

A Declaration of Those Things Which Are Most Surely Believed Among Us

An Expositional Study of **The Gospel According to Luke** **Chapter 13- Luke 13:22-30**

250- Are There Just a Few Who are Being Saved? Part 2

August 10, 2014

Luke 13:22-30

22 And He was passing through from one city and village to another, teaching, and proceeding on His way to Jerusalem.

23 And someone said to Him, "Lord, are there *just* a few who are being saved?" And He said to them,

24 "Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

25 Once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock on the door, saying, 'Lord, open up to us!' then He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know where you are from.'

26 Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets';

27 and He will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you are from; DEPART FROM ME, ALL YOU EVILDOERS.'

28 In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but yourselves being thrown out.

29 And they will come from east and west and from north and south, and will recline *at the table* in the kingdom of God.

30 And behold, *some* are last who will be first and *some* are first who will be last."

To the Glory of God

Have you ever wondered just how it is that you love God? How is it that you suddenly understood that you were lost and a sinner and headed for hell and needed a Savior? What happened that one minute-

you were doing everything you could to further your *own* cause and continue on in your sin, and, then, suddenly you are repenting and trusting in Jesus for Salvation?

And have you ever wondered *why* you *continue* to love God, *why* you woke up this morning *more* in love with Jesus than you were yesterday, and *why* you *continue* to take joy in serving God, and *why* you *continue* to delight to do His Will? Have you tried to ponder *why* it is that you can hear and understand the Bible while other people that you know- who are smarter than you- cannot? *Why* is it that you- of all people- can perceive spiritual realities while others cannot?

Now after you shake it and bake it- there are really only two choices that could possibly explain this:

- A. You possess an internal "goodness" about yourself that other people do not possess. And you act on that internal "goodness" to cause yourself to have both the will and the power to love and serve God
- B. God did something amazing for you- *sovereignly*- that He has *not* done to the others- at least not yet. And it is what God *sovereignly* did for you- and not what you have done for yourself that gives you both the will and the power to do of God's Good Pleasure.

And if you pick "A"- if you honestly believe that you possess this internal goodness and *that* is why you love and serve God- then you have to also come to the conclusion that because you have this internal goodness and because you did the right thing and acted on it and you did, in fact, repent and trusted in Jesus- then you and you alone *deserve* and you are *entitled* to receive all the praise and the admiration and the glory for doing the right thing. And by rights- you should praise yourself for being saved. Of course, if you actually believe this- you then run into a couple of other problems that you have to try to explain such as:

- How is it that you came to have this internal goodness that other people doesn't seem to have?
- Since your own ability and desire to act on your internal goodness is the catalyst for your own Salvation- why did Jesus bother to

come to this earth and live and die and rise again, and why is there so much in the Bible about Salvation being by Grace through Faith and *not* by exercising your own internal goodness?

So, most people- who are not already consumed with their own self-righteousness and their own importance- come to the conclusion that "A" is not the answer. That their Salvation had to do with God doing something mysterious and glorious and wonderful and *sovereign- in* them and *to* them and *for* them that they had no control over and had no part to play in and had no basis for, and *that* is why they are saved, and *that* is why God and not Man receives all the Glory and honor and all the praise for Salvation.

But even if you categorically reject "A" and you accept that "B" is the answer- you are still not finished. Because even if you accept the fact that God has done something sovereignly for you to change you, and it is what God has done for you that gives you both the will and the power to do of His Good Pleasure- you still must answer the question: "*Why*"? *Why* did God do that for *you*? *Why you* and not somebody else? What did you do or what did you say, or what did you possess that made you attractive to God or that drew God's Attention to you, or that caused or allowed God to do that Sovereign Work in you?

So why are we here today, because of what God has graciously done for us and yet not one of these Pharisees seemed to receive what we have, and as a result they could *not* see, they could *not* believe, and they could *not* trust, and they were not saved?

