

Salvation 101, part4

Equipping Hour

Sunday, September 5, 2021

The Sovereignty of God in Salvation

A reminder of God's absolute sovereignty:

Dan 4:35

Isa 46:9-11

The sovereignty of God in Salvation:

Ephesians 1:4

just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

Ephesians 1:9

He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him

Ephesians 1:11

also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

Ephesians 2:4-7

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:8-9

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Acts 13:48

When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

John 6:37

"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.

John 17:6

"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.

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.

John 6:65

And He was saying, "For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father."

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.

John 10:27-29

27 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; 28 and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. 29 "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

Romans 11:33-36

33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! 34 For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor? 35 Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to him again? 36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

1 Corinthians 1:30–31

30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, 31 so that, just as it is written, “Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Titus 3:5

He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

Hebrews 12:2

fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

John 15:16

“You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

Deuteronomy 30:6

“Moreover the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live.

Jeremiah 31:33

“But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the Lord, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

Romans 9

1 I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit, 2 that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. 3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh, 4 who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises, 5 whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen. 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. 17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I raised you up, to demonstrate My power in you, and that My name might be proclaimed throughout the whole earth." 18 So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires. 19 You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?" 20 On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, "Why did you make me like this," will it? 21 Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use? 22 What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction? 23 And He did so to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory, 24 even us, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles. 25 As He says also in Hosea, "I will call those who were not My people, 'My people,' And her who was not beloved, 'beloved.'" 26 "And it shall be that in the place where it was said to them, 'you are not My people,' There they shall be called sons of the living God." 27 Isaiah cries out concerning Israel, "Though the number of the sons of Israel be like the sand of the sea, it is the remnant that will be saved; 28 for the Lord will execute His word on the earth, thoroughly and quickly." 29 And just as Isaiah foretold, "Unless the Lord of Sabaoth had left to us a posterity, We would have become like Sodom, and would have resembled Gomorrah." 30 What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith; 31 but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at that law. 32 Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as though it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone, 33 just as it is written, "Behold, I lay in Zion a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense, And he who believes in Him will not be disappointed."

Philippians 1:29

For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,

1 Corinthians 4:7

For who regards you as superior? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?

1 Thessalonians 5:9

For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

The Sovereignty of God in Salvation Through Means

Divine sovereignty and human responsibility:

Genesis 20:5-6

Isaiah 10:5-15

Election and evangelism:

What is the relationship between God's sovereign, unconditional election and our evangelism?

"Yet through the support and power of God, I think I am willing to continue throwing in the net at the Lord's command through all the long night of life, though the end may be that I have caught nothing."¹

"Evangelism is man's work, but the giving of faith is God's."²

¹ Henry Martyn, in a letter dated 6 December, 1806, from Dinajpur, Bangladesh. Cited in S. Pearce Carey, *William Carey: The Father of Modern Missions* (London: Wakeman Trust, 1993), 235.

² J.I. Packer, *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God* (Downer's Grove: Inter-Varsity Press, 1961), 40.

What are some reasons to evangelize?

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Foreordination and prayer:

The argument is often put forward: Belief in the sovereignty of God eliminates the need for prayer. And since prayer is Biblical, the sovereignty of God in salvation is therefore unbiblical. Why pray if God is sovereign?

We might rightly reverse the question: Why pray if God is *not* sovereign? What are you praying for? J.I. Packer put it this way:

“You pray for the conversion of others. In what terms, now, do you intercede for them? Do you limit yourself to asking that God will bring them to a point where they can save themselves, independently of Him? I do not think you do. I think that what you do is to pray in categorical terms that God will, quite simply and decisively, save them: that He will open the eyes of their understanding, soften their hard hearts, renew their natures, and move their wills to receive the Saviour. You ask God to work in them everything necessary for their salvation. You would not dream of making it a point in your prayer that you are not asking God actually to bring them to faith, because you recognize that that is something He cannot do. Nothing of the sort! When you pray for unconverted people, you do so on the assumption that it is in God’s power to bring them to faith. You entreat Him to do that very thing, and your confidence in asking rests upon the certainty that He is able to do what you ask.”³

Notice this remarkable scene in Moses’ intercession for the Hebrews, after the incident with the golden calf. What is the relationship between Moses’ prayer and God’s foreordained plan?

Exodus 32:11-14

³ *ibid.*, 15.

Predestination and missions:

The connection between The Great Commission [Matthew 28:19-20] and the Assembly of Heaven [Revelation 5:9-10] is the means by which the elect qualify for the assembly:

Romans 10:13–17 (NASB95)

- 13 for “Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.”
14 How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?
15 How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!”
16 However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our report?”
17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

Jesus was a “calvinist”:

John 6:44; 10:15

Rev 3:20

Matthew 11:28

Paul was a “calvinist”:

Acts 16:14 - listening. respond to things spoken...

2Cor 5:20 - pleading, inviting

William Carey and the sovereignty of God:

An entry from Carey’s diary

“Thursday, 12 June, 1806, Calcutta:

- 5.45 — 7.00 Dressed. Read a chapter of Hebrew Bible. Devotions.
7.00 — 10.00 Family worship in Bengali and with servants. Read Persian with *munshi* [language teacher]. Revised Scripture proof in Hindustani. Breakfast. Translated portion of the Ramayana from Sanskrit into English, with help of Sanskrit pundit.
10.00 — 1.30 Government college classes.
1.30 — 2.00 Dinner.
2.00 — 6.00 Revised proof of a *Jeremiah* chapter in Bengali. Translated most of *Matthew 8* into Sanskrit with Mritynjay’s help.
6.00 — 7.00 Tea. Read Telugu with a pundit. A son of the Rev Timothy Thomas of London called.

- 7.00 — 9.00 Prepared and preached an English sermon. About 40 present including Judge Harington, who afterwards responded to my plea and gave L63, 10s towards our Calcutta Chapel building fund.
- 9.00 — 11.00 Translated *Ezekiel 11* into Bengali. Have cast aside my first edition translation. Letter to Ryland. Read a Greek Testament chapter. Commended self to God.
- I have never more time in a day than this.”⁴

William Carey’s son, William, also served as a missionary. Carey wrote to his son the following, “The conversion of one soul is worth the labour of a life. . . . Hold on, therefore; be steady in your work, and leave the result with God. . . . Be encouraged, my dear son. Devote yourself wholly to your work. For this is the cause God has had in His mind from eternity, and for which Christ shed His blood, and for which the Spirit and the Word were given. So its triumph is certain.”⁵

Are there means, other than our preaching the gospel, by which people will be saved?

Perhaps one. But consider this following text, its place in history, and its implications. This does not get us off the hook for preaching the gospel in our generation.

Revelation 14:6 (NASB95)

And I saw another angel flying in midheaven, having an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people;

⁴ S. Pearce Carey, *William Carey: The Father of Modern Missions* (London: Wakeman Trust, 1993), 235.

⁵ *ibid.*, 270.