

***** VIDEO: “Deep Preaching” (Piper/Warren) *****

“THE SOVEREIGNTY & SECURITY OF SALVATION”

Romans 8:28-30

Romans 8:28: *“the soft pillow for the heavy heart”* – R.A. Torrey

28 *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

***** VIDEO: “God’s Sovereignty” (Piper/Warren)**

29 *For those God **foreknew** he also **predestined** to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.*

30 *And those he predestined, he also **called**; those he called, he also **justified**; those he justified, he also **glorified**.*

Romans 8:29-30 Outlines Five Major Elements of Salvation:

I. FOREKNOWLEDGE:

- a. Romans 8:29-30 look at salvation from God’s point of view (not ours)
 - a.i. OUR first step in salvation is repentant faith...
 - a.ii. GOD’s first step (as far as we can see) is the foreknowing of His children
 - a.iii. To see salvation beginning anywhere else would eliminate grace entirely...
 - a.iii.1. This gets at the question/debate: is man basically good or basically bad...
 - a.iii.1.a. If salvation is initiated by man... *then man is good*
 - a.iii.1.b. If the Bible is not authoritative... *then man is authoritative*
 - a.iii.1.c. If God claims to be all-good and is proven to have some areas in which that is not so, “god” cannot be trusted... *then man is trusted*
 - a.iii.1.d. Therein we see the slippery slope of sin.
- b. Acts 2:23 shows Calvary was a part of God’s “predetermined plan and foreknowledge”

"this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death."

***** VIDEO: "Unconditional Election" (Piper/Warren)**

II. PREDESTINATION:

- a. Definition: to mark-out; appoint; or to determine beforehand
- b. Doctrine/Truth of Predestination makes some people:
 - b.i. Hazy
 - b.ii. Lazy
 - b.iii. Crazy
- c. Remember: *Jesus was crucified "according to the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God" – Acts 2:23*
 - c.i. Good Friday was the epitome of God's goodness, love, & power in predestination
 - c.ii. Easter Sunday was the proof of God's goodness, love, & power in predestination

d. Acts 4:27-28 =

Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people[e] of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. 28 They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.

- d.i. *Not a single thing was out of order at the cross.....*
- d.ii. God is sovereign over ALL... creation, events, people, good deeds, and even sin...
- d.iii. God is sovereign over sin too!
 - d.iii.1.a. That may sound shocking but it is true
 - d.iii.1.b. This is the essence of Romans 8:28
 - d.iii.1.c. God's plan is not a "part time" plan....
 - d.iii.1.d. Your reality is a part of God's divine sovereignty – AMEN
- e. **Ephesians 1:4-5** spells out "predestination" is God's righteous plan...

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—

***** VIDEO: "Unconditional Election" (Piper/Warren)**

- f. At no time should we lose sight of the fact that no one ultimately “chooses” Christ unless God has already chosen them...
 - f.i.1.a. Evangelism does not “make” Christians, but rather, “finds” them.
 - f.i.1.b. Missionaries do not “convert” sinners... they converse with sinners
 - f.i.1.c. **You cannot “do” what God has already “done.”**
 - f.i.1.c.i.1. It’s not YOUR decision for Christ...
 - f.i.1.c.i.2. It’s CHRIST’s decision for you... Amen!
- *** Read Ephesians 1:1-11

III. CALLING:

- a. There are two types of calling:
 - a.i. General – **INVITED**
 - a.i.1. Outward call...
 - a.i.2. Proclamation of the gospel
 - a.i.3. No amount of “hearing” can cause “heeding” without the inward call of the Spirit of God, as predestined and foreknown by God the Father.

*** VIDEO: “Total Depravity” (Piper/Warren)

- a.ii. Effectual – **IGNITED**
 - a.ii.1. Inward call...
 - a.ii.2. Transformation of the soul... a link in the unbreakable salvation chain
 - a.ii.3. **2 Timothy 2:19** = “inward call” is explained with certainty...
 - a.ii.4. **2 Thessalonians 2:13-14** explains...
 - a.ii.4.a. From start to finish, our salvation is a gift of grace
 - a.ii.4.b. To say you can lose your salvation is to not understand/trust God
 - a.ii.4.c. To say you can lose your salvation is to reduce God to god...
 - a.ii.5. Our eternal security is in His strength, not ours...
 - a.ii.6. **Romans 11:29** = the inward call is eternal...

*** VIDEO: “Prevenient Grace” (Piper/Warren)

- b. Critical Truth:
 - b.i. While the Bible teaches that God predestines believers to salvation...
 - b.ii. Nowhere does the Bible say that God chooses unbelievers for condemnation...
 - b.ii.1. Finite humans might assume the truth of “positive predestination” forces the reality of “negative” predestination
 - b.ii.1.a. That is not what the Bible teaches...
 - b.ii.1.b. We cannot fill an “assumption gap” with a biblical contradiction
 - b.ii.1.b.i. John 3:16 (whosoever/the world)
 - b.ii.1.b.ii. 2 Peter (wants that none should perish)

b.ii.2. What appear to be conflicts or contradictions to our finite minds are at perfect peace in the truth of an infinite God... examples:

***** "REALITY CIRCLE Charts" *****

- b.ii.2.a. There is only One true God... He is Father, Son, & Holy Spirit
- b.ii.2.b. Jesus is the God/man... 100% God AND 100% man
- b.ii.2.c. God is sovereign over sin... but never responsible for sin...
- b.ii.3. God's Truth is truth because He says so... not because we agree!
- b.ii.4. **John 3:18** = "Unbelievers are condemned by their own unbelief, not by God's predestination." – John MacArthur

IV. JUSTIFICATION:

- a. Definition = being made right with God... by God.

*** VIDEO: "Limited Atonement" (Piper/Warren)

- b. Justification marks the exact moment when each guilty sinner is declared innocent before God... by grace alone , through faith alone, in Jesus Christ alone.

V. GLORIFICATION:

- a. Glorification stresses eternal security...
- b. **2 Corinthians 4:17**... Promise of coming home to glory!
- c. **2 Thess. 2:14** says that our glorification was at the root of the purpose for which Paul was sent with the Gospel...
- d. **2 Timothy 2:10** = God's glorifying guarantee!!!

*Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect,
that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ
Jesus, with eternal glory.*