

Lesson 4: The Doctrines of Grace

What is Soteriology?

Soteria – Gk – ‘savior’ or ‘salvation’ + ology/the study of

Study of – how are we saved

A. An Overview of Arminian Belief

Overview: “1. God elects or reproves on the basis of foreseen faith or unbelief. 2. Christ died for all men and for every man, although only believers are saved. 3. Man is so depraved that divine grace is necessary unto faith or any good deed. 4. This grace may be resisted. 5. Whether all who are truly regenerate will certainly persevere in the faith needs further investigation.”

B. Doctrines of Grace

Total Depravity

Define the Term: Total inability to do anything about spiritual condition or salvation

Key Passages to Understand: Eph. 2:1-3, Rom. 3:9-20

Additional Passages: Rom. 5:12, 6:20, Col. 2:13, Ps. 51:5, 58:3, Jn. 3:5-7, 19, 8:34, Gen. 6:5, 8:21, Jer. 17:9, Mk. 7:21-3, 1 Cor. 2:14, Eph. 4:17-9, Tit. 1:15, 1 Jn. 5:19, Eccl. 7:20, 29, Is. 53:6

Unconditional Election

Define the Term – God, before the foundation of the world, chose certain individuals from among the fallen members of Adam’s race to be the objects of His undeserved favor. These and only these, he purposed to save.

LBC Paragraph 3.3 “By the decree of God, for the manifestation of his glory, some men and angels are predestinated, or foreordained to eternal life through Jesus Christ, to the praise of His glorious grace; others being left to act in their sin to their just condemnation, to the praise of His glorious justice.” - 1 Tim. 5:21, Matt. 25:34, Eph. 1:5-6, Rom. 9:22-3, Jude 4

Key Passages to Understand: Ephesians 1:3–6, 11, Romans 9:10–18

Limited Atonement (Particular Redemption)

Define the Term – Those chosen by the Father for salvation were given to the Son for redemption. Christ, acting on behalf of his people, kept God's law perfectly and thereby worked out a perfect righteousness which is imputed to those brought to faith by Christ.

Key Passages to Understand: John 10:11–16, 26–29, Ephesians 5:25–27

Irresistible Grace

Define the Term – The Holy Spirit never fails to bring to salvation those sinners who He personally calls to Christ; He applies salvation to everyone He intends to save.

Key Passages to Understand: John 6:37–45, Ezekiel 36:25–27

Perseverance of the Saints

Define the Term – The elect are kept in faith by the Spirit; the elect will persevere until the end

Key Passages to Understand: Jn. 10:27–30, 17:12, Rom. 8:31–39, Phil. 1:6

C. How do I know it is Applied to me?

If salvation from beginning to end is God's work of grace, then our evangelism should faithfully present that same grace. How do we offer the gospel without either diminishing man's guilt or obscuring God's gracious provision?