

25 – SALVATION - PART 1

I. The Inability of Man

- Every human being is born a sinner and therefore condemned to eternal judgment.
- Every human being is born spiritually dead with a natural bent toward sin.

Scripture Ephesians 2:1-3 (ESV)

¹ And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the flesh and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

- There is no way for a human being to achieve salvation on his own from the punishment of sin.

Scripture Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

- Humanity's eternal destiny is completely hopeless.
- While humanity's destiny is a result of God's punishment, it is a result of humanity's sin, not God's choice.

Scripture Revelation 20:12-15 (ESV)

¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

II. The Grace of God

A. The Election of God

- Election is an act of God before creation in which he chooses some people to be saved.

Scripture Ephesians 1:4-5 (ESV)

⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,

- God's choice is not based on any foreseen merit on their part, but only because of God's good pleasure.

The Call to Believe: Discovering Answers to Your Questions About God and His World

Scripture John 6:44 (ESV)

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

- That choice is not known by any human being and is known only to God himself.

Scripture Romans 8:28-30 (ESV)

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

B. Election as Presented in New Testament

- The New Testament presents God's choice as a comfort to believers.
- The New Testament presents God's choice as a reason to praise God.

Scripture Ephesians 1:5-6 (ESV)

⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

- The New Testament presents God's choice as an encouragement to evangelism.

Scripture 2 Timothy 2:10 (ESV)

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