



Grace Life Church
of Dallas

The doctrines of grace, the life of the Spirit, to the glory of God

Evangelism Conference 2013

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Hope in Evangelism

God's Sovereignty in Salvation

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Evangelism Conference

- It is imperative that we have the gospel message right (biblical)
- We must make sure that our evangelism is God-centered and not man-centered
- We must make Christ last command (Great Commission) our first concern
- Specifically-How to evangelize Catholics, Muslims and false converts
- Knowing the priority of evangelism and the glory of God it brings about, we must give our lives to the study of gospel

Matthew 28:18-20 Great Commission

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Hope in Evangelism

If you faithfully fulfill the call of the great commission and you go forth and proclaim the true biblical gospel of Jesus Christ, in love, for the glory of God-What hope do you have that the person will be saved?

Biblical Portrait of Man

- Adam & Eve “*So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*” Gen 1:27 (Morally pure)
- Genesis 3 Fall of Adam & Eve (Sin and death enter the world)
- Adam (meaning “mankind”) was our representation
- Romans 5:17 “*Because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man*” v18 “*as one trespass led to condemnation for all men*”
- The penalty of Adam’s sin was death and moral corruption
- Anyone born of the seed of man (offspring of Adam) is born under Adams penalty (sentence of death and morally corrupt)
- Genesis 5:3 “*When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.*”

Biblical Portrait of Man

- All mankind born of the seed of man (after Adam) are not born neutral (spiritually/nature) but are born depraved (we are born in sin)
- Psalm 51:5 *Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.*
- Psalm 58:3 *Even from birth the wicked go astray, from the womb they are wayward, spreading lies*

In our natural state (from birth) the picture the bible paints of mankind is horrible-yet true

- Jeremiah 17:9 *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?*
- The problem with man is his heart is depraved (nature)
- All mankind are born sinners and therefore they sin (heart)

Biblical Portrait of Man

What is the extent of our depravity?

- Genesis 6:5 *The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that **every** intention of the thoughts of his heart was **only evil continually**.*

How does this impact us spiritually?

- Ephesians 2:1-3 *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 body and the mind, and were **by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind***
- 1 Corinthians 2:14 *That natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and **he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned**.*
- Jeremiah 13:23 *Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard his spots? Then also you can do good who are accustomed to do evil.*

Biblical Portrait of Man

If you are still not convinced of our depraved nature from birth and spiritual deadness:

- Romans 3:10-18 *None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands; no one seeks for God. 12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.*” 13 *“Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive.”* *“The venom of asps is under their lips.”* 14 *“Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.”* 15 *“Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 in their paths are ruin and misery, 17 and the way of peace they have not known.”* 18 *“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”*
- Romans 8:7-8 *For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*
- John 3:19 *And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.*

Biblical Portrait of Man

Biblical Summary Statement regarding all mankind from birth in their natural (unregenerate) state:

All mankind, born of the seed of man, are radically depraved from conception, from birth they go astray, every intention of their thoughts are only evil continually, they are lovers of darkness (sin), haters of light (truth/Jesus), they are haters of God, and cannot please God, none of them are righteous, none understand (spiritually), none seek for God, they have no fear of God, they are by nature children of wrath, they follow the prince of the power of the air (satan), they are spiritually dead, they do not accept truth, they cannot understand spiritual truths, and spiritual truths are foolishness to them.

The gospel call is to bid this man/woman to turn from the sin they love and forsake it, to turn to the God they hate and lovingly embrace Him, to awaken themselves spiritually from the dead, to forsake everything for a gospel they cannot understand and what they do understand of it they deem foolish.

Biblical Portrait of Man

If we understand the reality of man and the call of the gospel, we will come to the same conclusion the disciples did when Jesus was speaking to the rich young ruler in Matthew 19 “*Who then can be saved?*” (v25), *But Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible”*

- What Jesus was teaching is that man left to himself will never be saved
- In order to be saved (repent and believe) man needs to be born again
- What hope do we have for men to be saved? Our hope is in God
- Man is spiritually blind, his heart is spiritually dead, he loves sin, he hates God, he sees the gospel/Jesus as foolish-He needs to be born again
 - When, by grace, he is born again he will be spiritually alive, he will see and understand the things of the Spirit (Gospel), he will see the wickedness of sin, he will see the hopelessness in himself, he will see the hope in Jesus Christ and by grace he will repent and believe the gospel and be saved! (Ezek 36:22-31)

John 3-This is what Jesus told Nicodemus “*Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God”*

God gives spiritual life-Giving Hope

- Most people hear this and they do not think it is good news
- The alternative, is that we wait for the spiritually dead, God hater, sin lover to raise himself from the dead and obey gospel (He is not willing or able) (It will never happen- Hopelessness)
- Most people believe that if God is sovereign in salvation (not man) that it will cause us to be un-evangelistic, but just the opposite is true. (If you understand this rightly/biblically)
 - Knowing that God, according to His good pleasure, can grant spiritual life to the most wicked and vile sinner, and in a moment transform his/her heart gives me GREAT HOPE in my evangelism (otherwise it's up to me and you and the dead sinner and if that is true we are hopeless)

God's sovereignty in salvation

Lazarus (John 11)-Consider with me:

- *“v39 “Take away stone”, “Lord by this time there will be an odor for he has been dead four days”*
- *V43 “Lazarus, come out”*
- Jesus commanded Lazarus to come out. Did Lazarus raise himself from the dead and then obey the command to “Come out”? Or did Jesus supernaturally raise Lazarus from the dead and then Lazarus obeyed?
- Jesus gave the command and gave the power (Life)

Scriptures clearly showing God's sovereignty in salvation

Acts 16:14 “The Lord opened her (Lydia) heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul”

Acts 13:48 “And when the Gentiles hear this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed

Acts 11:18 “When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

2 Timothy 2:25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth

God's sovereignty in salvation

Why is it important for us to believe in God's sovereignty in salvation regarding our evangelism?

- 1) Gives us great hope that some may be saved
- 2) Keeps us from unbiblical methods in evangelism
 - If the only thing that will bring about true repentance and faith is God through regeneration/new birth, then I don't have to resort to fleshly manipulations for a decision

Common misconceptions regarding God's sovereignty in salvation

- 1) Knowing God is sovereign will produce un-evangelistic people
 - The opposite is true, it actually encourages/give hope in evangelism
- 2) If God is sovereign, why evangelize?
 - We are commanded to evangelize (privilege)
 - God has chosen to work through us to proclaim the gospel to bring about the new birth leading to salvation (repentance/faith) Romans 10:13-14, 1 Peter 1:23
- 3) God can't be sovereign because the bible teaches man's responsibility
 - God's sovereignty is biblical, man's responsibility is biblical (one does not cancel out the other)
 - "If I can't reconcile God's sovereignty and man's responsibility, it can't be true"
 - Our ability to reconcile truth is not the litmus test to determine truth (scripture is)
- 4) If God is sovereign are people supposed to just wait around for God to regenerate them?
 - No, they are commanded to repent and believe and we should command them to do so. Tell them to repent and believe and prove yourself to be born again

God's sovereignty in salvation

We are responsible to fulfill the great commission and proclaim a biblical gospel to the lost and dying world

We measure our evangelism by our obedience to scatter seed

We do not “close the deal” in salvation, God does

1 Corinthians 3:5-7 What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. 6I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 7So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.

Mark 4:26-27 “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. 27 He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how.

- I am not here to win a debate but to give hope in our evangelism.
- Believing in God's sovereignty in salvation is important ultimately because from eternity past to eternity future it preserves God's glory in all of salvation
- Romans 8:30 *And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*