Now what I am talking about and what Jesus was talking about in this Passage is the glorious mystery and the profound wonder called:

Sovereign Election

Sovereign Election is how the Bible explains *how* and *why* lost and depraved sinners are saved. It explains *why* people- who live for nothing but themselves and for sin- suddenly change into being people- who live their lives with abandon to the Glory of God. It explains why *some* people serve God gladly and *why* they deny themselves gladly and *why* they take up their cross gladly and *why* they follow Jesus gladly and *why* others do not. It explains why *some* people understand the

Bible while others do not. It explains why *some* people love God while others continue to love themselves and love sin.

But as good as that all sounds- the beauty and wonder of Sovereign Election begins with a very offensive premise that nobody on earth *deserves* to be saved, and it begins with the premise that is so insulting that God is not *obligated* to forgive or to save *anybody*, but the fact that God *does* indeed forgive and that He *does* save people is testimony to God's great Mercy and God's Kindness toward utterly undeserving sinners and not something in us that attracted God to us. So we must understand two primary things right off the bat:

- I. God is powerful enough to forgive and save sinners
- II. We are sinners who need to be forgiven and saved

So to understand Sovereign Election Biblically- you first have to understand two other Biblical Truths that precede it:

- ✓ The Absolute Sovereignty of God
- ✓ The Radical Ruination of Mankind in the Fall

And please hear me when I tell you- if you do not understand these two Doctrines first- or if you do not understand them fully- then Sovereign Election will only confuse you. Almost all of the confusion surrounding Sovereign Election really begins with either a *false* understanding or a *partial* understanding of God's Sovereignty and Man's Ruination from the Fall or both.

And so if you do not comprehend either God's Sovereignty and Human Depravity *Biblically*- the glorious Truth of Sovereign Election will offend you, and it will cause more problems in your mind and heart than it solves. So I beg you today that before you condemn what I am preaching here this morning that you go back and you study all that the Bible teaches about God's Sovereignty and about Man's utter Depravity and then seek to understand Election.

But let me give you a couple of hints. The first thing you need to understand about God is that God is never in any way *obligated* to do anything for Man. He doesn't *have* to forgive anybody; He is not *required* to save a single soul; He would be perfectly Just to condemn the entire Human race right now. So God does what He does- *freely*-

totally *unencumbered* and never *coerced*. So God blesses and He heals and He saves and forgives, and He does what He does freely- by His Own Choice and according to His Own Will and in conjunction with His Good Pleasure.

So the way to understand this is that all that God does to and with and for Mankind- including Salvation- He does with Mercy and with Grace- because He *wants* to and because He *chooses* to and because it is His *Will* to do so and because it *pleases* Him- and *never* because we have *earned* it or that we *deserve* it or that we are *entitled* to it or that God is *obligated* to give it. God is always, always, always absolutely "free" in all His Decisions, and we are always, always, always "bound".

We are *always*, and in all cases, in an *inferior* position with God, and God is *always*, and in all cases, in a *superior* position with us. He is above only and we are beneath; He is Lord and we are slaves; He is Master and we are His purchased possession; He is the Great Shepherd and we are His sheep and His people. **Psalms 115:3** says,

But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.

And that is why I tell you that God is the happiest Being in the universe because He *only* does what He pleases, and He *always* gets everything that He wants. He is never defeated and He never loses and He is never diminished in any way.

Now the fact that Sovereign Election is misunderstood by the overwhelming majority of people in the modern Church, and that it is viewed to be highly controversial and shunned and maligned, does not in any way, shape, or form deter me from teaching it and preaching it and believing it and rejoicing over it.

Now keep in mind that I do not teach Sovereign Election because it is easy to teach or because it is easy to understand. Truly Predestination and Sovereign Election are among the deepest and the most profound issues in all the human world that anybody could ever deal with.

But I would suggest to you that it is precisely because these issues are so deep and so difficult to grasp and so profound and so earthshaking that makes the reward for correctly understanding them

Biblically to be so sweet and so wonderful and so enormously beneficial to our daily walk with God.

