### Who Do You Say That I Am?

Seeing and Delighting in Jesus through an Expositional Journey through the **Gospel of Matthew** 

75- Jesus Demonstrates His Absolute

Authority-Part 13

Jesus Has the Authority to Save Sinners- Part 2

Church October 22, 2023

**Matthew 9:9-13** 

9 As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man called Matthew, sitting in the tax collector's booth; and He said to him, "Follow Me!" And he got up and followed Him.

10 Then it happened that as Jesus was reclining at the table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were dining with Jesus and His disciples.

11 When the Pharisees saw this, they said to His disciples, "Why is your Teacher eating with the tax collectors and sinners?"

12 But when Jesus heard this, He said, "It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick.

13 But go and learn what this means: 'I DESIRE COMPASSION, AND NOT SACRIFICE,' for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

To the Glory of God the Father; God the Son; and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Christianity is the most *unique* Religion in the History of the World. It teaches a very simple but profound Truth:

#### Jesus has the Authority to save Sinners

... and while that is a very simple Statement- it is one of the most Important and deepest spiritual Truths found anywhere in the Bible.

And in this mini-series on Jesus' absolute Authority to save Sinners- I plan to get into every part of what this actually means. And so, let me give a Warning at the beginning of this Sermon: This series on Jesus' Authority to save Sinners is probably going to contradict much of what you have been taught and what you have believed your entire Life about Salvation. So, hold on to hats- this is going to be a great Ride!

In this Passage- we see that Jesus saved a sinful tax Collector named, "*Matthew*"- who wrote this Gospel Record. So, verse 9 is Matthew's personal Testimony of how and when Jesus saved him. And that Testimony reveals the absolute Authority that Jesus has in Salvation- that we will get to as I continue to exposit this Passage.

But verses 10-13 show us the *uniqueness* of Christianity- in that the ONLY people that Jesus saves are what He called, "*Sinners*". So, just who and what are, "Sinners"?

*Linguistically- "Sinners*" are people who sin. They are people who *commit* Sin. And that means that "*Sinners*" are "*sinful people*". But what does the Bible actually teach about who Sinners are?

First of all, Matthew teaches us here that "Sinners" are NOT "Righteous". In verse 13- the Lord Christ said,

#### ... I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.

... so, there are two Groups:

1. "Sinners"

2. "the Righteous"

... and *everybody* is one or the other.

So, "Sinners" are the opposite of "the Righteous". So, Jesus ONLY saves *sinful* people- people who have committed Sin. But notice how Jesus spoke about this. He said He did NOT come to this earth to "call" the Righteous- but Sinners. So, from this we see that Jesus "CALLS" people to Salvation. So, Sinners are "saved" when Jesus "CALLS" them.

Now this may sound like I'm being too particular here- but whether you realize this or not- the Fact that Jesus "calls" Sinners to Salvation- is really important. Because it shows us that Jesus- NOT the Sinner- *initiates* Salvation.

So, Sinners are saved because Jesus "calls" them. But that means that they are NOT saved simply because they pray a Prayer or repent or do anything else. Now these people WILL pray; and they WILL repent- absolutely! But that is NOT what *initiates* their Salvation. It isn't the *Origination* of their Salvation. The Origination of the Salvation of Sinners- is the Fact that Jesus calls them. But look again at verse 9:

# As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man called Matthew, sitting in the tax collector's booth; and He said to him, "Follow Me!" And he got up and followed Him.

This says Jesus saw Matthew sitting in the tax Collector's "Booth". So, what was that all about? Over 60 years BEFORE Jesus was born- the Roman Government had waged War against the people of what is now called, "Israel" and had conquered them-*militarily*. So, by the Time Matthew was born- the Area then called, "Palestine" had been occupied; governed; and dominated by a Gentile Country for over 300

#### years.

Alexander the Great conquered Palestine in 332 BC; and ruled over it until around 63 BC- when the armies of Rome removed the Greeks and began to *dominate* the Jews. So, the Jewish people had lived over 3 Centuries with pagan Gentiles ruling over them. And to just give you a way to understand this- the Jewish people lived under brutal and violent pagan Governments- who were hostile to their God and the Way to worship their God- for about 90 years LONGER than the United States has been a Nation!

