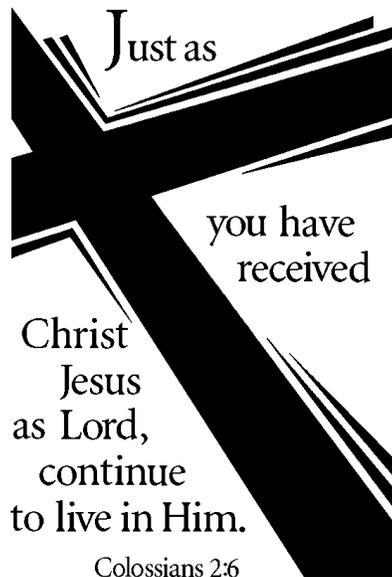


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*In this and every issue, by His grace, our only purpose is to honor Jesus Christ.*

# The Doctrines of Grace ~ 9

## Their Fourth Point—Irresistible Grace (2)

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The five points of the Doctrines of Grace are generally identified by the acrostic, **TULIP**:

**T**otal Depravity **U**nconditional Election **L**imited Atonement **I**rresistible Grace **P**erseverance of the Saints  
We here will conclude the doctrine of the fourth point.

### 2. The gracious work of the Holy Spirit in the salvation of God's redeemed elect is, indeed, irresistible.

i. **The grace of the Holy Spirit is irresistible because He is God**—and God is irresistible. “But He is unique, and who can make Him change? And whatever His soul desires, that He does” (Job 23:13). “But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases” (Psa. 115:3). “For I know that the Lord is great, and our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the Lord pleases He does, in heaven and in earth, in the seas, and in all deep places” (Psa. 135:5f). “So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it” (Isa. 55:1). “All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’” (Dan. 4:35). He who believes God the Holy Spirit can be successfully resisted denies His deity, and is worshipping a false god and an idol of his imagination.

ii. **The grace of the Holy Spirit is irresistible because it always causes the regenerate to willfully obey its call.** The Holy Spirit does not force or drag men to Christ against their will. Rather, He changes them so drastically that they *willingly* flee to Christ for salvation, and cannot be persuaded to do otherwise.

1) **The Holy Spirit turns rebels against God into volunteers for God** (Psa. 110:3): “Your people shall be volunteers in the day of Your power” (see Saul in Acts 9:1-6; 26:19).

2) **The Holy Spirit replaces the rebellious heart of stone with an obedient heart of flesh** (Eze. 36:26f): “I will give you a new heart, and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh, and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them” (cp. Deut. 30:6).

3) **The Holy Spirit opens that new obedient heart so that it may obey the gospel** (Acts 16:14): “The Lord opened [Lydia’s] heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.”

(Continued on the other side of this page.)

(Continued from the other side of this page.)**THE DOCTRINES OF GRACE****Their Fourth Point**

**4) The Holy Spirit graciously gives the repentance and faith with which the opened heart may obey the gospel and embrace Christ in salvation.**

**Repentance is a gift of God.** “[Christ] God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins” (Acts 5:31). “Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life” (Acts 11:18). Gospel ministers are always to be “in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God, perhaps, will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses, and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will” (2 Tim. 2:25f).

**Faith is a gift of God.** The regenerated are told, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast” (Eph. 2:8f). “For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ...to believe in Him” (Phil. 1:29). Gospel ministers, therefore, have “greatly helped those who had believed through grace” (Acts 18:27).

These truths of God are denied by those who are devoid of the Holy Spirit, but cherished by all who have, by His grace, received Him (1 Cor. 2:6-16).

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## Letters to Mike Gendron Of Proclaiming the Gospel:

<http://www.pro-gospel.org/>

*S. O’Neill, Internet, writes:*

I want to address your hatred of the Catholic Church and what I saw years ago at one of your presentations—your depicting a priest as a wolf preaching to dazed sheep. What purpose does that serve? I understand the differences regarding justification before God by faith vs. justification by a combination of works and faith. It is a distinction without a difference. Both have the capacity to save. I am sure you disagree, but that doesn’t give you the right to denigrate the papacy or the Catholic Church. The church fathers gave you your faith. They chose your gospels.

**Brother Mike replies:**

Religious institutions that deceive people about their eternal destiny are to be hated with a passion. There is only one answer to the question—“What must I do to be saved from the wrath of God?” To give the *wrong* answer to this sobering question is to propagate the most lethal and deadly lie anyone could ever speak! To point people to the wide road that leads to destruction is a most despicable act, and an abomination to God (Prov. 12:22). God will destroy those who speak falsehood because He abhors the man of deceit (Psa. 5:6). It is for these reasons that I hate the institution known as the Roman Catholic Church. Is my hatred justified? According to the psalmist, inspired by the Holy Spirit, it is. He wrote: “Hate evil, you who love the Lord” (Psa. 97:10). He hated every

false way, and despised falsehood (119:128,163). Please know that there is a distinction between the institution that deceives, and the people who are the *victims* of its deceit. I love the Catholic people, and will spend the rest of my life on earth proclaiming the gospel of grace to them. The reason I show a priest as a wolf preaching to dazed sheep is to illustrate the warning Paul gave us. He wrote, “Savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day, for a period of three years, I did not cease to admonish each one with tears” (Acts 20:29-31). I am puzzled about your statement on justification—“it is a distinction without a difference.” The difference is as wide as the distance between heaven and hell! Those who teach that works are a *requirement* for justification are accursed and condemned by God’s infallible Word (Gal. 1:6-9; Eph. 2:8-9). Please know, also, that the church fathers had nothing to do with my faith. Our sovereign Lord called me through His grace, and gave my “spiritually blind” eyes the ability to see! He granted me repentance from my worthless dead works, and from my participation in the blasphemous representation of a “Eucharistic Jesus” on an altar. When the Spirit of God used the Word of God to reveal the truth of God about the Son of God, I trusted Him, alone, by His grace, to save me completely and forever!

*D.B., Mill Bay, British Columbia, writes:* It’s been a couple of months since you spoke at the University of Victoria in British Columbia. Thank you again for taking the time—we desperately needed the encouragement. Through your presentation, members from our church became thoroughly convinced, and now have a clear understanding of the differences between Catholicism and Protestantism. A lady who came with us had just left the Catholic faith, and she couldn’t thank us enough for inviting her. The next time I saw her she was excited to tell me that she threw away her Mary statue because “she didn’t need it anymore.” She now has a hunger for the Word, and is witnessing to others. We meet once a week to study the Word of God. Since finding your web site, and studying your resources, I have been strengthened to speak out in our church whenever someone brings up the subject of Catholicism. Our pastor is listening, and asking for more information. This is the first time that a pastor has taken the subject seriously. Thank you for the “life line.”

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**Tell someone today how much you love Jesus Christ.**

**PRAY FOR GOD’S ELECT IN PRISONS.**

**PRAY THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL USE  
THIS PUBLICATION TO  
BRING MANY TO A  
SAVING KNOWLEDGE  
OF JESUS CHRIST.**