But people have asked me several times, *"Why teach things that are so hard and so difficult, and things that so easily offend and so easily drive people away, and things that are hard to grasp?"* And I reply every single time, *"I teach Sovereign Election because I cannot escape it. It is a Biblical term, it is in the Bible, and God the Holy Spirit moved upon holy men to write it down in Scripture."*

You should know that "Sovereign Election" is not some vague side issue. It is taught in some capacity in every single Book of the Bible. And so if you are trying to be honest at all about reading and studying the Scriptures- if you are endeavoring to be Biblical at all- you will run across this Doctrine repeatedly, and so we have to deal with this issue. And Sovereign Election points to one single gigantic overriding issue-

The complete and entire and absolute Freedom of God in carrying out His Will in such a way that He receives all Glory and we receive none.

Yea- one of the reasons why this Biblical Truth is so fought against and so rejected by so many is not because it isn't in the Bible- because it is- it is simply because more than anything else taught in all the sacred writings- Sovereign Election elevates God to the highest while driving Man down to his knees; it exalts Jesus Christ while humbling Man; it lifts up the Majesty and the Brilliance and the Wonder and the glory of God while devastating the self-righteousness and the arrogance of fallen human beings.

But even though all of that is true- The Doctrines of Grace were kept hidden from me in large part for the better part of three decades, and even though I was saved and was on my way to Heaven- I was ignorant and wrong and inconsistent about these issues- as are most people in the modern Church.

But, in God's Providence- the Lord was pleased to bring me into the Truth of these Biblical Doctrines during my 9-year and 9-month expositional, verse by verse, and line upon line, and precept upon precept "Journey" through the **Epistle to the Romans**- but it was under very hard circumstances.

This little building was packed out back then and every service was electric and was like a pep rally. And as I stood each Sunday

Evening- teaching the next verse or Passage of **Romans**- more and more people came to the very same conclusion that I did- that for the most part we had been taught wrongly about very serious and eternal issues, and, therefore, we believed wrongly, and as bad as that was- I was also guilty of teaching others wrongly and perpetuating the very same errors that had been fed to me as a young convert in the early 1970's.

The difference is that God was good to work on my heart and mind and cause me to believe that even though these things sounded strange and even new to me- and even though they were causing so much disruption- they were absolutely Biblical- and God had graced me with the ability to know that the Bible was true, and I wanted to be Biblical. And so even though every fiber of my being was being challenged and the very foundation on which I stood was being shaken- by God's Grace- I kept moving forward- teaching things that were adding to my trouble and adding to the great exodus out of this Church until this building was practically empty.

And my hardest and yet my best moment came one Sunday Evening after Service- after everybody had left. I was the most miserable man in all of Harrison County by this time- everything I had been taught as a young believer was now in question, and I felt very feeble and I was very, very scared. And I fell on my face in my office and I cried out to God and I prayed, *"Oh God- I either need to quit teaching Romans, or else I need to stand before the Church and repent for believing teaching things that are not true."* To God's Glory- the next Sunday morning I stood right down in front of this pulpit and told the Church,

"I have taught you things that the Bible does not teach. And I could cop-out and blame others for teaching me wrong- but I am accountable for what I teach. So I repent to you and I repent to God, and if God will help me- I will teach only His Word from this day forward."

I felt like Jonathan Edwards- who said this when God first opened his eyes to the Truth so Sovereign Election:

"The weight of the avalanche of the Word of God fell in on me and I could do no other."

Now I said all of this to say that the Biblical Truth of Sovereign Election is the very source of my comfort and stability, and I cannot even begin to image why this Truth is not shouted from the Pulpit of every Church in this town. But the truth is- it is not shouted- it is not even whispered in most places, and because it is not- God has to raise up fools like me who will.

So I value these Biblical Truths because I came upon them very hard and I have no intention of shying away from them.

