

# The Doctrines of Grace

## Doctrine 3- The Magnificence of God's Grace in Salvation

### Introduction

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*"It is not that we keep His commandments first, and that then He loves; but that He loves us, and then we keep His commandments. This is that grace, which is revealed to the humble, but hidden from the proud." Aurelius Augustine*

*"Election is ascribed to God the Father; Sanctification to God the Spirit; and Reconciliation to God the Son. This is the chain of Salvation and never a link of this chain must be broken. The Son cannot die for those whom the Father never elected, and the Spirit will never sanctify them whom the Father has not elected, nor the Son redeemed." Thomas Manton*

*"The question is not, 'Why did God choose to save some but not all?' The real question is 'Why did God choose to save anyone?'" RC Sproul*

*"Whatever may be said about the doctrine of election, it is written in the Word of God as with an iron pen, and there is no getting rid of it; there it stands." Charles Spurgeon*

*"If God is as Sovereign as the Bible declares and Man is as ruined by the Fall as the Bible declares- then Sovereign Election, Effectual Drawing, Focused Redemption, and the Sanctification of Believers must be this way or else nobody would ever be saved. Any degrading of these four Truths inevitably attacks the first two." Blair Bradley*

**We love him, because he first loved us. 1John 4:19**

**Note:** It is the intention of this Study to put forth the true and full Biblical teaching about this subject- regardless of whatever confirmation or damage it may do to the already held beliefs of the reader. This Study is an honest search of the Holy Scriptures as to just how the Absolutely Sovereign God of the Universe rescues the radically ruined people of Adam's lineage from the eternal Wrath of God against their sins, forgives and justifies them, makes them fit for Heaven, keeps them unto Himself through the trials of this life, sanctifies them into a better portrait of Biblical holiness, and eventually receives them to Himself in Glory. The intent of this Study is not to try to "fit in" with "religious systems" or "theological camps" that have existed and that do exist- but to simply understand what the Bible actually teaches about this issue. It is important that the reader also understand that the full comprehension of Doctrine 3 of the Study of **The Doctrines of Grace** is predicated on already having gone through and understood Doctrines 1 & 2.

Now that we have studied the first two Doctrines of **The Doctrines of Grace**- we have now come to the place where we will learn from the Bible how all this information works together in bringing Glory to God through the Salvation of unworthy sinners. And so based upon the Biblical evidence that we have learned so far about both God and Man- we now need to ask and answer this all important question:

### **How and Why Does the Absolute Sovereign God Redeem the Radically Ruined Man?**

Doctrine 3 will consist of understanding what the Holy Scriptures teach about the magnificence of God's Grace at work through all three Persons of the Trinity in the Redemption of fallen Man. And we will see that there are four main Parts or Elements of this Grace that illustrate God's Power, Wisdom, and Glory.

It is important to understand, however, that the *order* in which this Grace works is understood differently between God and Man. In other words- the order that lost Man understands and experiences as he is being saved is different from what is actually going on "behind the scenes" as all three Persons of the Trinity are causing and bringing to pass his Eternal Redemption. So we will look at the order of this wondrous Work of Grace from two perspectives:

#### **From God's Perspective**

- A. Sovereign Election
- B. Focused Atonement
- C. Effectual Drawing
- D. The Sanctification of the Believer

#### **From Man's Perspective**

- A. Effectual Drawing
- B. Focused Atonement
- C. The Sanctification of the Believer
- D. Sovereign Election

The reason why the order of the Work of Grace differs between God and Man's perspective is because what we comprehend as God is saving us doesn't begin with what God did in eternity past. We only find out what the Bible teaches about Sovereign Election and the Focused Atonement after we are saved and are taught the Scriptures. All we know at the precious moment of our justification is that we somehow heard the Gospel, we were convicted of sin, we believed the Gospel, we repented of our sins, we trusted in the finished Work of Christ, and we were saved.

All the while- however- the Bible teaches that God was busy at work- way before the foundation of the world- to both cause and guarantee that He would be glorified in the saving of our soul.

