenerated, un-born again, un-redeemed, un-justified, un-forgiven, un-atoned for, and un-gifted of the free gift of eternal life. All the works of God that accompany salvation, which God does by grace, apart from works, would have to be undone by the believer's sin.
 - b. To say one of the elect can lose their salvation is to deny the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice and to believe there was sin in the life of the elect for which Christ's death did not atone.
 - c. To deny the perseverance of the saints is to believe in salvation by works. You must keep your sins confessed to keep yourself saved, which is the Judiazzer heresy. Salvation is not a work of man and that is why man by his works cannot undo it.

Homework

- Listen to Steve Lawson, ["The Gospel Preaching of the Apostle Paul"](#)
- Listen to Jack Hughes, ["God's Sovereignty and Your Salvation" Part 5](#)
- Listen to Jack Hughes, ["God's Sovereignty and Your Salvation" Part 6](#)
- Listen to Jack Hughes, ["God's Sovereignty and Your Salvation" Part 7](#)

Extra Credit

- Listen to or read "The Soul Winner" by C. H. Spurgeon
 - [Paper Back Edition](#)
 - [Audible audio version](#)
 - [Apple Books Audio](#)
 - [Apple Books Digital](#)
 - [Kindle Books](#) (free)
 - [Online PDF](#) (free)