But just so that you will know- before you try to label me as simply being an angry Calvinist- because this man wrongly gets credit for inventing this Doctrine- John Calvin did not teach a single thing about Sovereign Election that Martin Luther had not taught before him. And Martin Luther did not teach a single thing about Sovereign Election that Augustine had not taught before him, and Augustine didn't teach a single thing about Sovereign Election that The Apostle Paul didn't teach before him, and the Apostle Paul didn't teach a single thing about Sovereign Election that the Lord Jesus Christ didn't teach before him, and the Lord Jesus didn't teach a single thing about Sovereign Election that David and Moses and Isaiah didn't teach before Him. So this Doctrine is completely Biblical and ancient.

Now normally when the Doctrine of Sovereign Election is taught- it is taught in context with how God saves Gentile believers today. But as I said- this Doctrine can be found in some capacity in all 66 Books of the Bible and is one of the earliest Doctrines of Scripture. And in the Passage that Brother Andy just read to us- we see that this issue- the issue of God being totally free to save those whom He chose to save- was an issue with these Jews on that day with Jesus, and that is why one of them asked Jesus in verse 23:

Lord, are there *just* a few who are being saved?

Now keep in mind who Jesus was talking to here and who was asking this question. The Jews had been taught their entire lives that they were the chosen people of God. And the fact that most people agree with that today fascinates me. Most people who violently reject Sovereign Election have absolutely no problem at all with understanding that God chose the Jews back then, and that He chose

them “to the exclusion” of everybody else. Please turn with me read about this from what Moses wrote in **Deuteronomy 7:6-8**

6 “For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

7 “The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples,

8 but because the LORD loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the LORD brought you out by a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Now pay close attention to the phrase that Moses wrote at the end of verse 6 and the beginning of verse 7 and the beginning of verse 8. The phrase at the end of verse 6 says:

... the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

Now in the original Hebrew- the phrase,

... out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth

... is best understood to mean:

To the exclusion of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

... meaning that God chose the Jews and did not choose anybody else. Another way of understanding this is that God chose the Jews *in place of or to the exclusion of* everybody else. That is what that phrase means. Now look again at the phrase that Moses wrote at the beginning of verse 7:

The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples,

Here we see that the *basis* by which God chose the Jew was not anything outward in their numbers that *caused* God to choose them- precisely because they were not large in number. And this Principle is critical to understanding Sovereign Election. There was nothing that the Jew possessed or that they had or that they did or that they said or that they brought to the table that made them attractive to God and thereby *caused* God to choose them.

So in other words- God did not choose them to be His people- to the exclusion of every other nation on earth- based on anything that the Jew did or anything that they possessed or anything that they believed or anything that they had accomplished. They had no merit, nothing that made them attractive to God, nothing that drew God's attention to them. In fact, they were actually harder to work with than most people.

So God's Choice in electing them to be His people was entirely "free". It was entirely unearned, entirely undeserved, entirely special, and entirely based on nothing that they did or that they possessed. And this is called "The Freedom of God", and this is very important as God is the only truly "free" Being in the universe.

So the Favor that God gave to the Jew was "unmerited" or without any merit. The Special Treatment that God gave them to choose them to the exclusion of all the nations of the world was "undeserved". And God was completely unobligated to set His Love upon them.

So what do we call "Unmerited Favor" and "Unearned Special Treatment" and "Undeserved Love"? We call that "Grace". So we see that God chose Israel based on nothing but Grace. But look how Grace is worded here:

The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you...

So God "setting His Love" upon someone is the same thing as God "choosing" them- based on nothing that they did while remaining totally free in doing so. And we have seen that this setting of His Love and this choosing is called "Grace". So Grace is God "setting His Love upon you" based on nothing that you have done to earn it or deserve it, and without God being obligated to do it. So what we see is that this terribly offensive Doctrine called "Sovereign Election" is really just another way for us to understand the marvelous and beautiful and sweet and amazing Grace of God.

But let us press on. What does it say here was the reason *why* God set His Love upon Israel? Look at the phrase in verse 8:

but because the LORD loved you...