But because Rome was still waging War in other areas around the Mediterranean Sea- they needed lots of money. And so, a tax System was set up whereby Jews could "sell-out" their own people and purchase a "Tax License" from Rome- which gave them the Authority to collect taxes from other Jews- in order to fund Rome's ongoing military Campaigns.

Those Jewish "Tax-collectors" would levy Taxes on the Jews and give the Gentile Government of Rome the money. And even though the Taxes had already been established by Rome- most of the "Tax-collectors" would charge *more* than what Rome demanded- and they kept the excess for themselves. So, they were actually legally robbing their fellow-Jews! And those "Collectors" would even make up Taxes that Rome had not authorized- and they would levy those fictitious Taxes on everything from the number of axles on a cart; to how many children a Jew had; to the size of his home, etc.

And those "Collectors" would also hire thugs and bands of armed men- who would go around the Country- *enforcing* the Collection of the Taxes- by physically threatening; blackmailing; extorting; and even killing the Jews to make sure they or their Families would pay. And because of this- many Jews would actually lose everything they owned- including their own Lives.

So, those Jewish Tax-collectors would become very wealthy- off the backs of other Jews. And that means they were both hated and feared. In fact, the average Jew of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century looked at the Jewish Tax-collectors as being the

very *worst* people on earth- even *worse* than the despised Romans. And this was because,

- 1. They had betrayed their own people
- 2. They literally hurt other Jews- *physically* and *financially*

Tax-Collectors had betrayed their fellow-Jews by financing the hated Romans which allowed them to continue to brutally dominate over the Jews. And so, in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century- Tax-collectors were looked at as "Traitors"- who assisted the Gentiles in their brutality against their Jewish brothers and sisters.

And this is why in **Matthew 18**- as Jesus was teaching about "*Church Discipline*"- our Lord *commanded* the Leaders of the Church to "*ex-Communicate*" Members- who had *repeatedly* refused to repent of their blatant; public; and ongoing Sin. And in verse 17- Jesus instructed the Church...

## ... if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

So, we are to put that individual in a State of "Non- Communion"- or "Outof-Fellowship" with the entire Church of Jesus on the earth. Another Way of looking at this is that when a Member of the Church- who lays claim to be savedengages in open; public; blatant; ongoing; and unrepentant Sin- and has categorically refused to repent- even after three formal Attempts- we are to..

## ... deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. (1Corinthians 5:5)

... and this is done to bring the sinning Brother or Sister to Repentance and Restoration.

But Jesus said we are to treat that unrepentant person in two Ways:

- 1. As though he was a "Gentile" (Unbeliever)
- 2. As though he was a "Tax-collector" (a Betrayer of the people of God)

... this is how despised a "Tax-collector" was in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century.

So, here in verse 9- Matthew testifies that he was a despised "Tax-collector" who had betrayed his people; financed Rome's occupation of Palestine. He is publicly confessing here that he was a man who had literally run other Jews out of Business; by imposing confiscatory Taxes; and then *enforcing* those Taxes with his own private army- who would *guarantee* the collection of the Taxes. And what was

even worse- he is testifying here for all to see that he was made very wealthy by doing this.

So, Matthew is publicly admitting he was a "Sinner"- a wicked, evil Sinnerwhich is exactly the kind of person Jesus came to save. And the Fact that Matthew was publicly testifying here about his former Life- shows how great the Grace of God in his Life really was. But look again at how Matthew says Jesus saved him:

## ... He [Jesus] saw a man called Matthew, sitting in the tax collector's booth; and He said to him, "Follow Me!" And he got up and followed Him.

