



Building Fund



Digital Bulletin

Capital Campaign Goal = \$450,000  
May - November 2026 - \$91,351

## Lessons from the Churches: Ephesus

Theological Systems Regarding Salvation | Ephesians 1 7.5.26

**Big Idea: Deuteronomy 29:29** "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law. This passage serves us well today as we dive into the deep waters of our glorious salvation. Our minds will be stretched in our study of Soteriology, and it's good to know that **a sign of spiritual maturity** is that you can listen to opposing views without feeling threatened by them or pressured to embrace them.

Re: **Romans 11:33-36**

**Ephesians 1:3-4** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, <sup>4</sup> just as **He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love

There's so much to know about our salvation, **but only two things we need to know:**

1. Anyone who comes to Christ for salvation **will** be received. re: **John 1:12-13**
2. We are to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**1 Corinthians 1:11-13** For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. <sup>12</sup> Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." <sup>13</sup> Is Christ **divided**? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

**1 Corinthians 3:1-4** And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. <sup>2</sup> I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; <sup>3</sup> for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? <sup>4</sup> For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not carnal?

"...The mysteries of God's **sovereign electing grace** are beyond us in this life and will never be able to be understood until we enter His glorious presence. For that reason, we are **wise not to make them the basis for arguments and divisions.**"

- Warren Wiersbe

**"Some have narrowly divided Christianity into two camps**, Calvinist and Arminian. As a result, some are identified as Calvinists because they were not Arminian in doctrine ... However, a person should not be forced to describe himself theologically by his affinity or proximity to any one church father." - Elmer Towns

**Calvinism, Arminianism, Molinism, and Provisionism** all hold a high view of God's sovereignty as well as His Omnipotence (all-powerful), Omniscience (all-knowing), Omnipresence (all-present), Omnibenevolence (all-loving).

Conflict occurs over how sovereignty is defined and displayed. Does sovereignty mean one who has ultimate power and authority, **or** does GOD's Sovereignty mean He dictates every minute detail that occurs in our lives?

**"God's sovereignty decreed** that man should be free to exercise moral choice, and man from the beginning has fulfilled that decree by making his choice between good and evil. When he chooses to do evil, he does not thereby countervail the sovereign will of God but fulfills it, inasmuch as the eternal decree decided not which choice the man should make but that he should be free to make it. If in His absolute freedom God has willed to give man limited freedom, who is there to stay His hand or say, 'what doest thou?' **Man's will is free because God is sovereign. A God less than sovereign could not allow moral freedom upon His creatures. He would be afraid to do so."** – A.W. Tozer. 1897-1963

**Provisionism** teaches that GOD has made provision for anyone who calls on Christ and argues that what GOD predestined was the **means of salvation in Christ**, not who would and would not be saved.

**Scientist and Apologist Hugh Ross** stated there are about 1500 passages on GOD's sovereignty and about 1500 passages on man's responsibility. The Bible is filled with God calling people to make a choice; is this a legitimate offer or only the appearance of free will?

**"So, in the Calvinism versus Arminianism debate, who is correct?** It is interesting that in the diversity of the body of Christ, there are all sorts of mixtures of Calvinism and Arminianism. There are five-point Calvinists and five-point Arminians and three-point Calvinists and two-point Arminians. Many believers arrive at some mixture of the two views. **Ultimately, it is our opinion that both systems fail in their attempt to explain the unexplainable. Human beings are incapable of fully grasping a concept such as this..."** – GotQuestions.org

**John 1:12-13** *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

- **Believe/Trust**
- **Become** a son or daughter of GOD

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**Q&A meeting tonight:** Pastor Joe & Pastor Kyle plan to meet with young couples and singles tonight from 5-6:30pm in the chapel for Q&A about last week's announcement. Pastor Jerry and Pastor Mike will meet with members and guests signed up for the membership class at 6:30.

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Forgiveness Booklet

Anita Yelton to the Grace congregation 6.28.26 @ 9:15 Bible Study:

**Fear says "what if"**  
**Faith says "even if"**

→ Guests are encouraged to contact Pastor Jerry with any questions or comments: [jpelfrey@gbcmason.org](mailto:jpelfrey@gbcmason.org)



**Interested in membership at Grace?** We will hold membership information classes during the 9:15 Bible Study on the following Sundays: July 26<sup>th</sup>, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, and August 9<sup>th</sup> (August 23<sup>rd</sup> make-up date). If you are interested in learning more about church membership, scan the QR Code to sign up.