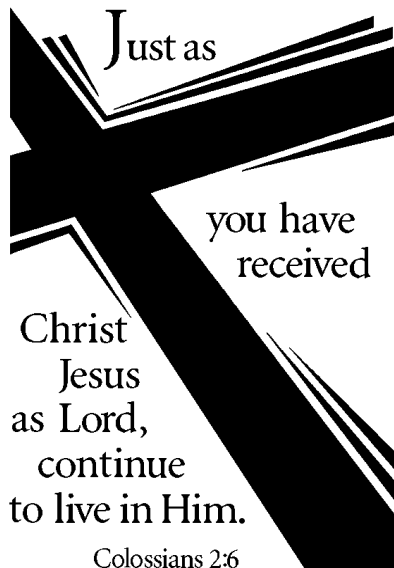


For HIS Glory
Prison Ministry
Emmett and Ann O'Donnell
P.O. Box 291301
Kerrville, TX 78029-1301



Pray for your Chaplain and his family.

September, 2017

In this little issue, and, Lord willing, every issue, our *only* purpose is to honor *Jesus Christ*.

VENTILATE WHAT?

By C. H. Spurgeon

One is grieved that any should scoff at the cross, and yet, in a measure, we are rejoiced to find such confirmation of the truth of God from the lips of her enemies. As long as the world lasts, ungodly men will despise a revelation which they are unable to understand. It is beyond their sphere, and therefore its preachers seem to be babblers, and its doctrines to be foolishness. But in every deed it may well seem foolishness to them, for it treats on subjects for which they have no desires. If I were able to explain to a general audience how to make unlimited profit upon the Stock Exchange, or in some other market, all the world would listen with profound attention! And if I make my point clearly, I would be pronounced a really clever preacher—a man well worth hearing.

But when the sermon is only about the Word of God, eternity, the soul, and the blood of Jesus—most people turn on their heels—they are not sure that they *have* souls, and they refuse to argue upon the supposition of a future existence which is an old wife's fable to them. As for eternity, their philosophy has no room for it, and they do not concern themselves about it. One said in argument, the other day, "I believe I shall die like a dog." I could give him no better reply, on the spur of the moment, than to say, "If I had known that you were a dog, I would have brought you a bone." As I had the notion that he would live forever, I came to talk to him upon subjects suitable to an immortal being. But as I found out that he was going to die like a dog, what could I do for him but provide such cheer as the creature could enjoy?

These men call the gospel foolishness because they look after the main chance, and care more for the body than for the soul. One of their wise men said, "Why do you preach so much about the world to come? Why not preach about the world which now is? Teach these people how to ventilate their sewers—that is a much more necessary matter than their believing on Jesus Christ." Well, sanitary matters *are* important, and if any of you feel that you have nothing to live for but ventilating sewers, I wish you would live at a great rate, and get it done as quickly as you can! Meanwhile, as we are convinced of the need of other things besides drainage, and as many of us expect, soon, to take our happy flight to a place where there are no sewers to ventilate, we shall look into those things which concern our future life, seeing that they also fit us for the life which now is!

—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon #1611, Volume 27—*The Word of the Cross*—Read/download entire sermon at <http://www.spurgeongems.org>.

The Doctrines of Grace: Their Premise—Part 2

By Daniel E. Parks, Pastor

Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, 74 Estate Cane Carlton, Frederiksted, Virgin Islands, USA, 00840

The premise of the Doctrines of Grace may be expressed by the Scriptural maxim “Salvation is of Jehovah!” (Jonah 2:9).

The salvation of which we here speak is that of the saving of mankind from the power and effects of sin. The Doctrines of Grace assert what Holy Scriptures reveal—salvation is, in its *entirety*, the work of the Triune Jehovah, alone, and is in no way attributable to any virtue in, or work performed by the ones who will be saved. From beginning to end, and at every point between, “Salvation is of Jehovah!” “For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen” (Rom. 11:36).

