



Statement of Faith - Salvation

Salvation - We believe God is Sovereign in all things, which includes the salvation of men. In eternity, God the Father, knowing that all men if left to themselves would reject Him, and coming under His judgment would die in their sin, by an act of His own will graciously determined to save a people for Himself. Being a free gift of God, salvation from sin is offered to all men, which God Himself provided by His grace (alone), through the granting of faith (alone), because of the redemptive work of His Son, Christ Jesus (alone), to His glory (alone). In its broadest sense, salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. Regeneration is the divine act of God whereby the sinner is granted the capacities needed to repent and exercise saving faith. Justification is an act of God whereby He declares the sinner righteous based on the merits of Christ and imputes that perfect righteousness of Christ to the sinner. Sanctification is the work of God in which the believer cooperates with God in the practical outworking of his/her new birth. Glorification is the work of God, which is the consummation of one's salvation whereby the believer is given a glorified, spiritual body that is immortal and no longer subject to sin. The believer lives in this state of glory thereafter, forever, world without end. (John 3:3-6, 14-21, 6:37, 44, 65, Rom 3:19-30, 8:28-30, Eph 1:4,11, 2:1-10, 3:10-11, Phil 1:29, 2:12-13, 1 Thes 4:3-8, 2 Tim 1:9-10, 2:25)

We believe God is Sovereign in all things, which includes the salvation of men. - It is clear from the scripture that God is Sovereign. This of course means that He is the "*supreme authority*" in everything. This is to say that He is "*ultimately*" *in control* of everything that happens in His creation.

Ephesians 1:11 - 11 also we have obtained an inheritance, **having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will**, NASB

But here we are stating that God is also sovereign in the "*process*" of salvation, granting it to whomever He wishes and in the timeframe and by the means that He determines.

Romans 9:18-21 - 18 So then **He has mercy on whom He desires**, and He hardens whom He desires. 19 You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?" 20 On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, "Why did you make me like this," will it? 21 Or **does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use**, and another for common use? NASB

This is to say that God has "*chosen*" whom He will save. He has by His own sovereign prerogative picked out individuals for salvation, and it is this "*elect*" people that He in fact does save in the course of history. This is clear from scripture.

John 6:37 - 37 "**All that the Father gives Me shall come to Me**, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. NASB

Acts 13:48 - 48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and **as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed**. NASB

Ephesians 1:4-6 - 4 **just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through

Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, **which He freely bestowed on us** in the Beloved. NASB
Additional Scripture reference - (John 6:37, 44, 65, Rom 8:28-30, 33, Eph 1:4,11, Phil 1:29, 2 Tim 1:9-10, Matt 22:14, Mark 13:20-27, Col 3:12, Tit 1:1, 2 Tim 2:10, 1 Pet 2:4, 9,)

Recommended for research –

- AW Pink “The Sovereignty of God”
- John MacArthur – “The God Who Loves”
- RC Sproul – Chosen By God
- David Clotfelter – “Sinners in the Hands of a Good God”
- Grudem, Hodge, Berkoff – “Systematic Theology”

Furthermore, God being sovereign in the process of salvation, brings it about in His time and by His means. This can be seen in many passages of scripture. Here are a few;

Acts 16:14 - 14 And a certain woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, **was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.** NASB

John 6:44 - 44 "**No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him;** and I will raise him up on the last day. NASB

These things are quite obvious in scripture from what is called the golden chain of salvation, which is found in Romans 8:28-30. ***In this chain God foreknows, predestines, calls, justifies and glorifies.***

Romans 8:28-30 - 28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, **to those who are called according to His purpose.** 29 For **whom He foreknew, He also predestined** to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren; 30 and **whom He predestined, these He also called;** and whom He called, these **He also justified;** and whom He justified, these **He also glorified.** NASB

It is therefore clear from scripture that God is sovereign in the process of salvation.

In eternity, God the Father, knowing that all men if left to themselves would reject Him, and coming under His judgment would die in their sin, by an act of His own will graciously determined to save a people for Himself. – God being omniscient, acts

from eternity. Knowing the outcome of the events of His plan and purpose, He “purposes from eternity to bring about His plans in time and space.

Isaiah 46:9-11 - 9 "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, 10 **Declaring the end from the beginning** And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, **'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';** 11 Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man of My purpose from a far country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. **I have planned it, surely I will do it.** NASB

Surely all the plans of man’s redemption in salvation were ordained by God and the exact means by which He would carry them out. It was in the plan of God from eternity past that mankind would fall into sin so that God could manifest His excellencies in redemption and salvation. This is clear from scripture.

1 Peter 1:18-21 - 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. 20 For **He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you** 21 who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. NASB

It is clear from scripture that ***mankind naturally rejects God*** and is under the judgment of God for the guilt of His sins. A brief review from our last lesson makes this clear.

Therefore, being corrupted in his nature, he is unable to please God, being in the flesh and sets his mind on the things of the flesh. In Romans 8:5-8, it is clear that the natural “mind of the flesh” has several fatal flaws such as;

- Abiding in death - v-6
- Hostile toward God – v-7
- It does not subject itself to the law of God – v-7
- It is not able to subject itself to the law of God – v-7
- It cannot please God – v-7

Romans 8:5-9 - 5 For **those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh**, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For **the mind set on the flesh is death**, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, 7 **because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so; 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.** NASB

It is also clear from the scripture that the “natural man” is corrupt in many other ways;

- Is not righteous, does not understand, does not seek God, does not fear God – Rom 3:9-12
- **DEAD** in trespasses and sins – Eph 2:1
- Blinded and **CANNOT** see the light of the Gospel in Christ – 2 Cor 4:4
- **CANNOT** see the kingdom of God – John 3:3
- **CANNOT** except the Holy Spirit – John 14:17
- **CANNOT** understand the things of God – 1 cor 2:14
- Is deceitful and desperately wicked – Jer 17:9
- **CANNOT** hear the Word of God – John 8:43

It is clear therefore from scripture that mankind naturally desires what is contrary to the will of God.

This redemption of God has now come to mankind **by the free grace of God**. God was under no obligation to save mankind, but freely bestows His salvation as a gift. Salvation does not come by the merits of man, but as a free gift from God and according to HIS OWN PURPOSE and GRACE! -

2 Tim 1:8-10 - 8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, or of me His prisoner; but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, **9 who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity**, 10 but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, NASB

Ephesians 2:8-10 - 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, **it is the gift of God**; 9 not as a result of works, that no one should boast. NASB

Romans 3:23-24 - 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 **being justified as a gift by His grace** through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; NASB