
SOVEREIGNTY

Talk 3: God's Sovereignty and Salvation

“Unless the love of God towards us is understood to be grace, it is not understood at all.” *Peter F Jensen.*

INTRODUCTION

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A. GOD CHOOSES US

Ephesians 1

Objections

1. This means we are robots and our faith is meaningless.

2. God saw that we would choose him.

Romans 8:29 For those God foreknew he also predestined

Is. 41: 22 “Bring in [your idols] to tell us what is going to happen. Tell us what the former things were, so that we may consider them and know their final outcome. Or declare to us the things to come, 23 tell us what the future holds, so we may know that you are gods.

3. It's not fair.

Answers

1. What we deserve

1 Thess 1:8-10 He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power 10 on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marvelled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

Romans 3:10-11: There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death...

2. What some receive

Romans 9

Romans 3:22 This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. 25 God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— 26 he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Isaiah 66:1 “This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word.

James 4:10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

Romans 10:8 The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: 9 That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

B. GOD CHOOSES US BECAUSE WE WOULD NEVER CHOOSE HIM

1. God chooses the losers, not the winners

1 Cor. 1:26 Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28 He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, 29 so that no one may boast before him.

Deut 7: 6 The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession. 7 The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. 8 But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers...

Deut. 9:4 After the Lord your God has driven them out before you, do not say to yourself, “The Lord has brought me here to take possession of this land because of my righteousness.” No, it is on account of the wickedness of these nations that the Lord is going to drive them out before you. 5 It is not because of your righteousness or your integrity that you are going in to take possession of their land; but on account of the wickedness of these nations, the Lord your God will drive them out before you, to accomplish what he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. 6 Understand, then, that it is not because of your righteousness that the Lord your God is giving you this good land to possess, for you are a stiff-necked people.

2. God chooses his enemies, not his friends

“When God has offered...salvation...we can receive it or reject it. Since we are to be finally judged on the basis of whether we believed it or not it shows that...we still possess the capacity to accept or reject what God offers.”

John Lennox

How bad are we really?

Neutral?

Dead?

Sick?

Ephesians 2

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Ezekiel 16

Rom. 1:18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

Those who are forsaken by the light of righteousness, and are therefore groping in darkness, produce nothing else than those works of darkness which I have enumerated, until such time as it is said to them, and they obey the command: 'Awake you that sleep, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light' ... That free will, whereby man corrupted his own self, was sufficient for his passing into sin; but to return to righteousness, he has need of a Physician, since he is out of health; he has need of a Vivifier, because he is dead.

Augustine, Nature and Grace

Implications

The heart is more deceitful than the sea and my style is to blame others and excuse myself. I wish I were better. But it's important to know how bad I really am, so for then I will prize the physician and comply with his prescription. - John Newton

C. GOD CHOOSES US IN CHRIST

D. IMPLICATIONS

1. Humility

2. Security

3. Praise

RESPONSE

Something I've been reminded of:

Something new I've learned:

Something I need to do or change as a result: