

OLD UNION BAPTIST MINISTERS' SCHOOL



Old Union Missionary Baptist Church
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GOD'S FOREKNOWLEDGE AND FOREORDINATION

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Lesson: Ephesians 1:1-14

Foreknowledge: Knowledge of a thing before it happens or exists. *In Theology*, God's eternal foresight of all future existences and events; also God's anticipation of the future, thought of as adequate for the divine purpose, and for man's need. - Webster

God's Foreknowledge

"Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world." - Acts 15:18

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the first born among many brethren." - Romans 8:29

"Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied." - I Peter 1:1-2

"Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:" - Acts 2:22-23

God's Foreordination

"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that he might receive the adoption of sons." - Galatians 4:4-5

"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." - Genesis 3:15

"And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." - Revelation 13:8

"But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last days for you." - I Peter 1:19-20

THE DOCTRINE OF CALVINISM

1. Calvinism teaches that God in eternity elected certain ones to salvation and all others He rejected to suffer eternal damnation without the least degree of God's saving mercy shown them in their lifetime on earth.

2. That in eternity God's election of certain ones to salvation was unconditional, meaning they were elected to be saved without their meeting any conditions of salvation, including repentance and faith. Calvinists claim that repentance and faith are works.

3. That the sinner must be regenerated **before** he repents of his sins and believes in Christ. In other words, as the Calvinists teach, "the natural man must be born again before believing" (John R. Gilpin, in The Baptist Examiner, Sept. 17, 1966). This means that a person must be saved **BEFORE** repentance and faith. This is "Hardshell" Baptist doctrine to the core.

4. That the sinner can exercise no freedom of choice in regard to his salvation.

5. That Christ's death on the cross was for the "elect" or the "sheep" only.

6. That God loves the elect or sheep, but hates the non-elect.

7. That it is impossible for the sinner to resist the grace of God when God calls him.

8. That "free grace" is denied in the Scriptures, hence Calvinists deny both God's free grace and man's free will.

9. That the names of the elect are from all eternity written and sealed in heaven, done perhaps millenniums before one is born into the world.

10. That God decreed the fall of Adam and, consequently, the introduction of all kinds of evil into the world.

That's Calvinism in a nutshell. - Dr. D. N. Jackson

CALVINISM IN AMERICA

Calvinism, in the seventeenth century, was brought to America by Presbyterians, some Baptists and others. The Philadelphia Confession of faith, adopted September 25, 1742, by the Philadelphia Baptist Association, in session at Philadelphia, reflects in its articles of faith a tinge of Calvinism, although it upholds the necessity of the ministry of the gospel and the sinner's acceptance of it by faith in order to be saved.

The New Hampshire Declaration of Faith, along with a Church Covenant, was begun June 24, 1830 and finally completed in 1853, and used by more Baptists than any other Declaration of Faith in America, is free of Calvinism. It was first published in 1853 in "The Baptist Church Manual", by Dr. J. Newton Brown, and in 1867 in "Baptist Church Manual", by Dr. J. M. Pendleton.

But let it be remembered now and forever, that Baptists own no authoritative declaration of faith other than the Scriptures. Baptists may declare but not enforce their faith by any legislative act. On the other hand, for a time, Calvinism was enforced by ecclesiastical and civil law in England. - Dr. D. N. Jackson

Twenty points of contrast between the Bible and Calvinism touching the doctrine of election and grace, with Scripture references given to prove the right position and expose the wrong as taught by Calvinists. The points of Calvinism are stated in the first column so that a happy climax may be reached in the second column as proved by the word of God.

THE BIBLE VS. CALVINISM

WHAT CALVINISM SAYS

1. Eternal and unconditional election to salvation, one being elected either for heaven or hell.
2. Christ died only for the ones elected in eternity. They only will be saved.
3. God limits Christ's atonement to the "elect" only.
4. No sinner can resist God's grace, as God appeals to none but those eternally elected.
5. God in eternity elected certain ones to be saved in an appointed time and place, who cannot be saved at any other time.
6. The sinner is so dead in sin that he cannot repent and believe until after regeneration, hence salvation must precede repentance and faith.
7. Being depraved and dead in sin, the sinner cannot exercise any freedom of choice to be saved.
8. Since God decreed the eternal damnation of the "non-elect", He takes pleasure in their death and eternal doom in hell. They were created to go to hell.
9. God hates the "non-elect" sinners, not only their sin, but also the sinners per se.
10. Only the "elect" are commanded to

