

**SECOND HEAD: ARTICLE 7.** But as many as truly believe, and are delivered and saved from sin and destruction through the death of Christ, are indebted for this benefit solely to the grace of God given them in Christ from everlasting, and not to any merit of their own.

I.e., whereas Article 6 above affirmed that the responsibility of unbelief is wholly and solely attributed (“imputed”) to the obstinate sinner himself, Article 7, in contrast, affirms that the responsibility (and ultimately the glory) of salvation is wholly and solely attributed to God Himself.

Thus, if sinners *earn* anything, it is naught but condemnation. Salvation is a “benefit” bestowed on a sinner which foundation is found only in “the grace of God given him in Christ from everlasting.”

Some men are condemned, and they are wholly responsible for that. Some men are redeemed, and God is wholly responsible for that.

**EVANGELISTIC NOTE:** It is the first of these affirmations that should *drive us to evangelize the lost*, and it is the second of these affirmations that should *cause us to pray and hope in God and His magnificent saving power and work!*

**QUESTION FOR MEDITATION:** How do these affirmations drive us to personal holiness?

**SECOND HEAD: ARTICLE 8.** For this was the sovereign counsel and most gracious will and purpose of God the Father that the quickening and saving efficacy of the most precious death of His Son should extend to all the elect, for bestowing upon them alone the gift of justifying faith, thereby to bring them infallibly to salvation; that is, it was the will of God that Christ by the blood of the cross, whereby He confirmed the new covenant, should effectually redeem out of every people, tribe, nation, and language, all those, and those only, who were from eternity chosen to salvation and given to Him by the Father; that He should confer upon them faith, which, together with all the other saving gifts of the Holy Spirit, He purchased for them by His death; should purge them from all sin, both original and actual, whether committed before or after believing; and having faithfully preserved them even to the end, should at last bring them, free from every spot and blemish, to the enjoyment of glory in His own presence forever.

I.e., God sovereignly and graciously grants to His Elect – through the blood of Christ shed on the Cross – the following:

- Faith which justifies
- Salvation which is infallible

- Redemption which liberates
- Spiritual family which is diverse
- Purging from sin which destroys and kills
- Perseverance which is guaranteed
- Righteousness which is unblemished
- Enjoyment of God in His presence which is what we were made for!

And all these (and more) are the basis for our joy and sanctification!

EVANGELISTIC NOTE: Articulate the benefits of this great salvation that we have!! Work past people's *felt, physical needs* and tell them that salvation in Christ meets their *actual, spiritual, eternal needs!*

**SECOND HEAD: ARTICLE 9.** This purpose, proceeding from everlasting love towards the elect, has from the beginning of the world to this day been powerfully accomplished, and will henceforeward still continue to be accomplished, notwithstanding all the ineffectual opposition of the gates of hell; so that the elect in due time may be gathered together into one, and that there never may be wanting a Church composed of believers, the foundation of which is laid in the blood of christ; which may stedfastly love and faithfully serve Him as its Savior (who, as a bridegroom for his bride, laid down His life for them upon the cross); and which may celebrate His praises here and through all eternity.

I.e., we are part of an army that cannot be stopped despite “all the ineffectual opposition of the gates of hell”! And one of our primary responsibilities as part of this army is to preach the Gospel to those not yet in the army knowing that “the Elect in due time [will] be gathered together into one” and the Church will never be absent believers.

NOTE OF ENCOURAGEMENT: Jesus Christ has laid down His life for a people, and those people *will come into the Kingdom...PERIOD!* Now let's go out and find them! They are out there! And when they come in, there is joy in heaven amongst the angels when just one sinner repents!