

# Foundations of Truth

## Week Five – Salvation

March 2, 2022

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

### We need to be saved.

#### **Ephesians 2:1-3**

Apart from Jesus, we are:

- ❖ Dead in sin
- ❖ Following the spirit of disobedience
- ❖ Gratifying the sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts
- ❖ Objects of wrath (God’s wrath)

#### **Titus 3:3**

Apart from Jesus, we are:

- ❖ Foolish
- ❖ Disobedient
- ❖ Deceived
- ❖ Enslaved by passion and pleasure
- ❖ Living in malice, envy, and hate

#### **Additional descriptions of our state apart from Jesus:**

Romans 3:9-20; Romans 6:17; John 8:34; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Colossians 1:21

### God has Chosen to Provide Salvation.

#### **Ephesians 2:4-5**

#### **Titus 3:4-7**

- ❖ We cannot save ourselves (v. 5).
- ❖ Salvation is entirely an act of God’s grace (Eph. 2:5) and mercy (Titus 3:5)
- ❖ Salvation is provided **exclusively through the person and work of Jesus** (John 14:6; Acts 4:12)
  - **Atonement:** A Middle English conjunction of two words: At-one; Used to refer to the whole redemptive work of Jesus Christ (Romans 5:11; Hebrews 10:1-4)
  - **Substitutionary:** Christ died “in the place of another” (Romans 4:25, 5:8; II Corinthians 5:21; Isaiah 53)
  - **Vicarious:** Similar to substitution, means “on behalf of another.” (I Peter 2:24; 3:18)
  - **Propitiation:** To appease, placate, or pacify. Jesus Christ appeased the wrath of God by shedding His blood as a perfect sacrifice. Compare Romans 1:18 with Romans 5:9. (Romans 3:25; I John 2:2, 4:10)
  - **Redemption:** To purchase or buy back. Borrowed from the ancient slave trade. (Matthew 20:28; Romans 3:24; 6:17, 18; Galatians 3:13; 4:4, 5; Ephesians 1:7, 14; 4:30; Colossians 1:14; I Timothy 2:6; Titus 2:14)
  - **Reconciliation:** Restoration, man is restored to God (Romans 5:10; II Corinthians 5:18-20; Ephesians 2:16)
  - **Sacrificial** - Christ was the offering for sin; He paid in full the debt of all sin (I Corinthians 5:7b; Ephesians 5:2; Hebrews 10:12)

## God saves us completely.

### **Romans 8:28-30**

<sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup> And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

### **Philippians 1:6**

<sup>6</sup> being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

**All who are truly born again will be completely saved:** John 5:24; John 6:37; John 10:28; Romans 5:9; Romans 8:31-39; 1 Corinthians 1:8; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; Ephesians 1:13-14; 1 John 5:4

### **Salvation in every aspect is a gracious work of God.**

- ❖ We are saved from the penalty of sin – Romans 3:24-26; Galatians 2:16
  - **Justification** – The “instantaneous legal act of God in which He (1) thinks of our sins as forgiven and Christ’s righteousness as belonging to us, and (2) declares us to be righteous in His sight.” Grudem
- ❖ We are saved from the power of sin – 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; Philippians 2:12-13
  - **Sanctification** – The work of God in and through us that makes us more and more like Jesus in our daily lives. This is a work in which we cooperate with God through the exercise of our will, but even this is in full dependence on His grace. (1 Corinthians 15:10; Colossians 1:29)
- ❖ We are saved from the presence of sin – 1 Corinthians 15:50-57, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
  - **Glorification** – The final step in our redemption. When Christ returns, the bodies of those who have died in Christ will be raised and the bodies of those who are alive in Christ will be transformed. We will dwell forever together with the Lord.

### Election/Predestination

- *Elect* – (noun) chosen, someone or something that is selected/picked out
- *Elect* – (verb) to choose, to select someone or something.

(Romans 8:33; Colossians 3:12; Ephesians 1:4; 1 Thessalonians 1:4; 2 Timothy 2:10; Titus 1:1; 1 Peter 1:1; 2 Peter 1:10; Revelation 17:14)

*Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God’s sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.*

*All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.*

**(God’s Purpose in Election - Baptist Faith and Message 2000)**

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-8; 1 Samuel 8:4-7,19-22; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31ff.; Matthew 16:18-19; 21:28-45; 24:22,31; 25:34; Luke 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48; John 1:12-14; 3:16; 5:24; 6:44-45,65; 10:27-29; 15:16; 17:6,12,17-18; Acts 20:32; Romans 5:9-10; 8:28-39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7,26-36; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; Colossians 1:12-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:12; 2:10,19; Hebrews 11:39–12:2; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:2-5,13; 2:4-10; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:19; 3:2.

The relationship between God's call and human response is explained in Matthew 22:14: "For many are called, but few are chosen." Although God calls many through the gospel, only some of those respond to the call and become his elect people. The text sheds no light on the mystery of why only some become God's people. Certainly, when a person does respond to God's call, it is because the gospel comes to him or her "in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction" (1 Thes. 1:4, 5). When men and women refuse the gospel, it is because they have become hardened as a result of sin and their trust in their own works. Scripture does not go beyond that point in explanation, and neither should Christians.

Walter A. Elwell and Barry J. Beitzel, "Elect, Election," Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988), 682.

### **Principles to keep in mind**

#### **1. Believing is not the same as understanding. Romans 11:33-36**

33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! 34 "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" 35 "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" 36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

- We are called to believe what we cannot completely understand.

#### **2. Two things (or more) can be true at the same time (without canceling each other out.)**

- God is Sovereign over all things, including salvation.
- Man is responsible to make real choices, including the choice to respond to the gospel with faith.
- God desires all to be saved.
- Not all will be saved.

**John 1:12-13:** But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

- How are these verses highlighting the responsibility of man in salvation?
- How are these verses highlighting the sovereignty of God in salvation?

**Romans 8:29-33:** 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? 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? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

- How are these verses highlighting the sovereignty of God in salvation?

**Romans 10:9-13:** 9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. 11 For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. 13 For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

- How are these verses highlighting the responsibility of man in salvation?

**1 Timothy 2:4:** *[God] desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

**Romans 9:14-16:** *14 What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! 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." 16 So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.*

### **The Christian life begins and continues by faith in the Grace of God.**

#### **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.*

#### **Galatians 2:20-21**

*20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. 21 I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"*

**See also:** John 1:12; 3:16; Romans 3-4.

### **God is glorified because He saves us.**

**1 Peter 2:9; Ephesians 1:3-14**

#### **Passage for Meditation – Ephesians 2:4-10**

*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— 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, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

**Belief Statements:** Concise statements of truth that are taken directly from the text.

**Example:** God is rich in mercy.

**Application:** How has God shown me mercy? Where do I see my need for mercy today?

**Pray:** Thank God for showing you mercy by giving us Jesus and saving us from sin.