Jesus "called" this wicked; arrogant; greedy; and despised Taxcollector to Salvation by simply saying, "*Follow Me!*" Now we don't see this herebut please turn with me to **Romans 8:28-30**, so we can understand what is going on-*behind the scenes*- as Jesus "calls" Matthew to Salvation.

# 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 I'm not sure why this is- but we live in a Time when the Concept of "Predestination" has fallen on hard times. This is one of the most hated; feared; despised; and fought Truths found anywhere in the Bible. The Concept that God chooses to save His people BEFORE He made the Universe- is so offensive; so insulting; that entire Groups have dedicated themselves to try to stamp it out!

But I'm not interested in how many people are offended at the Concept of Predestination. I have only one single Concern: Is it taught in the Bible? And if it isn't- then I will join with those groups to trey to stamp out this false Teaching. But if the Holy Bible DOES teach Predestination- then NOTHING ELSE MATTERS! Because the Bible is true. It is the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of the living God and that means that anyone who is offended at what God has said; or who doesn't like it; or how wants to ignore what God has infallibly spoken in Scripture- is sinning and needs to repent. So, look closely again at verse 29:

... those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son ...

Well, what do you know? There it is- plain as day! Predestination! And so, I'm not sure what those who don't believe the Bible teach about this Passage- but the Apostle Paul sure believed in Predestination. And so should we.

So, we see two Concepts here:

- 1. God's Foreknowledge
- 2. Predestination (God's Choosing)

Now many smart people see the word, "Foreknowledge" and they *assume* since the prefix, "*Fore*" means: "*Before*" and the word, "*Knowledge*" means: *to know or understand something*- that "Foreknowledge" simply talks about God's "Omniscience"- that God "*knew about*" something *before* it happened.

But those smart people need to study harder. Because the word, "Foreknowledge" means something even *greater* and more *powerful* than that God simply *knew* about something *before* it happened. He DID know. But this word also means that God LOVED before; that God actively and sovereignly "*set His Love*" upon those He desires to save- BEFORE something.

Well, BEFORE what? God "*set His Love*" on these people BEFORE He made the Universe; BEFORE these people were born; and BEFORE they did anything "Good" or "Bad"!

Another Way of saying this is to say that God "chose to save" those people BEFORE they could do anything to deserve it or to be excluded from it. "*But is that taught in the Bible, Brother Blair*"? Sure is. Look at **Ephesians 1:3-6**:

**3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

4 just as <u>He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would</u> <u>be holy and blameless before Him.</u> In love

5 <u>He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself</u>, 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.

So, we see that Paul said the SAME thing in two different Ways:

- 1. He <u>chose us</u> in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him
- 2. In love He <u>predestined us</u> to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself

...and back in Romans 8:29- the Apostle said,

#### ... those whom He foreknew, He also predestined ...

So, the Reason God "predestined" or "chose us" to Salvation was because He had ALREADY "set His Love" on us! So, "Predestination" follows behind God's "Foreknowledge". In other words, the Fact that BEFORE God created anything- He "set His Love" on His people. And that *precipitated* God to predestine us to Salvation. Now look again at **Romans 8:30**: **and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He** 

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

Now look closely at the *first* Part of this Verse:

#### ... these whom He predestined, He also called ...

So, Predestination follows behind God's Foreknowledge; or the "setting on His Love" on His people. But look what follows behind Predestination:

#### ... He also called...

So, there is a "Calling" of those Predestined and those whom God has already "set His Love" on. And that Calling is NOT the normal average kind of "Calling" like when we call our dog; or when we make a phone call; or when we invite somebody over to our house for tea and crumpets. This is a Divine Calling; a Sovereign Calling; an Effectual Calling. So, when Jesus calls like this- in response to that person already being Predestined for Salvation- and after he has had the Love of God- set on him- this kind of "Calling" is what theologians describe as an "Effectual Calling"; an "Irresistible Calling". This is the kind of powerful Calling that *overcomes* ALL obstacles; ALL unbelief; and ALL Resistance.

