

# *Questions About Salvation*



## *Part 6: Election and Foreknowledge*



# Salvation

## The Series So Far...

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| Week 1:    | Introduction   |
| Week 2:    | Your Questions   |
| Week 3:    | Justification<br>Regeneration<br>Conversion (Faith and Repentance)<br>Adoption |
| Week 4:    | Sanctification   |
| Week 5:    | Can We Lose Our Salvation?<br>Can We Know We Are Saved?                        |
| NEXT WEEK: | Answering Your Questions<br>and Glorification                                  |



# *Salvation*

## **Eternal Security / Assurance**

*Can You Lose Your Salvation?*

**Calvinist View**

**NO**

**Arminian View**

**YES**

*Can You Know That You Are Saved?*

**NO\***

**YES\***



# *Salvation*

**The Series So Far...**





# *Salvation*

**The Series So Far...**







# Salvation

## Election and Foreknowledge

*Does God Choose Us for Salvation?*

*Is His Choice Based on Foreknowledge?*



# Salvation

## God's Choosing

**"But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ." - 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14**

**"He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time." - 2 Timothy 1:9**

**"Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory." – 2 Timothy 2:10**

**"For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction." - 1 Thessalonians 1:4-5b**



# Salvation

## God's Choosing

**“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.” - *Romans 8:28-30***

**“For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will. . . . In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.” - *Ephesians 1:4-6, 11-12***





# Salvation

## God's Choosing

**"All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him." - *Matthew 11:27***

**"All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. ... No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day." - *John 6:37, 44***

**"I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours." - *John 17:6-9***

**"When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed." - *Acts 13:48***



# *Salvation*

**Romans 9:10-24**

a set of verses you will  
really not like because you  
are a Millennial



# Salvation

## Romans 9:10-24

a set of verses you will  
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“Not only that, but Rebekah’s children were conceived at the same time by our father Isaac. Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God’s purpose in election might stand: not by works but by him who calls—she was told, “The older will serve the younger.”<sup>Gen.25:23</sup> Just as it is written: “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”<sup>Mal.1</sup>

What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! For he says to Moses,

“I will have mercy on whom I have mercy,  
and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”

It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God’s mercy. For Scripture says to Pharaoh: “I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.”



# Salvation

## Romans 9:10-24

a set of verses you will  
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are a Millennial

One of you will say to me: “Then why does God still blame us? For who is able to resist his will?” But who are you, a human being, to talk back to God? “Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, ‘Why did you make me like this?’” Is. 29:16; 45:9 Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use?

What if God, although choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath — prepared for destruction? What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory — even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles?”



# Salvation

## God's Foreknowledge

*Can Foreknowledge Make Us Feel More Comfortable About God's Choosing?*

**"To God's elect . . . who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God."**

**1 Peter 1:1a-2**

**"For those God foreknew he also predestined..."**

**Romans 8:29a**





# Salvation

## Views on God's Foreknowledge

### Simple Foreknowledge:

God simply knows everything, including the future, as part of his divine nature. There is no need for us to explain how this is possible.

### Foreknowledge Outside Time:

God is outside the bounds of time, so He does not "fore"-know anything. He simply knows all things and experiences eternal "NOW"-ness.

### Middle Knowledge:

God knew every possible outcome of every possible world, including every possible decision by free creatures in each possible world. He chose the one that accomplished his purpose.

### Diminished Foreknowledge:

Also known as Open(ness) Theism. God settles (and knows) what He wants to settle about the future, and remains "open" about what He wishes to leave open. God does not know future possibilities or future contingency, especially human choices, except in the rare case when they are settled.



# *Salvation*

## God's Foreknowledge

*Is Choosing Based on  
Foreknowledge of Our Decision?*

NO

YES



# Salvation

## God's Foreknowledge

### *Is Choosing Based on Foreknowledge of Our Decision?*

#### Calvinist View (Monergism)

#### NO

If God's election is based on foreknowledge of action, it would not be based on unmerited grace, but based on the foreknowledge of what we would do. If God is simply foreseeing what we will "do," then salvation is not a work of God. Our heart is simply too sinful to ever turn to God, even for our salvation, without Him working in us first. What God foresees, God ordains.

#### YES



# Salvation

## God's Foreknowledge

### *Is Choosing Based on Foreknowledge of Our Decision?*

**Calvinist View (Monergism)**

**NO**

If God's election is based on foreknowledge of action, it would not be based on unmerited grace, but based on the foreknowledge of what we would do. If God is simply foreseeing what we will "do," then salvation is not a work of God. Our heart is simply too sinful to ever turn to God, even for our salvation, without Him working in us first. What God foresees, God ordains.

**Arminian View and Others (Synergism)**

**YES**

God foreknows the believer's faith. Salvation is still solely from God even if we must act to receive it. Without God's action first, there is nothing to receive. Faith is not a form of works that earns anything or credits anything to us. It is merely accepting the gift offered. (Rom. 4:4-5). There are repeated verses affirming human freedom and cooperation (our willingness) in receiving salvation.

*Next Week...*



*Glorification and Remaining Questions*





## INTERACTIVE



Participate, ask questions, talk back...

What if we listened to what everyone had to say — and discovered that God can speak through us all? After all, we all learn better when we talk things out, hear different points of view, and give room for the Spirit to speak through our deliberation.

[Read more](#)

## THOUGHTFUL



Test everything, hold on to what is good...

Many hours of research are dedicated to prepare each one of our series. We explore the scriptures, the breadth of Christian scholarship, contemporary authors, and consider a wide range of sources outside of our faith.

[Read more](#)

## FAITHFUL



Set apart Christ as Lord...

We all have questions. But we learn together in a way that tackles the deepest part of our doubts while making sure that our purpose is clear: to always know the reason for the hope that we have in Jesus Christ, and to be prepared to share that answer with everyone who asks us about that hope.

[Read more](#)

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