

Salvation By Grace and Eternal Security

Foundations for Life

The Human Condition

- Mankind is dead in sin (Rom 3:11)
- Mankind does not seek God (Psalm 14:1-3)
- It falls to God to reach out to mankind (Jn 3:16)
- God has identified His sheep (Jn 10:25-29)
- God has redeemed His sheep (Rom 21-24)
- Mankind has been regenerated (Titus 3:5)

Regeneration

- Titus 3:5 and John 3:3-7
- Means New Life, New Birth, Spiritual Resurrection
- Instantaneous change from spiritual death to spiritual life
- “...regenerating work of the Holy Spirit, bringing both conviction and understanding, which results in genuine repentance that brings salvation.” (Foundations text)

Results of Regeneration

- New Nature (Eph 4:24)
 - Sometimes a drastic change in attitude
 - Capacity for victory over sin
- Spiritual Experience (Eph 2:1-3)
 - Once blind, now can see
 - Once estranged from God, now fellowship
- Eternal Security (Phil 1:6)
 - Not possible to defect from the faith

Election – Foreknowledge or Foreordination?

- Foreknowledge –
 - God invites all
 - Knows beforehand who will accept invitation
 - These He predestines
 - God knows what will happen, but does not cause it to happen
 - Death of Christ secures possibility for sinners generally which might never be realized.

Election – Foreknowledge or Foreordination?

- Foreordination –
 - Unconditional decision made by God
 - Eternal destiny of man determined by sovereign choice of God
 - Redemption is certain and secure
 - Cross is Christ's act of saving, apart from anything man does

Election Discussed – Eph 1:4-6

- Definition of “choose”
 - To “choose out” or “select”
 - Must be things from which to choose
 - Must be able to make a decision
 - Must have thing chosen available
 - Choice in Old Testament
 - Abraham (Gen 12:1-3) Isaac (Gen 17:18-19)
 - Choice in New Testament
 - John 6:44 Men are drawn
 - John 15:16 God chooses
 - 1 Pet 1:2 Believers are elect by God

Election Discussed – Eph 1:4-6

- Objects – (vs 4)
 - “us” refers to vs. 1 – true believers
- Timing –
 - In eternity past God made a decision
- Purpose –
 - Not only salvation, but sanctification (holy and blameless)

Election Discussed – Eph 1:4-6

- Privilege – (vs 5)
 - We have all rites of adoption and sonship
- Reason –
 - Act of free love totally grounded in God
- Result – (vs 6)
 - Why save anyone? Free favor of God.

Choice?

- Do we have freedom of Choice?
- Some fight the idea of election with the thought that we don't have choice.
- Scriptural examples of people who made the wrong choice.
- We can choose many things in our lives.
- God draws the line

Security

- Many lack assurance of salvation
- God saves and keeps us saved
- Not based on man's conduct or works
- All three parts of the godhead are involved:

Security through the Father

- Sovereign purpose of God – (John 5:24)
- Infinite power to save and keep – (John 10:29)
- Infinite love – (Rom 5:7-10)

Security through Christ

- Substitutionary Death (Rom 8:1)
- Resurrection (Eph 2:6)
- Advocacy in Heaven (Heb 9:24)
- Intercession for us (John 17)

Security through Spirit

- Regeneration – divine nature (John 1:13)
- Indwelling – (Rom 5:5)
- Baptism – (Gal 3:27)
- Sealing – stamp of ownership (Eph 1:13-14)

Election Offers:

- Assurance of Salvation
- Confidence for daily living
- Promotes personal evangelism

Practical Exercise

- Discuss the following statements in your group:
- My God is a god of love who wouldn't only decide to save some.
- The Bible says that God wants all people to be saved.
- There is no glory to God if He has chosen people to love him.
- There is no reason to evangelize if God has already chosen.

Practical Exercise

- God shouldn't punish people if they had no choice in the matter.
- If God has chosen, then Christ's death was only for a few, not for all.

Sanctification

- Concept captures nearly every issue that faces Believers today
- Almost every question you will face revolves around whether we are saved, how we are to live, or what happens to us in the end.

Sanctification

- Definition
 - To set apart for purposes of holiness
 - To be counted righteous before God
- Terms that are included in the concept
 - Sanctify – state of being set apart in relationship with God (John 17:17, 1 Thess 5:23)
 - Holy – set apart from that which is unholy, 1 Pet 2:9
 - Saint – applied to living persons relating to position before God – Rom 1:7, 1 Cor 1:2
- All Believers are sanctified, Holy and Saints!

Aspects of Sanctification

- Positional Sanctification
 - All Believers Sanctified at the point of Salvation
 - 1 Cor 1:2, Hebrews 10:10
- Progressive Sanctification
 - Yieldedness to God, Growth in Christ
 - Phil 1:6, Rom 6:1-22
- Ultimate Sanctification
 - Final Perfection – every part of us changed
 - Heb 10:14, Eph 4:22-24, Col 3:9-10

Conclusion

- We can rejoice because of what God did
- Must also strive to make our practice match our position!
- We can be confident in our efforts because God has promised that we will succeed.
- Regardless of the difficulty of our journey, we will stand glorified before God

Practical Exercise Questions

- Break into groups and discuss answers to the following questions:

What are ways we can make our
practice match our position?

What do you tell someone who admits
that they struggle with a particular sin?

What do you say to someone who believes that
their capacity for sin means they may not be
saved?

How do you respond to one who says that God knows we aren't perfect, so doing sinful acts is no big deal.