The Point I am trying to make is that when God calls like this- He gets what He calls! God is absolutely Sovereign over everything- all the Time. And so, even though God tolerates our Foolishness and our Rebellion and our Unbelief- IF we have had the Love of God "set on us"; and IF we have been Predestined- then that Calling- WILL result in us responding to Jesus in Salvation.

In other words, God does NOT call people to Salvation and then sit back and hope they respond favorably to Him. NO! That is NOT what the Bible teaches.

Because that would make *"Human Self-determination"* (our so-called 'free-will') to be *stronger* and more *powerful* than God!

So, to GUARANTEE that ALL who are called- come to Jesus for Salvation- God has ALREADY "set His Love" on them; and God has ALREADY predestined them- BEFORE He calls them!

But is this taught in the Bible? Sure is. That is exactly what is happening here with Matthew. Please read verse 9 again:

## ... He [Jesus] saw a man called Matthew, sitting in the tax collector's booth; and He said to him, "Follow Me!" And he got up and followed Him.

NO Sermon; NO Pleading; NO "*Altar Call*"; NO Music; NO choir singing three hundred verses of "*Just as I am*"; not a single thing that resembles the Technique used by the modern Church to supposedly "win Souls". Jesus *simply*, but *powerfully* and *effectually* "called" this wicked Sinner to eternal Salvation by saying, "*Follow Me!*" and Matthew responded!

And then from Matthew's perspective- notice that Matthew had no knowledge of "Justification by Faith alone"; he didn't know anything about the New Testament; he didn't pray; he didn't Debate with Jesus; he didn't say, "*Let me think about it*"; and he didn't Argue. The infallible Word of the living God says as soon as Jesus called him and said, "**Follow Me!**" and Matthew...

#### ... got up and followed Him

... and this is an Example of the Absolute Authority that Jesus had to save Sinners!

Now what Matthew did NOT write here- but which actually happened- was that when he *responded* in Obedience to the "Divine Call" of Jesus to Salvation-Matthew "**got up**"- not merely because he was physically "sitting down"- but in the sense that he also immediately left his Tax-collection Business!

And this shows a very serious and powerful "<u>Attitude</u> of Repentance" as well as a very visible and costly "<u>Act of Repentance</u>"- which is the *outward* Manifestation of *inward* Transformation. The Fact that Matthew just walked away from his very lucrative Business is the *outward* Proof that he had truly experienced the Miracle of the New Birth.

When John the Baptist stood in the Jordan River- calling people to "**Repent**, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand!" (Matthew 3:2)- he attracted the Jewish religious Elite. But instead of being intimidated by those religious Hypocrites-John said,

You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance; and do not suppose that you

#### can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father'; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham. The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. (Matthew 3:7-10)

But the Reality is that "Repentance" is invisible to the human eye. Nobody can actually "see" Repentance. But John said, "**Bear fruit in keeping with Repentance**". And that phrase means if the individual Sinner has *truly* repented- there will be *outward, visible, measurable,* and *unmistakable* "Proof" that genuine Repentance has happened. And that outward, visible, measurable, and unmistakable Proof is called, "**Fruit in keeping with Repentance**".

And Matthew getting up and literally walking away from his Tax-collecting Business was that kind of outward, visible, measurable, and unmistakable Proof that John the Baptist was talking about. And that is *why* Matthew put it into his Gospel Record. He wanted his Jewish readers (and us) to know that he was *authorized* by God to write down this Account of Jesus and His earthly Ministrybecause he had *personally* experienced the Miracle of the New Birth. And the Proof that he had, in fact, been born again- was this outward, visible, measurable, and unmistakable "Fruit" of walking away from his very lucrative Business.

Now it is NOT a Requirement of Salvation that everyone walk away from the Business he is in. But it IS a Requirement that the individual who lays claim to be born again bring forth SOME TYPE of outward, visible, measurable, and unmistakable Proof that he has indeed repented; and is a "**new Creature**" (2Corinthians 5:17).