Let's briefly examine each one:

#### **Part A. Sovereign Election**

If God is as Sovereign as the Bible teaches (Doctrine 1- The Absolute Sovereignty of God), and all of Mankind is as radically ruined from the Fall as the Bible teaches

(Doctrine 2- The Radical Ruination of Man) – God must be the One Who designs, initiates, and carries out Salvation, or no one would be saved. Sovereign Election refers to God's absolute freedom in the distribution of His Mercy- to whom He will.

### **Romans 9:6-16**

**6** But *it is* not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are *descended* from Israel;

**7** nor are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants, but: "***THROUGH ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL BE NAMED.***"

**8** That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants.

**9** For this is the word of promise: "***AT THIS TIME I WILL COME, AND SARAH SHALL HAVE A SON.***"

**10** And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived *twins* by one man, our father Isaac;

**11** for though *the twins* were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to *His* choice would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls,

**12** it was said to her, "***THE OLDER WILL SERVE THE YOUNGER.***"

**13** Just as it is written, "***JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED.***"

**14** What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be!

**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 *does not depend* on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.

As we get into this Lesson- we will learn from God's Word that Sovereign Election is God's Own Omnipotent Prerogative in choosing to rescue *some* of the unworthy sinners of the earth from His Wrath and grant to them the unspeakable privilege of spending eternity in Heaven with Him.

We will discover that this Election is both "Sovereign" and "Unconditional". It is *Sovereign* in that God alone has the Power and the Wisdom to determine who to choose, and it is *Unconditional* in that there are no conditions that fallen Man must meet or accomplish before God chooses to save him.

It is certain that we really do not understand either Mercy or Grace from a Biblical perspective if we think that any fallen and ruined human being can initiate Salvation by our own will or effort. So if we are to be saved at all- God Himself and God Alone will have to unconditionally take the initiative in our heart and irresistibly make us willing to submit to him.

### **Ezekiel 36:25-27**

**25** "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.

**26 "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.**

**27 "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.**

#### **The Acts 16:14**

**A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.**

### **Part B. Focused Atonement**

The "Atonement" is the finished Work of Jesus Christ that purchased the Salvation for all who will believe. Thus, *The Atonement* consists of several parts:

- ✓ The Sinless Life of Jesus Christ
- ✓ His Death and Manner of Death
- ✓ His Resurrection From the Dead
- ✓ His Second Coming

And most would agree with that. The question then is what did The Atonement actually accomplish? And historically- there are two answers to that question:

- 1) Through The Atonement- Jesus provided an *opportunity* for all sinners to be saved- if they will only choose to repent and believe
- 2) Through The Atonement- Jesus actually purchased and secured the Eternal Salvation of those whom God Sovereignly elected to save from before the foundation of the world.

And while Answer #1 is the dominant belief in the modern Church- the intent of this Study will be to prove from Scripture that Answer #2 is actually what the Bible teaches, and that Answer #1 is wholly an invention of Man and is not true.

It is interesting to note that those who ascribe to either answer- both believe that The Atonement was "limited" or "focused". Those who ascribe to Answer #1 believe that Christ's Atonement is limited in its *Power* (only those who choose to believe can be saved- even though God wanted to save everyone), while those who ascribe to Answer #2 also believe that the Atonement is limited- in its *Scope* (Jesus' Life, Death, and Resurrection was only for those whom God elected for Salvation).

#### **John 10:11-15**

**11 "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.**

**12 "He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters *them*.**

**13 "He flees because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep.**

14 "I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me,  
15 even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

John 8:34-47

34 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.

35 "The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever.

36 "So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

37 "I know that you are Abraham's descendants; yet you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you.

38 "I speak the things which I have seen with My Father; therefore you also do the things which you heard from *your* father."

39 They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham.

40 "But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do.

41 "You are doing the deeds of your father." They said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God."

42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me.

43 "Why do you not understand what I am saying? *It is* because you cannot hear My word.

44 "You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

45 "But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me.

46 "Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me?

47 "He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear *them*, because you are not of God."

John 17:6-9

6 "I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.

7 "Now they have come to know that everything You have given Me is from You;

8 for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received *them* and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me.

9 "I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours;

## Part C. Effectual Drawing

Because of the deadness of our soul, the blindness of our eyes, the deafness of our ears, and the hardness of our hearts- because fallen Man loves darkness rather than light and is- by nature- a God hater- lost Man is incapable and unwilling to suddenly escape his own radical ruination in and of his own power and come to Jesus for Salvation- unless and until God the Holy Spirit first comes to that lost soul and Sovereignly “draws” him to Jesus.

