

Irresistible Grace

‘Born-Again’ Is All of God

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I. Review of ‘Total Depravity’—‘Unconditional Election’—‘Limited Atonement’

A. Total Depravity: The Bible’s View of Sin and Sinners

- 1. All who are born of Adam became sinners by Adam’s original sin** (Rom 5:12)
- 2. All who are born of Adam are born sinners by their very nature** (Eph 2:3)
 - a. A person does not become a sinner, when he or she commits his or her first sin
 - b. A person commits sin, because he or she is a sinner by nature
- 3. The Bible declares and proves that all people are sinners by practice** (Rom 3:10)
- 4. Sinners are powerless to recover themselves by their own will and ability**
 - a. An unborn again person has no will to come to God (He has no ‘*want to*’) (Joh 5:40)
 - b. An unborn again man has no ability to come to God (He has no ‘*can do*’) (Joh 6:44)
 - c. The Bible’s analogies of regeneration show the passiveness of man in the process
 - The Bible likens regeneration to a birth—Can a man cause his own birth?
 - The Bible likens regeneration to raising from the dead—Can the dead raise himself?
 - The Bible likens regeneration to a new creation—Can the uncreated create himself?

B. Unconditional Election: The Foundation of Salvation

- 1. God elected and predestinated His children to eternal life** (Eph 1:4-5) (Rom 8:30)
 - a. God gave His elect people to Christ in the Covenant of Grace before time began
 - b. God even placed His elect children ‘*In Christ*’—All of salvation hinges on this
- 2. God’s election is unconditionally His choice—Not based on anything in the chosen**
(Eph 1:6) (Rom 9:16) (Rom 9:11) (Eph 2:10) (Joh 15:16) (Psa 65:4) (Act 13:48)

3. Election is just as essential to salvation as crucifixion and ‘born again’

- a. Since man will not come—God must be the one who comes to whom He will
- b. Since man cannot come—God (who has the ability to come) comes to whom He will
- c. Since man does not choose God—God must be the one who does the choosing

C. Limited Atonement: The Story of the Successful Savior

1. Jesus’ atonement is not limited in power—It is limited in scope

2. Jesus never tried to save everybody—Jesus did, does, and shall save His people

3. The accomplishments in Jesus’ finished work of atonement

- a. Christ obtained eternal redemption for all He died for (Heb 9:12)
- b. Christ removed all sins from all He died for (Rev 1:5)
- c. Christ made God to be reconciled unto all He died for (2Co 5:18)
- d. Christ made all He died for acceptable to God (Eph 1:6)
- e. Christ took God’s punishment in the place of all He died for (Isa 53:6)
- f. Christ accomplished remission for all He died for (Mat 26:28)
- g. Christ brought God’s forgiveness to all He died for (Eph 1:7)
- h. Christ made all He died for as righteous as Christ is righteous (2Co 5:21)
- i. Christ made all He died for to be eternally perfect (Heb 10:14)
- j. God justified (legally declared to be innocent) all Christ died for (Rom 5:9)
- k. Christ saved all He died for (2Ti 1:9)

4. With these finished works—What could keep anyone Jesus died for out of heaven?

- a. So, if Jesus died for all people—Then all people must get to heaven
- b. Yet, the Bible is clear that all people will not be in heaven
- c. Jesus died for God’s elect people—For His people—For those God had given Him

5. The Bible teaches salvation by God, and God alone—Grace, and grace alone — The Bible proclaims the ‘SUCCESSFUL SAVIOR’

III. Irresistible Grace: ‘Born-again’ Is All of God

A. God does born-again for those who will not and cannot come on their own

Joh 5:40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him...

1Co 2:14 ...the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

Joh 3:3 ...Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Joh 8:43 Why do ye not understand my speech? *even* because ye cannot hear my word.

Joh 12:39 Therefore they could not believe...

Heb 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*...

Rom 8:8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

Eph 1:19 And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

Eph 1:20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead...

B. The dead cannot actively participate in (or resist) being raised from the dead

Eph 2:1 And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

Eph 2:5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

Joh 5:25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear **the voice of the Son of God**: and they that hear shall live...

Joh 5:28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

Joh 5:29 And shall come forth...

C. The unborn cannot actively participate in (or resist) his own birth

Joh 3:8 The wind bloweth where it listeth...so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

D. The uncreated cannot actively participate in (or resist) his becoming a new creation

Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

E. God irresistibly and effectually calls His children to spiritual (even eternal) life

Rom 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, **them he also called**: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

2Ti 1:8 ...the gospel according to the power of God;

2Ti 1:9 Who hath saved us, and **called us with an holy calling**, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

2Ti 1:10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

1Co 1:23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

1Co 1:24 But **unto them which are called**, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

III. But what about John 3:16? (The best known & least understood verse in the Bible)

A. What about the word *world*?—(Gk. *kosmos*)—Means an ‘orderly arrangement’

Joh 21:25 ...the **world** itself could not contain the books that should be written...

Luk 2:1 ...went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that **all the world** should be taxed.

Joh 14:30 ...the prince of this **world** cometh, and hath nothing in me.

Joh 15:19 ...ye are not of the **world**, but I have chosen you out of the **world**...

Joh 16:20 ...ye shall weep and lament, but the **world** shall rejoice...

Joh 17:6 ...the men which thou gavest me out of the **world**...

Joh 17:9 ...I pray not for the **world**, but for them which thou hast given me...

1Jn 2:15 Love not the **world**...

Joh 1:29 ...Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the **world**.

B. What about John 3:16? At a glance, it looks like an invitation—But this won't fit

1. It is impossible for an unborn to meet a demand to accept an invitation to be born

2. Man's condition and salvation's sequence disallow the accepting of an invitation

Joh 5:40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him...

Psa 65:4 Blessed is the man whom thou chooseth, and causest to approach unto thee...

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace ... faith,

3. An invitation to be born does not fit with other truths that Jesus taught Nicodemus

Joh 3:3 ...Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Joh 3:4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

Joh 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Joh 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Joh 3:7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

Joh 3:8 The wind bloweth where it listeth...so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

4. John 3:16 is not directing sinners to do that which only the Holy Ghost can do

—John 3:16 is not how you get eternal life—It is how you know you have it

—John 3:16 is not an invitation to be born again—It is how you know you are

—If you now believe in Jesus—Then you must already have been born again
—If you now believe in Jesus—You will never perish—You have everlasting life

C. There are two *worlds*—Those in the Father’s world can be known by their belief

[Act 13:48](#) ...as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.

D. How can I know which *world* I am in?—How can I know if I have everlasting life?

[Joh 3:36](#) He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life...

[1Jn 5:1](#) Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God...

[Joh 3:16](#) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.