God the Father purposed salvation; God the Son purchased it; God the Spirit applies it. It is of the Father in its origination, of the Son in its acquisition, of the Spirit in its application. The Father is its efficient or immediate cause, the Son is its mediating cause, the Spirit is its energizing cause. The Father predestined a people to salvation, the Son redeemed them, the Spirit regenerates them. The salvation of man is, consequently, by *no* means a work of man! Last month we considered God the Father, and God the Son’s roles in salvation. This month we begin with God the Spirit’s role...

3. Salvation is of Jehovah the Spirit. Those sinners whose salvation has been purposed by God the Father, and purchased by God the Son, nevertheless cannot enjoy the benefits of salvation until these benefits are applied to them. This aspect of salvation is the work of the third Person of the Holy Trinity, God the Holy Spirit, in regenerating and converting those who have been chosen by the Father, and redeemed by the Son.

Sinners are incapable of applying these benefits to themselves. Their inability is due to their being, by nature, that state in which they are born, “*dead* in trespasses and sins” (Eph. 2:1). Being spiritually dead, they are incapable of even *understanding* the gospel: “There is none who understands” (Rom. 3:11a; cp. 1 Cor. 2:14). They therefore most certainly cannot, of themselves, come to God for salvation: “There is none who seeks after God” (Rom. 3:11b; cp. John 5:40; 6:44).

Consequently, before spiritually dead sinners can be saved and receive the benefits of salvation, they must be regenerated, born-again. “Jesus...said..., Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born-again, he cannot see the kingdom of God...Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born-again’” (John 3:3, 7).

It is most certain that a spiritually dead sinner cannot regenerate himself. He is as incapable of causing his own second or *spiritual* birth, as he was of causing his own first or *physical* birth. He must be regenerated, and thereby, receive the benefits of salvation by someone other than himself.

This act of regenerating spiritually dead sinners is performed by God the Holy Spirit, alone, according to John 3:5f.

“Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit [cp. Titus 3:5b], he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.’” Having received this spiritual life from the Holy Spirit, the quickened sinner is enabled by the same Holy Spirit to believe the gospel, and thereby, to embrace the benefits of salvation applied to him.

The Doctrines of Grace are premised upon this truth of God.

4. Salvation is of Jehovah alone. This truth of God is emphatically expressed in Titus 3:5, in which text the saved are told they were saved, “not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to [God’s] mercy He saved us.”

This truth is most logical. Every aspect of salvation has been performed by God, alone, apart from any contribution by man. No mortal has had anything to do with his own predestination to salvation: this decree was enacted “before the foundation of the world” (Eph. 1:4f), before any of us even existed! No mortal has had anything to do with his own election to salvation. God Himself declares, “You did not choose Me, but I chose you” (John 15:16). No mortal has had anything to do with paying his own redemption in salvation. The redeemed are told, “you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold...but with the precious blood of Christ” (1 Peter 1:18f). No mortal has had anything to do with his own regeneration in salvation. God declares that all who are born-again, “were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God” (John 1:13).

Indeed, even the faith and repentance through which sinners manifest that they have received salvation are gifts of God, not works of man! With regard to faith, the saved 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). Believers have “*believed through grace*” (Acts 18:27). With regard to repentance: “God has *granted*...repentance to life” (Acts 11:18; cp. 5:31).

These truths of God concerning “Salvation is of Jehovah” are the plain and simple teachings of Holy Scriptures. If you are truly a Christian, you embrace them. If you do not embrace them, you are neither a Christian nor a believer of God’s infallible Word.

To the glorious Father, as the covenant God of Israel;
To the gracious Son, the Redeemer of His people;
To the Holy Spirit, the Author of sanctification;
Be everlasting praise for that gospel of the
free grace of God
Herein proclaimed unto men!

ASK OUR LORD TO BLESS PASTOR PARKS.