### John 6:44

**No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.**

This Sovereign Drawing is said to be “Effectual” in that while it is regrettably true that we can and do resist God’s Will and Spirit- there is an appointed time in God’s Economy whereby every single one of those chosen for Salvation from before the foundation of the world will be drawn to Jesus- even though they naturally and normally seek to run and hide from God. And on that day- those unworthy sinners upon whom God has “set His Love” (Sovereign Election) *will* come and they *will* be saved- all to God’s Own Glory.

## Part D. The Sanctification of the Believer

One of the great mysteries of all time is,

**“Why doesn’t God take those that He saves to Heaven immediately?”**

In other words- why does God keep us down here on earth to live in a sin cursed world among many who do not love or serve God after we are saved to be tempted and to suffer reproach, afflictions, and persecution? Wouldn’t it be better if God took us to Heaven immediately upon being saved where we would be safe, and where we would rejoice and praise Him forever? And amazingly- the Bible says that the answer to that question is, “*No.*”

The Scriptures teach that saved people are usually *not* taken to Heaven immediately upon their Justification- but are left here to live the Christian life before those who are not saved.

### Matthew 5:16

**Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.**

In addition to that- the individual believer is bombarded with a whole host of things that appear to “come out of nowhere” that effect and challenge him. “Good” things like:

- ✓ Wonders
- ✓ Beauties
- ✓ Helps
- ✓ Encouragements
- ✓ Strength

But along with those “Good” things- come many things that appear to us to be “Bad”. Things like:

- ✓ Persecution
- ✓ Trials
- ✓ Tests
- ✓ Tumults
- ✓ Afflictions
- ✓ Rejection
- ✓ Disappointment
- ✓ Disillusionment
- ✓ Despair
- ✓ Pain
- ✓ Suffering
- ✓ Disease
- ✓ Tragedy
- ✓ Death

And the very earnest and sincere misconception in the modern Church is that we are to receive those “Good” things with joy while resisting or rejecting those “Bad” things by going through a number of practices like:

- Binding the Devil
- Pleading the Blood
- Walking in Faith
- Proclaiming a “Positive Confession”

In this Lesson- we will learn that what is actually occurring is that the believer is being “Sanctified”. He is being molded, shaped, and formed into the Image and Likeness of Jesus Christ by and through the “working together” of both the “Good” things with the “Bad”.

Sanctification is the Will of God for every believer and is the Divine Process that begins at the very instant of Salvation and that continues on until the appointed time of death- whereby the believer grows in Grace and in personal holiness.

### **2Corinthians 3:18**

**But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.**

Sanctification is the lifelong Process that necessarily includes both “good” and “bad” things that God either actively *causes* or passively *allows* to come into our lives that “work together” for the greater “Good” of the Glory of God and the ultimate fulfillment of our own joy.

**Romans 8:28**

**And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.**

In His great Love for us- God initially receives us to Himself in Salvation, “just as we are”. But in that same Love- God has no intention of allowing us to remain “just as we are,” but God graciously uses both the “good” and “bad” things that come into our lives to reveal to us the areas of our lives that are unlike Jesus and that bring no Glory to God, so we may confess them and turn from them.

In so doing- the great Salvation that God graciously brought to us- is made both visible and real, and we prove that the Call of God and the Election of God on our lives is true.

**2Peter 1:10**

**Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;**

The Bible teaches that through both the successes and failures of the “trials of our faith”- the God Who chose to save us- Sovereignly strengthens our walk and equips us to faithfully live out our Salvation and overcome the wicked one- so that we may bring to God the Glory that he rightfully deserves.

And we will discover from the Scriptures that the result of this Sanctification is that even though we may periodically get weak and fail- God will Sovereignly keep us in the Salvation that Jesus provided – all the way to Glory!

**1Peter 1:3-9**

**<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,**

**<sup>4</sup> to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,**

**<sup>5</sup> who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.**

**<sup>6</sup> In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,**

**<sup>7</sup> so that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;**



**8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,**  
**9 obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.**