

Class #3 - Salvation is of the Lord

Heritage Presbyterian Church is a church that holds to the sovereignty of God in all things, including our salvation. This doctrine is often misunderstood, and even maligned. Much of this comes from misunderstanding massively important realities, including the clear testimony of Scripture, the nature of God, and church history.

I. The Essential Issue: The Sovereignty of God

A. Always and Everywhere Active

B. Often Excessively Controversial

C. The Bottom Line

1. It is Biblical:

Scripture: Genesis 1:1; Exodus 3:14, 5:2, Exodus 14:4, 18; 1 Samuel 2:6-8; 2 Samuel 7:8-9; Job 38-42; Psalms 33:6-17; Proverbs 16:1, 4, 33, 21:1; Isaiah 46:8-10; 1 Timothy 6:15-16

2. The Opposite is Impossible

II. The History of the Controversy

A. The Major Question: How can I reconcile man's free will with God's control of all things?

Define Free Will:

B. The Dirt of FALSEhood from which a TULIP Grew

1. Historical Notes

2. The First "Five Points"

i. Foreseen Faith is the basis for Election: *Conditional Election (corridors of time)*

ii. Atonement is Indiscriminately Universal : *Jesus blood was shed for all men everywhere in all times*

iii. Limited Effect of Depravity: *Man has free will only partially affected by sin*

iv. Stifle God's Saving Purpose: *Man can resist the saving grace of Almighty God*

v. Every Saint in Danger: *Believers can sin in such a ways as to remove themselves from salvation*

3. Response: The Synod of Dort (1618-1619)

III. A Summary of the Doctrine

A. The Point: The praise of his glorious grace, for the sake of his holy name

1. Ezekiel 36:19-23, 32

2. Romans 11:33-36, esp v36

B. The Points (take with significant ten-point qualification)

Notes on Qualification:

- 1. Total Depravity:** *Effect of sin upon all human faculties is total; the mind, affections/desires, and the will wholly inclined to evil and enslaved to sin. Man is depraved in sense he is dead, blind, deaf to things of God, and ruled by the Prince of this world.*
Scripture: Gen 6:5, 8:21; Job 5:6-7; Psalm 14:1-4, 51:5; Jer 17:9; John 19-20; Romans 3:10-12, 5:12; 1 Cor 2:14; **Eph 2:1-3**; 1 Jn 5:19
- 2. Unconditional Election:** *Grounded entirely in the sovereign good pleasure of God and the mysteries of His will. There is nothing in man to warrant mercy, and in fact, the decree occurred before anyone's physical existence.*
Scripture: **Deut 7:6-8**; Isaiah 55:11; Matt 24:31; John 15:16; Acts 13:48; Rom 8:28, 9:10-13; 9:16-18; Eph 1:4-6, 11
- 3. Limited Atonement:** *Through his life, death, and resurrection, Christ really accomplished his particular design to save his people. He did not make salvation merely possible, but he purchased his people with eternal certainty and redemptive particularity.*
Scripture: Exo 12:13, 21-23; **Matt 1:21**; John 10:11, 17:9, 24-26; Eph 5:25-27; **Rev 5:9-10**
- 4. Irresistible Grace:** *God will save all those given to the Son, not one will be lost. God does not force the elect to believe, but gives them life. Those whom God purposes to save shall indeed be saved.*
Scripture: **Gen 3:15**; Ezek 16:6-7; Dan 4:35; Mark 2:14; John 6:37, 40, 44, 47 (cf draw, helkuo), Acts 16:19, 21:30), Acts 11:18
- 5. Perseverance of the Saints:** *Salvation is of the Lord, past, present, and future. What God the Father has purposed from all eternity, what the Son has purchased with his blood, what the Spirit as applied to the hearts of his people, cannot and will not be lost.*
Scripture: Matt 24:24; **John 6:39-40**, 10:27-30; Rom 8:1, 37-39; Phil 1:6; 1 Peter 1:5; Jude 24

Appendix: The Reformed Understanding of the Order of Salvation (*ordo salutis*)

How do we understand the way in which Christ's salvation is applied to each individual Christian in time and history? When we discuss this "order" the emphasis is on *logical progression* not *chronological succession*.

A. Calling

1. **External:** God commands all men everywhere to repent through the preaching of the Gospel

2. **Internal:**

a. **Effectual Calling:** The Holy Spirit blesses the Word and gives light and life to the hearer

b. **Regeneration:** The hearer is born again by the sovereign work of the Spirit

B. **Conversion** (one act of God resulting two distinct but inseparable responses of the sinner)

1. **Repentance:** An awakened, believing sinner learns of his need and flees to a merciful God

2. **Faith:** The penitent believer receives Jesus Christ and rests upon him alone for salvation

C. **(Union with Christ):** The Spirit-wrought faith in the sinner savingly unites him to Jesus Christ

D. **Justification:** The sinner is pardoned for Jesus sake, and he receives Jesus' perfect righteousness by faith

E. **Adoption:** The sinner, now legally pardoned and righteous, is welcomed into the family of God as a son

F. **Sanctification:** The Holy Spirit enables this new child to die more and more to sin and live to righteousness

G. **Perseverance/Glorification:** God brings the work that he began all the way to completion in glory!