

# "The Sovereignty Of God In Salvation"

The Scripture is very plain that God appointed some to eternal salvation in Christ and some to eternal damnation. Listen to the Word of God, "For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation..." (Jude 4) Note those words "ORDAINED TO THIS CONDEMNATION." Free will jumps up and says, "It isn't right for God to save one and damn another." Paul answers your argument in Rom. 9:20, 21: "Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honor, and another to dishonor?"

Now that settles all your arguing against God choosing one and leaving the other in his sins. God is sovereign and is the Potter and you and I are the clay. You may argue again, "Well I don't think it is fair for God to choose one and predestinate the means of his salvation and leave another out." Yes you do think it is fair. Alright, you are a man, there may and probably were several girls you courted before you married. The day came when you chose one out of the group as your bride. Can the other girls say you were unfair in not choosing them? Of course not. You had the right to choose your own bride. God has the right to choose His bride (the elect). Before the foundation of the world He chose a certain number.

Before you are ever saved, if you ever are to be saved, you are going to know that God is sovereign and does not have to save you. The only thing God has to do for a sinner to go to Hell is just leave him alone. If God leaves you alone you'll go to Hell just as straight as a martin to his gourd.

When a sinner is brought under Holy Spirit Conviction the Holy Spirit grows in his heart a hunger and thirst after Christ. Have you ever hungered and thirsted after Christ? You may answer, I wanted to go to church. That's not what I'm talking about friends. You can go to church all your life and still go to Hell. I'm talking about a sinner being awakened to his lost condition, seeing that you have missed Christ, seeing that you must get to Christ or perish eternally. In John 16:7-11 we see the Holy Spirit working on all the elect sinners who will ever be saved or who have ever been saved. Listen as for eternity my friends, for to miss this is to miss Christ and go to Hell without warning. "Nevertheless I (Christ) tell you the truth; It is expedient (necessary) for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter (Holy Spirit) will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you. And when He is come, He will reprove (convince, convict) the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see Me no more; Of judgment, because the prince (Satan) of this world is judged."

There we see the conviction of the Holy Spirit in the life of every sinner who ever gets saved. Of sin, that is your nature and your hard heart of unbelief. Under conviction I tried to believe the Word of God but I found that I could not. I tried to believe certain promises and could not.

I'd sit there before a Scripture and try to make that Scripture real to my heart. At first I didn't know I had a hard heart of unbelief. But when the Holy Spirit revealed to me that I did I realized I could not believe the Word. I burned my brains trying to believe but could not. I found my unbelief to be so strong I often said it could not be denied with a knife. Before I could know Christ I found that I had to know myself.

Of Righteousness, the Holy Spirit showed me all my righteousness came before God as filthy rags according to Isa. 64:5. But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags. Do you know the literal meaning of that expression "filthy rags"? In another place in the Scripture the literal meaning is used, it means monstrous rags. That's how every sinner comes before God. You have nothing to commend you to God. Some of you are so proud of yourself. That's because you have never been under Holy Spirit Conviction and made to see yourself as God sees you. If

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you ever see yourself as God sees you, never again will you be proud of yourself. According to Job 33 all pride has to be hidden from you before you can be saved. Under conviction you come to see just how vile and wretched you are. You cry out: how could I be so wicked? You come to see that you in your very nature are opposed to God. You come to see according to John 8:44 that you are a child of the devil. You come to see that you are in the snare of the devil, he has you bound. Before, you thought you were a free man or free woman, but now you see you are bound to your depraved nature and Satan and you cannot free yourself.

Of Judgment you come to see that you, like your father the devil, are under condemnation and must spend eternity in Hell unless God saves you for Christ's sake. You not only see that you are under condemnation, but you see that all the world around you is also under the same condemnation. You die to all your great plans, all your family, all your friends so-called. You see that all your life time has been spent in vain. You loved the world and its orders and didn't know Christ who alone can be your salvation. You stand literally amazed at all the Spirit is revealing to you. You see things you never dreamed of.

You see your great distance from a thrice holy God. There is a great gulf there and you find that you cannot bridge the gulf. As the Holy Spirit shows you more and more about your true ruined state out of Christ you begin to cry: Lord, is there no way out? How can I get out of the awful ruined and depraved state I know I am in? You also cry: Lord I'm the sinner you say I am in your Word... My sinner friend, if I am speaking to such a one as that today I say to you: Look to Christ! Look to Christ, Christ and Christ alone can save you.