So the *basis* by which God chose Israel- to the exclusion of every other nation on the face of the earth- was not anything that they did or anything that they possessed- but God set His Love upon them or chose them or distributed His Grace to them- based on only one thing-

because the LORD loved you...

So the *basis* of *why* God chose Israel and not India, and why God chose Israel and not Iceland, and why God chose Israel and not China was not because of anything that they did or anything that they had but God set His Love upon them for no other reason than that God loved them. So we make this statement:

God loved them because He loved them

And you can phrase it anyway you would like and get the same thing. For example- you could say,

- ✓ God loved them because He chose to
- ✓ God loved them because it was His Will to do so
- ✓ God loved them because it pleased Him to do so

... and you come to the same conclusion. Whatever was the reason why God chose them- it was not anything that they did or anything that they possessed or anything that they believed or that they said- and God was not in any way obligated to love and deal with them. And no matter how you slice it or dice it- you end up with Grace. God's unmerited Favor, God's unearned Special Treatment, and God's undeserved Love. God saved these people by His infinitely amazing Grace and that is the very same way that God saved you.

So what *made* God love them? What did they do to *earn* God's Love? What did Israel do or what did they have that *allowed* God to love them? Nothing. Absolutely nothing. God *chose* to love them- He

willfully chose to *set His Love upon them*- based on nothing but the free exercise of His Own Divine Prerogative. In other words-

God set His Love upon Israel because He loved them. He chose them because He wanted to- because it pleased Him to do so. He set His Love upon them- to the exclusion of all the other nations of the world- because it was His Will to do so.

And that is the only reason why God chose Israel, and that is the only reason why God chose you, and that is the only reason why God chooses anybody- for no other reason other than it pleased Him to do so.

So God did not save you because He lacked something that you provided to Him when He saved you. You didn't bring to the table something that God needed and that is why He saved you. God wasn't lonely and wanting a family- like so many teach today- that is not true. God was infinitely satisfied and infinitely happy through the intra-Trinitarian Fellowship that He enjoyed between God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

No, God saved you because He chose you; God saved you because He set His Love on you; God saved you by His Grace and not based on anything that you said or anything that you did or anything that you prayed or anything that you are. There is nothing about you that makes you attractive to God. You do not have a single quality about yourself that draws God's Attention toward you. God set His Love upon you for no other reason other than it pleased Him to do so. And He set His Love upon you because from before the foundation of the world- before you were born- before you did anything good or bad- God loved you.

So that is the essence of Sovereign Election- God is absolutely free to choose or to set His Love upon a people- not based on anything that they do or have- but based solely on the fact that God loved them. And this is what Grace is all about- the Favor of God- the Special Treatment of God being placed upon a people for no other reason other than it was God's Will to do so. We do not deserve it, we cannot earn it, and God is not obligated to give it. Grace or God's Choosing or God's setting His Love upon someone- must be completely free and unencumbered on God's Part and it must be completely undeserved on our part if it is to be Grace.

Now if- in any way- we have *earned* it or if in any way we *deserve* it- then it is no longer Grace- it is a payment or a reward- but it isn't Grace. But the Bible is crystal clear that we are *not* saved by our works or by our labor, but we are saved by Grace. But we must go even further because if in any way God's Choosing or God's Setting His Love Upon us is obligated, or if God is coerced or if God is forced to set His Love upon us or if God has no other option other than He has to Choose us- then that also ceases to be Grace, and at that very moment- it becomes a "Payment" or a "Reward" for something that we did first.

So for Salvation to be "by Grace"- we must be utterly undeserving of it; we cannot have earned it by anything that we have said or done or based on anything that we possess. And for Salvation to be by Grace- God must be entirely free to set His Love upon those that He freely chooses to do so based on nothing that they do or say or possess but based solely on the fact that it pleased God to do so.

