

The Sovereignty of God

“Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!” **Romans 11:33**

1. God’s Sovereignty in Salvation

1. Why does God not save everyone? Is it because he can’t? Are they too sinful?
2. Why doesn’t everyone who hears the Gospel believe? Are they too defiant? Why do we believe?
 1. It is true that they refuse to believe - but only from man’s perspective
 2. They believe because God ordained it, and He is Sovereign in the election of His people. He deserves the glory!
3. *“Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory”* **Romans 9:21-23**
 1. All mankind represented inert and impotent
 2. No difference between them. We were all children of wrath. *“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 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 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.”* **Ephesians 2:1-3**
 3. God is the ultimate determiner of our destiny. We are either vessels prepared for destruction or for mercy (glory). *“Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?”* **Matthew 20:15**
 4. We know that we can trust God, and He will deal justly with His creatures. *“Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?”* **Genesis 18:25**
 5. A.W. Pink *“He shapes His vessels for His own purpose and according to His own pleasure. God claims the indisputable right to do as He wills with His own.”*

4. God’s election

1. *“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.”* **Acts 13:48**
 1. Believing is a consequence of God’s decree
 2. That there is a set number of those who will believe
 3. All who are ordained will believe
 4. This appointment is to eternal life, i.e. Salvation.
2. *“So too at the present time there is a remnant, **chosen** by grace. But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.”* **Romans 11:5-6**
 1. God choice is His sovereign choice – a gracious election
 2. Grace and works are like oil and water
3. *“For consider your **calling**, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God **chose** what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God **chose** what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God **chose** what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”* **1 Corinthians 1:26-31**
 1. The number chosen is “defined”. *“For many are called, but few are chosen.”* **Matthew 22:14**
 2. We are the lowly and despised. We had nothing to give the Lord!
 3. The nation of Israel, the Apostles

4. Man would have chosen the “best” *“And he said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.”* **Luke 16:15**
4. *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even 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 for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will”* **Ephesians 1:3-5**
 1. His choice was before time, before Adam plunged the human race into sin
 2. His purpose
 1. For us to be “holy and blameless before him”
 2. To be His adopted children
 3. To have an inheritance (v11)
 3. His motive - Love
 4. All according to “the purpose of His will”
5. *“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.”* **2 Thessalonians 2:13**
 1. God’s choice is to Salvation
 2. Salvation is attained by sanctification of the Spirit and belief in the truth; you’re not saved just to be saved. You’re saved for and to something.
 3. God’s choice of our Salvation should lead us to Thanksgiving
6. *“who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,”* **2 Timothy 1:9**
 1. We have nothing to offer for our Salvation
 2. If God’s choice was in eternity then it will last for eternity! If He chooses it’s forever!
7. *“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, According to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.”* **1 Peter 1:1-2**
 1. God’s election proceeds the work of the Holy Spirit
 2. Obedience is belief
 3. **R 8:28-30**

5. The Sovereignty of Christ in Salvation

1. Christ’s Sacrifice. Who did Jesus die for?
 1. He must have had a particular purpose, because it was derived from the choice of The Father.
 2. If he came to save all, all would be saved!
 3. *Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. 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. - Isaiah 53:10-11*
 4. *“Christ died not merely to make **possible** the salvation of all mankind, but to make certain the **salvation** of all that the Father had given to Him.”* A.W. Pink
 1. *“For then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.”* **Hebrews 9:26**
 2. Christ died for the elect!
2. Christ’s atonement is limited and defined by God’s eternal choice.

1. *"All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me."*
John 6:37-38
2. Before the foundation of the world, God chose a people to be conformed to the image of His Son, and Christ's sacrifice accomplished His purpose.
3. Christ's purpose in the atonement was limited (two views)
 1. Man's view: it was a substitution, the just dying for the unjust.
 2. God's view: the cross-work of Christ was an appeasing of divine wrath for divine justice and holiness
 1. As a substitute, to be satisfactory it must be accepted as just payment
 2. Did God accept Jesus' sacrifice? Yes, the empty tomb.
 3. If it was accepted, its scope was either limited by design or everyone is saved.
 1. *"Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself."* **Hebrews 9:25-26**
 4. Jesus is a savior who really saves! *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."* **John 10:11**
4. Christ's Priesthood. For whom does Christ intercede?
 1. *"For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf."* **Hebrews 9:24**
 2. Those who are partakers of the "heavenly calling" **H 3:1**
 3. The Old Testament High Priest entering the Holy of Holies for Israel.
 4. *"Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died-more than that, who was raised-who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us."* - Romans 8:33-34
 5. The object is the same - God's elect!
5. Christ's Power.
 1. Jesus is God incarnate, and what He purposes He will accomplish
 2. If His will can be thwarted, then He is a defeated savior!

6. The Sovereignty of the Holy Spirit in Salvation

1. "Each of the three Persons in the blessed Trinity is concerned with our salvation: with the Father it is predestination; with the Son propitiation; with the Spirit regeneration. The Father chose us; the Son died for us; the Spirit quickens us. The Father was concerned about us; the Son shed His blood for us, the Spirit performs His work within us. What the One did was eternal, what the other did was external, what the Spirit does is internal." AW Pink
2. The work of the Spirit proceeds belief. *"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."* **2 Thessalonians 2:13**
 1. The order: Chosen, Sanctified and Belief
 2. The work of the Spirit is necessary to complete God's eternal purpose!
 3. Without the Spirit's work no one would be saved
3. The Holy Spirit effects the new birth
 1. We didn't do anything for physical birth, nor do we do anything for our spiritual birth
 2. *"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life."* **John 6:63**
 3. Faith is a consequence of new birth
 4. "And you were dead in the trespasses and sins." **Ephesians 2:1**