The reason many of you are marvelling after reading our messages on The Sovereignty of God in Salvation is because the god you know (note that I used a little "g") is not the Sovereign Eternal God of the Bible and of the universe. The god you know is a little "effeminate" god you can maneuver any way you please. And the Jesus you know is not the Lord Jesus Christ of God but a figment of your blind and depraved imagination.

The average church member today has never dreamed of salvation. It would be funny, if it weren't so tragical, the mud flat on which you live and stake the eternal destiny of your soul. The god of the average pulpit today (I'm quoting Pink) no more resembles the God of the Bible than a dim flickering taper resembles the mid-day July sun! Now you think about that.

The average church member lives as he pleases and does as he pleases. You cannot tell the difference between a church member and the world today. It is because there never has come the separation that will come in your life if you are ever to be saved.

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty (II Cor. 6:17-18) Here we see the sovereign God of the universe giving His elect the effectual call to come out of the world unto Himself. Have you received the effectual call? If not, you are still in the world and on the road to hell even though you are very religious. You may be a preacher, or teacher, or trustee, but if you have not received the effectual call that is drawing you to Christ, you are dead. God's people are a separated people. The Father separates them. Of what use would you be to God if you run the course of this world? You couldn't testify of His saving grace to a

world. The call separates some for salvation and leaves others to go on to eternal ruin. Are you being called?

God's people are a persecuted people. The religious crowd always persecutes the believers. There is no fellowship between righteousness and unrighteousness. You say you are saved but you find pleasure in the things of this world just as the unbeliever does. The believer's pleasure is Christ. The believer rejoices with joy unspeakable and full of glory (I Pet. 1:8) You don't get joy unspeakable from a man, a church, a set of rules, being baptized, etc. Christ is the believer's joy. This unspeakable joy comes as a result of Christ being revealed to your heart.

I'll never forget that Saturday early noon that God saved me. For several weeks I was under deep Holy Spirit Conviction. I knew I was coming down for the last time. That Saturday noon I sat down to listen to a message by Bro Gueho. I thought surely I'd get a blessing by listening. Not very long after I had been listening the Holy Spirit opened my heart and let me see the utter unbelief there, it was so strong it nearly choked me. He opened my heart more, I saw how I hated God, His Word, and His servants. I cried out: there's no hope for me, I hate God. I had been denying that I hated God as the blessed Holy Spirit was now showing me. The bottom dropped out. Seeing the pit on the back side of my heart made me give up all hope of ever being saved. I further cried out: I'm not going to try to be saved any more, nothing I've done has helped. I'm not going to read, pray, listen to any more tapes, I'll just go on to Hell where I belong. I meant that thing friend, I was willing 100 percent to go to Hell. Much to my surprise a few minutes later there came a revelation to my heart; "Blessed are they which are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb." (Rev. 19:9) I saw that Christ had blessed me from eternity to eternity and I could never perish. He made me rejoice in Him with joy unspeakable, with a joy I had never known before. Before I could not believe Him, now I could. Then a few minutes after that I was unspeakably sad, I cried: Lord how could I have mistrusted You, thinking You weren't going to save me?

I praise the Lord for so great salvation in Christ. Christ plus nothing, Christ minus nothing is my salvation. The greatest thing in this world is just to know Christ as your Lord and your Saviour. Do you know Him? It is when a sinner is at the end of his way that the Holy Spirit reveals Christ to his heart through the Word. Christ is always revealed through the Word. I couldn't tell you to save my life what Bro Gueho was preaching on. You see, I wasn't looking to the pastor, I was enabled by the Holy Spirit to look to Christ, and when I looked to Christ all my sin burden rolled away. Salvation comes by a look (Isa. 45:22). The pit of noise was gone. I was broken at His feet and it was there in repentance He was revealed to me. You are going to be so broken before you are saved you will be willing for God to send you to hell where you deserve to go. You are not seeing that in the churches today, no, you are not. Any hard-hearted sinner, proud of himself can walk down the aisle and give the preacher his hand, but that is not salvation.

You may say that any sinner can be saved if he wants to, yes but only the grace of God can give the sinner the "want to" to be saved. No sinner by nature wants to be saved. I praise the Lord. He is sovereign in the salvation of every sinner. I praise Him, it was not left up to me to be saved, if that were so I never would have been saved and neither would you have been saved.

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