And that means that Salvation is not based on nationality or ethnic or family considerations either. So our children are not guaranteed a place in heaven based on the fact that they are our children. They must be saved and they must be saved by Grace, and that means that God must have set His Love upon them before they were born based on nothing that they did or that we did. So we cannot force God's Hand to choose them by baptizing our infants. Our descendants are either sovereignly elected by God or they are not, and if they are- they will eventually respond to the Gospel and be saved, and if they are not- they will rebel against God all the days of their lives and die in their sins.

But I beg you to hear me, dear friends- because for Grace to be Grace- the flip side is that God doesn't *have* to extend to everybody, and as we read through the pages of Scripture- we see that, in fact, God did *not* extend His Grace or His Mercy to everybody, and even those to whom God *did* choose to extend Grace- He extended it in differing measures.

So part of the exercise of God's Absolute Sovereignty in the Universe, and part of the very character and nature of Grace and Mercy- in other words- part of what it means to be God is that God is completely "free" and unencumbered and unobligated to distribute Grace and Mercy at the discretion of His Own Divine Prerogative. So for Grace to be Grace and not Payment, and for God to be God and not

some lackey that is forced to do our bidding- God must be free to distribute Grace and Mercy at the sole discretion of His Will, and by definition that means that God does not distribute Grace and Mercy equally to all people.

And that brings up the second part of Sovereign Election. It is true that we cannot do or say anything to make God love us. God must do something to us to make us love Him. So the goal of *why* God sets His Love upon us is not so we can obtain bragging rights against other people, but God loves us so that we will then love God.

You see, there is a barrier between us and God called sin, and that sin barrier prevents us from loving and serving God gladly. And so, God sets His Love upon His elect so that by doing that – we will be forgiven and saved so that we will then love God and enjoy Him forever. So the ultimate end of God is not us- but Himself. He loves us so that by loving us- He will save us and by saving us- we will then love Him.

So there is a great and glorious end as to why God chooses us or sets His love upon a people- that is far more important than us. By choosing and setting His Love upon a people- God sets in motion a Grand Process by which He will receive all the Glory and all the Honor and all the Praise.

So the second part of Sovereign Election is that all of those who are chosen by God, all of those to whom God has set His Love upon- will receive within themselves a new divine Nature; they will receive in themselves the very Life of God that will awaken their dead souls and cause them to love God. All who are chosen by God- God will impose upon them a radical and complete transformation of their nature. God forcefully and violently and completely changes these people- sovereignly- meaning that God does this all by Himself- before they ask Him to and before they even cooperate with Him. And this transformation of their nature- this giving of new Life is called “being born again”, and this comes before Justification.

And so because God has now sovereignly changed their natures- their loves and desires and wants have also been sovereignly changed, and this in turn transforms their choices. And God does all of this by Grace and through Faith.

So, with the eyes that God has sovereignly opened and with the ears that God has sovereignly unstopped and with a new heart that God has sovereignly softened and with the new nature that God has

sovereignly given- these chosen people- the elect of God- will hear the Gospel as it is preached and they will believe the Gospel and they will be convicted of their sins and they will repent of their transgressions and they will run to Jesus to be rescued from the Wrath of God and they will be justified. So you don't have to argue about your pedigree like this man is doing here with Jesus- simply prove that you are chosen by loving and serving Jesus Christ.

So all people who are saved are saved because God chose to set His Love upon them, and they are saved utterly by God's Grace and not because they take Communion or because they are baptized or because they give to the Church or because they treat their neighbors well and have mercy on the poor.

But it is equally true that if God does sovereignly elect us to change our nature to cause us to love Him- then with that new nature- we will gladly love and follow and obey Jesus, we will submit to Christ's Authority over our lives, we will seek to be obedient to the Lord, and we will crave to please God in all that we do.

So while we are saved by Grace- we prove that we have been saved by what we believe and what we believe dictates what we do and how we live our lives, and so saved people take Communion gladly and saved people are baptized gladly and saved people give to God gladly and saved people treat their neighbors well and saved people will have mercy on the poor.