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

1. Election is in Christ and is based on repentance and faith (2 Thess. 2:13,14; Gal. 3:26). Election in Christ takes place at birth.
2. Christ died for all mankind, making salvation possible for all (Heb. 2:9; John 3:16; 2 Cor. 5:14,15).
3. The atonement is sufficient for all, hence universal (1 John 2:2).
4. Sinners may resist or reject God's grace and be lost forever (Acts 7:51; 1 Peter 3:18-20; Heb. 10:39).
5. "Now" is the appointed time for every sinner to be saved, who may be saved any time he believes (2 Cor. 6:2; Heb. 3:7-11).
6. The sinner is not so dead that he cannot hear, repent and believe before salvation (Isa. 1:18; 55:3; John 5:24; 7:37,38; Acts 16:30,31; Luke 15:17-19).
7. Under the influence of the Spirit and the gospel, a sinner may choose to be saved (Rev. 22:17).
8. God has decreed the eternal doom of no one, except those who willfully reject His grace, and He has no pleasure in their eternal doom. (Heb. 10:38; 2 Peter 3:9).
9. God hates all sin, but He loves all sinners (1 John 4:19; John 3:16; Zach. 8:17).
10. All men are commanded to re-

ed to repent and that after salvation, or because of salvation.

11. All things done or said by all men are by divine decree, hence done by God's will, even the sins of rape, prostitution, murder, etc., are by God's will.
12. No sinner can seek the Lord for salvation, as he is not capable to make a choice of salvation.
13. The lost sinner cannot pray to God for salvation, as he is so depraved he cannot realize his need of redemption.
14. The saved have no divine authority to pray for sinners to be saved, as sinners will come to God by divine decree.
15. God wills the eternal doom of all sinners whom He did not decree to be saved.
16. The names of all the "elect" of all time were written and sealed in eternity, hence their salvation is in eternity.
17. The grace of God reaches only those whom He elected in eternity.
18. Only the "elect" are invited to come to Christ. It would be an act of mockery, if any are invited who were eternally decreed for hell.
19. Men are lost because of the eternal decrees of God.
20. God shows respect to sinners, favoring the so-called "elect" over the "non-elect", Christ dying for the "elect" only.

pent that they should not perish (Acts 17:30; Luke 13:3,5; 2 Peter 3:9).

11. God's will is against all moral evil, although He is able to overrule all evil for good (Psa. 37:23,24; Rom. 7:18-22; 12:9,17,21; 1 Thess. 5:22; 1 Peter 3:9-11).
12. Under gospel influence sinners are commanded to seek the Lord (Isa. 55:6; Amos 5:4; Matt. 7:7; Heb. 11:6; Acts 17:27).
13. Conscious of his lost and helpless condition, the sinner may pray for deliverance (Psa. 40:1-3; Isa. 55:6b; Luke 18:13; 23:42; Rom. 10:13).
14. The saved do have divine authority to pray for the salvation of the lost (Luke 23:34; 18:38; Rom. 10:1; 1 Tim. 2:1-3).
15. As Christ gave Himself a ransom for all, He wills that all men should be saved (1 Tim. 2:4-6).
16. Names of all the redeemed of God are written and sealed in heaven at the point of faith in Christ (Eph. 1:13,14; Luke 10:20; Rev. 2:17).
17. God's grace is broader in scope than the reach of sin in its effects (Rom. 5:20).
18. All men are invited to come to Christ for salvation (Matt. 11:28). All who come to Christ will find rest to their souls, for His invitation is genuine.
19. Men are condemned because of unbelief (John 3:18).
20. God is no respecter of persons, saving all alike upon like conditions (Acts 10:34; Eph. 6:9; Col. 3:25; 2 Chron. 19:7).

God is no respecter of persons

II Chronicles 19:7; Acts 10:34; Romans 2:11; Ephesians 6:9; Colossians 3:25

Everyone has a choice between Eternal Life and Eternal Death

"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:" - **Deuteronomy 30:19**

"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." - **Joshua 24:15**

"If" See, **Ezekiel 33:1-7**

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets and stonest them that are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!" - **Matthew 23:37**

"Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we, turn to the Gentiles." - **Acts 13:46**

"By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh' daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward." - **Hebrews 11:24-26**

God wants all men to be saved and, Christ tasted death for all men

"...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." - **John 14:6**

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." - **John 3:16**

"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:" - **Acts 17:30**

"When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life." - **Acts 11:18**

"For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." - **Romans 10:12-13**

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." - **II Peter 3:9**

""But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man." - **Hebrews 2:9**