



KC Essentials

Week 3

**For the GLORY of our Great God
For the GOOD of our Neighbor**

Doctrines of Grace



Salvation is of the LORD!

- Our salvation is entirely from God!
- Our salvation is entirely dependent upon God!
- It takes all of God to save all of us! (Elect)
 - God the Father's initiation... (John 3:16, Rom. 5:8)
 - God the Son's execution... (1 Peter 2:24)
 - God the Holy Spirit's application... (Titus 3:4-7)

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Five Points of Calvinism



- The Gospel in a “Tulip”
 - T - Total Depravity
 - U - Unconditional Election
 - L - Limited Atonement
 - I - Irresistible Grace
 - P - Perseverance of the Saints

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Doctrines of Grace



Five Points of Calvinism

- **L - Limited Atonement**
- Move from God's plan to redeem (unconditional election) - Eph 1:4
- To Christ being sent to accomplish that redemption (limited atonement) - Gal 4:4
- The issue: for whom did Christ die?

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Limited Atonement



- All Christians “limit” the atonement or they would believe in universalism (all are saved).
 - The bible teaches the reality of hell
- Question: How is the atonement limited?
 1. Its power to actually save all - its effectiveness, as some are not saved
 2. Its purpose - who was it for? - its intent or its design, actually saving the elect

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Limited Atonement



- May sound like it limits the redeeming love of Christ, but its teaching doesn't at all:
- Rather than viewing salvation as a possibility, depending on man's response -
- Views salvation as certain for all those given to Christ by the Father (the elect) - John 6:37-40
- Better name - **particular redemption or definite atonement**

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Limited Atonement



- For whom did Christ die?
 - The elect - John 6:37-39
 - His people - Matt 1:21
 - His friends - John 15:13
 - The Church - Eph 5:25-27
 - Many - Matt 20:28
 - His sheep - John 10:11

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Limited Atonement



- Christ's death secured the salvation of those for whom he died:
 - He was crushed for our iniquities - Is 53:5
 - God made Him to be sin for us - II Cor 5:21
 - He became a curse for us - Gal 3:13
 - Our certificate of debt against us was cancelled, having been nailed to the cross - Col 2:13-14

- The cross didn't make salvation *possible* for man, the cross saves.
Christ didn't make redemption *possible*, Christ redeemed us.

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Irresistible Grace



Five Points of Calvinism

- **I - Irresistible grace**
- When the outward calling of the Word is accompanied by the inner calling of the Spirit, whereby the sinner as a result embraces Jesus Christ by repentance and faith.
- “For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.” I Thess 1:4-5

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Irresistible Grace



- WCF Q. 30: How doth the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?
 - A: The Spirit applieth to us the redemption purchased by Christ, by working faith in us, and thereby uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling.
- Q. 31: What is effectual calling?
 - Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, he doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the gospel.

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Irresistible Grace



- All agree - man must exercise faith to be saved.
- Question: Is faith ultimately man's contribution? Or is it man's response to the work of the Holy Spirit in his heart?
- The spiritually dead must first be given life before they can believe.
- We believe because we are enabled to believe - John 1:12-13

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Irresistible Grace



- “Didn’t I decide to come to Christ?”
- Yes - you exercised faith
- If God had not first worked in your heart, you never would have believed - John 6:44
- We get hung up here because our believing was all we know about at the time
- “...the Lord opened her heart to respond...” Acts 16:14
- Jesus - the author and perfecter of faith - Heb 12:2
- Faith is a gift from God - Phil 1:29

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Irresistible Grace



- Most Christians see faith as the initial step in salvation
- It is a response to God's gracious working in our spiritually dead hearts
- Salvation is of the Lord, who sovereignly drew you to Himself
- The initiative rests with him - it doesn't start with your faith, but with His grace (Eph 2:8, Rom 3:24, Titus 3:7)

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Perseverance of the Saints



Five Points of Calvinism

- **P - Perseverance of the saints**
- The “golden chain of salvation” is not broken (Rom 8:29-30):
- Whom he:
 - foreknew - predestined - called - justified - glorified
- God finishes what He starts! - Phil 1:6

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Perseverance of the Saints



- Why can't this golden chain be broken?
 1. The Father's immutable will - all He gave to Christ, Christ will not lose (John 6:37-39)
 2. The finished nature of Christ's redemption - by one offering having perfected them (Heb 10:14)
 3. The effectiveness of Christ's intercession - they are saved forever, as He lives to intercede for them (Heb 7:25)
 4. The sealing work of the Holy Spirit - they are kept by the power of God (Eph 1:13-14, I Peter 1:4-5)

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Perseverance of the Saints



- The issue is not “Can a Christian lose his salvation?”
 - We are “a people of God’s own possession.” I Peter 2:9
- Real question - “Can God lose a Christian?” - No way!!
 - No one can snatch us - John 10:28-29
 - Protected by the power of God through faith - I Peter 1:3-5
 - Nothing separates us - Rom 8:31

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Perseverance of the Saints



- “What about those who once professed faith but have since turned away?”
 1. Christians can backslide (David, Peter, etc)
 - A. Attractions of the world
 - B. Indwelling sin (flesh)
 - C. Temptations of Satan
 - D. Neglecting the means of grace
 - B. Not all “professors” are “possessors” of Christ - Matt 7:21, II Tim 3:5

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Summary & Application



□ Affirm:

- The complete spiritual impotence or inability of man
- our only original contribution being our sin

- **T - Total Depravity**

- The absolute sovereignty of God's grace in salvation
- He saves from beginning to end

- **ULIP - God's sovereignty in salvation**

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Summary & Application



- Affirm:
 - The unity of the Trinity accomplishing our salvation
 - Father - plans (unconditional election)
 - Son - accomplishes (particular redemption)
 - Holy Spirit - applies (irresistible grace)

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Doctrines of Grace



Ordo Salutis - the Order of Salvation

- The order of the application of the redemption planned by the Father & accomplished by the Son:
 - General Call (Gospel shared)
 - Effectual Calling (Regeneration)
 - Conversion (Repentance & Faith)
 - Justification
 - Adoption
 - Sanctification
 - Glorification

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Questions



- Is it true that every Christian “limits” the atonement? How?
- What is “limited” about the atonement?
- Who should have the authority to “limit” the atonement?

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Questions



- Why is it important to understand that even our faith is a gift from God?
- Why is the theory of losing one's salvation only defensible in a "works-righteousness" salvation?
- What is important about the "ordo salutis"?

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