But if that person has been engaged in a Business that is sinful; or that uses or encourages sinful Activities; or a Business that contributes to or that is dedicated to the Destruction of all things godly- then *part* of the Proof that he has been saved- is that he no longer makes money in that Enterprise. Beloved, we need to understand that God is concerned with not only how we *spend* our Money- but also in how we *earn* it. And godly people simply CANNOT earn their Money in an ungodly Business and expect God's Blessings.

Now John the Baptist *required* that kind of "Proof" BEFORE he baptized anyone- and so should we. So, we need to allow the individual, who has testified that he has already experienced the Miracle of the New Birth- to *verify* the Truthfulness of that Claim- by bringing forth "**Fruit in keeping with Repentance**" BEFORE we baptize them.

But what is striking here is the IMMEDIACY of Matthew's Conversion. Matthew responded to Jesus' Call to Salvation- IMMEDIATELY! NO Hesitation. NO Pondering what will happen next. Jesus called- and Matthew responded! The Call of Salvation fell on Matthew's ears; and he got up and followed Jesus! And that tells us that SOMETHING happened to CAUSE that kind of immediate Response! And *whatever* that "Something" was- had to be Amazing; and Supernatural; and Powerful; and Miraculous!

Now when I bring this up- people often respond by saying, "Yea, but that was Matthew- and he was special."- as though that answers the Question of, "What happened to Matthew that he acted this Way?" But for the sake of Argument- let's suppose that's true; and somehow (and we will never find out how) Matthew WAS "special"; and THAT'S why he responded the Way he did. But if that is true- then WHY doesn't the Bible teach that? Because the Bible does NOT teach that. But even more importantly, why does the Bible go to great lengths to teach what we have already seen in both **Romans** and **Ephesians-** unless it is true?

But maybe this is just some anomaly with Matthew. Okay, so, let's look at Andrew and Peter and how Jesus called them to Salvation by looking at **Matthew 4:18-20** that says,

18 Now as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.

#### 19 And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.

Here Jesus saw Andrew and Peter as they were fishing. And they were fishing because that was their Business. So, they made their Living by fishing. And in verse 19, Jesus called to them and said,

#### "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

... and what happened? The Bible says,

#### ... they left their nets and followed Him

So, HOW did they respond? They dropped EVERYTHING they were doing; and they began to *obey* Jesus. And what was the Time-frame for this type of Obedience? What is the first word in verse 20?

#### **IMMEDIATELY!**

Well, this looks like the SAME Way that Matthew was saved! Jesus called and they responded. IMMEDIATELY! "But Brother Blair- that was Peter and

*James and Matthew. Everybody doesn't respond like that!"* Okay, let's look at how James and John were saved in **Matthew 4:21&22:** 

#### 21 Going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them.

22 Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

Here is another set of Brothers, who were also Fishermen. And they were working with their Father- a man named, "Zebedee". And they were either sitting in the Boat or on the shore and they were mending their nets.

You see, back in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century around Galilee, the Fishermen fished at night. And many times- they fished all night long. And during the Day- they fixed Problems that had come up the night before- either with the Boat or with the Nets. And so, as Jesus walked up to these men- they were working with their Fathermending their Nets.

And Matthew infallibly wrote that Jesus walked up to them and...

#### ... He called them.

... and both Brothers just got up; and they left their nets; and they left their Father; and they began a Life of humble and joyful Obedience to Jesus! And the *first* word we see in verse 22 is that SAME familiar word,

#### **IMMEDIATELY!**

Now some have asked me, "But wasn't that Wrong for James and John to just abandon their Father like that? The Bible says to honor your Mother and Father. Yet these two Brothers just walked off and left the Father to fish alone!" And my Answer is that WHATEVER Jesus does is CORRECT and PROPER and RIGHT! So, the Divine Call to Salvation was MORE important than ANYTHING else.