Saved people seek to serve and obey God as the normal and natural outflow of being transformed. We do not seek to earn Salvation by our good works but we seek to have good works after we are saved so that we may give God Glory. So our good works and our labors and our deeds are not the root of Salvation- they don't cause or bring about our Salvation- but they are the fruit of Salvation- they prove that we have been truly born again.

So the modern teaching that says that Jesus doesn't expect anything out of His people, or that Jesus will never impose His Will on us, or that Jesus doesn't hold us accountable to live in a certain way is just flat out wrong. He does and He will. And so there are three parts to Sovereign Election:

1. Before the Foundation of the world- before they were ever born or did anything good or evil- God chose to set His Love on some of the

people of all the nations of the world for His Own Glory to save them- to the exclusion of all the other people on earth- and He did this for no other reason than it pleased Him to do so.

2. All of those whom God chose or set His Love upon will have a new nature imposed upon them and they will be drawn to Jesus and God and they will repent and they will trust in Jesus- Personally- and in His finished Work and they will be forgiven and made Righteous (saved).
3. All of those who are saved by Grace will gladly love and serve God, they will deny themselves, they will take up their cross daily, and they will follow Jesus- not perfectly but honestly.

So the people who say they are chosen but who do not come to Jesus for Forgiveness and Salvation prove that they were never really chosen at all, but were only deceived into *thinking* they were chosen by God. And the people who say they are chosen and who do come to Jesus but who do not follow Jesus and who do not obey Jesus and who do not seek to serve Jesus and glorify Jesus only prove that they were never really chosen by God at all, but were only deceived into *thinking* that God had chosen them. All three must occur. All of those who are truly chosen will come to Jesus, and all who truly come- are changed, and all who are truly changed will love and they will seek to serve and obey.

So it is true to say that all those who are chosen by God will come to Jesus. And all who come to Jesus will be transformed and forgiven and saved by Jesus. And all who are transformed and forgiven and saved by Jesus will follow Jesus.

Another way of understanding this is that all whom God has set His Love upon will- in turn- love God. And the way that they love God is to obey God, and the way to obey God is to confess sin and repent of sin and trust in Jesus for forgiveness and Salvation, and then follow after Jesus until they are with Jesus.

So this man standing before Jesus on that day considered himself to be one of those who had been chosen by God. Yet he was struggling to come to Jesus for Forgiveness and Salvation. So in reality- Jesus was not on trial here- but this man's election was on trial. If he was truly chosen by God- he will come to Jesus, and so if he doesn't come to Jesus- he only proves that God has not chosen him. And that is why Jesus answered him the way that He did.

And if you notice as we continue on in this section of God's Word- we will find that in verses 24-30- Jesus answers this man exactly the same way as I have described to you:

- ✓ Those who are chosen by God will come to Jesus
- ✓ Those who come to Jesus will be saved by Jesus
- ✓ Those who are saved by Jesus will follow and obey Jesus

Another way to understand this is to see what the Apostle Paul wrote in **Romans 8:28-30** that says:

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 those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

Now the word here in verse 29 that was translated into English as "foreknew" is an amazing word. We see that word and in our natural minds we put together the two parts of "fore" which means *before*, and "knew" which means *knowledge*, and we then come to the *wrong* conclusion that the word "foreknew" means that God simply "knew before". So this word is taught almost universally today as a synonym for "God's Omniscience"- that God *knew* about us before we were born.

The problem with that is that this Greek word simply doesn't mean that God knew us before He saved us- even though God certainly did know us. This word means:

God *loved us* before we were born

... or in the words of Moses- that God "set His Love upon us" before we were born. Or we could substitute the word "chose" here. So the way to understand this Passage is to say,

29 For [all of] those whom He [set His Love upon], He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

30 and [all of] these whom He predestined, He also called; and [all of] these whom He called, He also justified; and [all of] these whom He justified, He also glorified.

And what is the end result of God setting His Love upon a people?
Read with me the very next Passage:

Romans 8:31-39

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us?

32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;

34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."

37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen. Let's pray