"But is Fishing a sinful Business? Why did they have to leave their fishing Business?" No, Fishing is NOT a sinful Business. And people can fish and be saved. There are, no doubt, many Fishermen who are saved. But in this Case- all four of these men- Andrew, Peter, James, and John- HAD to leave their Business in order to obey God- precisely because Jesus told them to.

Now I realize that ALL Conversions don't seem to happen like this. But is that true? I want EVERYONE to have this kind of Experience- but they don't

seem to. It seems that some people take much longer than others- while some do absolutely respond immediately. That's what happened to me. And no doubt some of you responded immediately as well.

But what about the rest? Are the ones whose Conversion was slow- are they *less* saved than the others? NO! Because however slow or how quick; or whether Jesus tells you to walk away from your Business or your Job; or allows you to stay- all of that depends on what God has called you to do.

The Truth is that some people just seem to take longer than others. And some people actually "fight against" the Call to Salvation for a period of time. They actually "frustrate; or rebel; or resist; or fight against; the Call to Salvation. So, what about them? Can they have any Hope that God will accept them?

Yes! Because even though they may resist the Call to Salvation for many years- there is an "appointed Time"- when God sovereignly OVERRIDES our Ability and Desire to resist. And even though we rebelled for a long time- at the "appointed Time"- we WILL respond- And when we respond- we will respond-IMMEDIATELY! Please read **Habakkuk 2:3** 

# For the vision is yet for the appointed time; It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; For it will certainly come, it will not delay.

Now this is a strange verse. This says that a certain Vision that God gave the Prophet some 600 years before Jesus was born is, **"For the appointed Time"**. And then God spoke through this man to say,

#### ... It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail ...

... so, this Vision- this Promise from God- whatever it is- is guaranteed! It WILL come to pass! It is both Certain and Sure- because God has spoken it; and God CANNOT lie! Okay, but then look what God said next,

#### ... Though it tarries, wait for it; For it will certainly come, it will not delay.

So, this tells us that this *guaranteed* Promise from God will, "CERTAINLY COME"! But then look at how God said this,

#### Though it tarries... it will not delay

So, even though the FULFILLMENT of this Promise from God WILL tarryit will NOT delay! So, even though it appears to tarry- the Prophet then infallibly wrote that it will NOT tarry! Now that sounds like "double-speak" on the surface. But what he is saying is, "Even though it may take Decades or even Centuries to come to pass- when it's Time- the Fulfillment of this Promise from God absolutely WILL come to pass!"

Another Way of saying this is to say, "Even though the Answer or the Fulfillment of this Promise from God may NOT come to pass for many, many Years- it nevertheless 'hastens toward the goal and it will not fail".

So, even though it may *seem* to us that NOTHING is happening- God is very busy- *behind the Scenes*- working *faithfully*- and *sovereignly*- and effectually- to get what He is determined to get. And what is that? It is what **Ephesians 3:6a** says,

#### ... to the praise of the glory of His grace ...

#### ... and that is God's Goal!

So, God's Grace has a "Glory" to it. And that Glory; that Importance; that Value; that Beauty; that shining Brilliance MUST be praised! It MUST be heralded! It MUST be honored and magnified and appreciated; and valued; and talked about; and sung about; and enjoyed!

So, the Reason that God chose to "set His Love" on people (Foreknowledge) BEFORE the Foundation of the World; BEFORE He made them; BEFORE they were born; and BEFORE they did anything "Good" or "Bad"- the REASON God called them; and the Reason these people responded- was so that the Glory of God's amazing Grace would be seen and displayed and made real to unworthy rebels (by what God alone did for them)- and so that that Glory would be PRAISED throughout all Eternity! And another way to say this is what the Prophet wrote in **Habakkuk 2:14b**:

## the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, As the waters cover the sea.

... and THAT is why God saves Sinners! To display the Greatness and Importance and Majesty of God's Grace in saving Sinners- because of what God alone has done for them!

So, THAT is why you are saved! So, that the Glory of God's Grace will be magnified and lauded and praised- Forever!

Now there is a lot more to this- but I'll get into that next time!

Amen. Let's pray.

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