

Evangelism

and the

Purpose & Plan of God

The Command to Evangelize

The Meaning of Evangelism

The Purpose of Evangelism

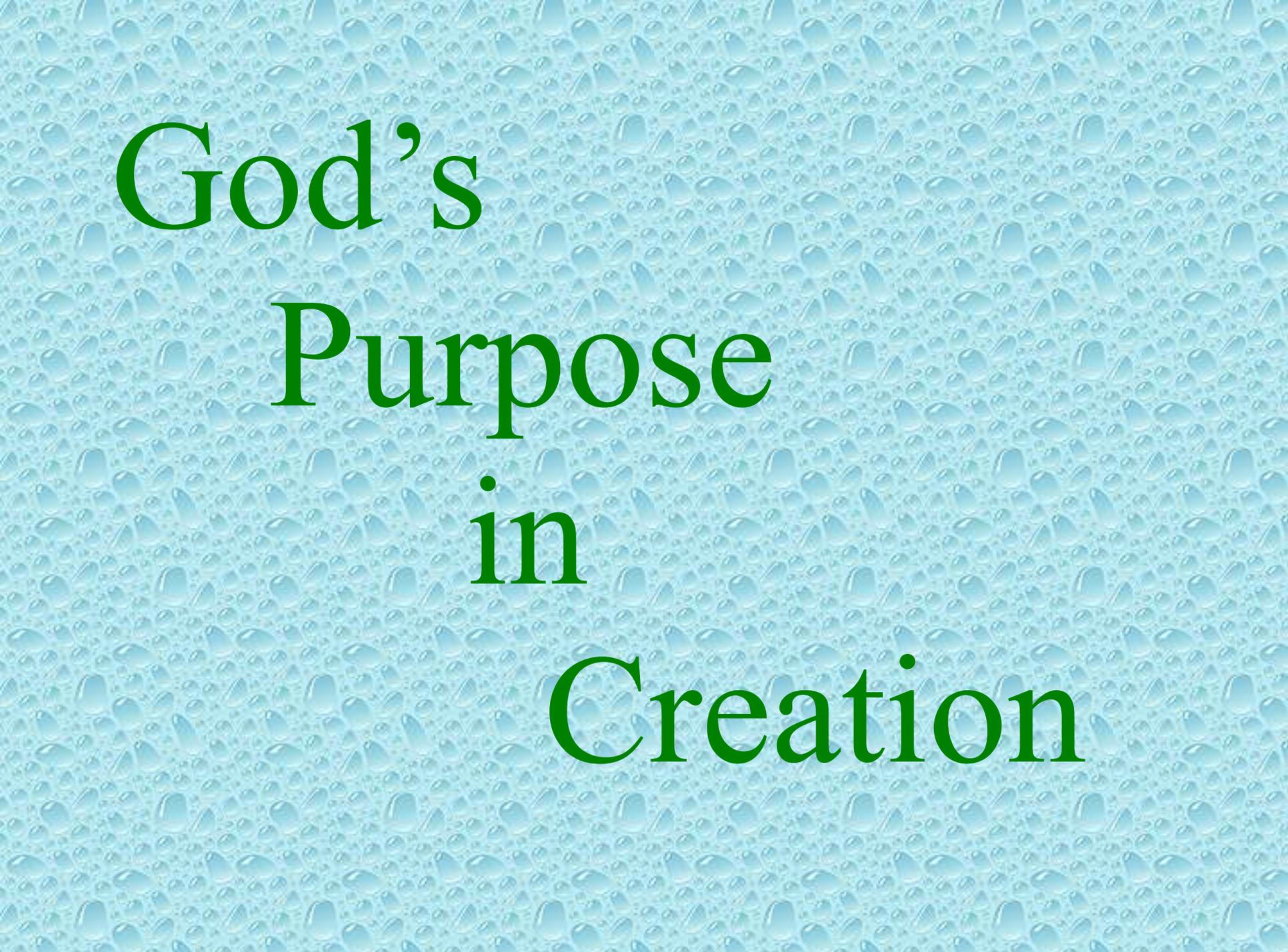
Evangelism and God's Sovereignty

The Work of Evangelism

## *Summary*

- 1) Evangelism is an essential and critical part of the Great Commission.
- 2) Evangelism means to proclaim the Gospel.

What is the Purpose  
of Evangelism?



God's  
Purpose  
in  
Creation

God Created the Universe  
For His Glory  
and  
For our Glory

## Romans 8:18-25

<sup>18</sup>For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy  
*to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us. <sup>19</sup>  
For  
the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the  
revealing  
of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility,  
not  
willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it* in hope; <sup>21</sup>  
because  
the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of  
corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> For  
we  
know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs  
together until now. <sup>23</sup> Not only *that*, but we also who have the  
firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves,

The Purpose of Evangelism

is to

proclaim the Gospel so that

people will be saved.

**εὐαγγελίζω euaggelizo,**

to announce good news  
 (“evangelize”)  
 especially the gospel

The Gospel is  
“the power of God to salvation.”

Romans 1:16

Specifically, God created a world full of sin and suffering in order to save a people and bring them to glory. This is the purpose of evangelism.

Romans 8:19-20; 28-30

## Summary

- 1) Evangelism is an essential and critical part of the Great Commission.
- 2) Evangelism means to proclaim the Gospel.
- 3) God's purpose in evangelism is to save people and bring them to glory.

Evangelism  
and  
God's Sovereignty

Evangelism  
in the  
Second London  
Confession of Faith

“In this portion of my paper, I wish to expound the doctrine of evangelism as it is presented to us in this Confession. It is a full and accurate expression of my beliefs concerning this issue. My working presupposition is this: the doctrine of the Second London Confession **is** the doctrine of the Bible.”

Dr. James M. Renihan ,

Special Revelation

The Decrees of God

God's Providence

Effectual Calling

Saving Faith

The Ministry of the Word

# Special Revelation

The Holy Scripture is the only sufficient, certain, and infallible rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience, although the light of nature, and the works of creation and providence do so far manifest the goodness, wisdom, and power of God, as to leave men inexcusable; yet are they not sufficient to give that knowledge of God and his will which is necessary unto

## The Decrees of God

“God hath Decreed in himself from all Eternity, by the most wise and holy Council of his own will, freely and unchangeably, all things whatsoever comes to pass (3:1) . . . As God hath appointed the Elect unto glory, so he hath by the eternal and most free purpose of his will, fore-ordained all the means thereunto . . . (3:6) ” 2LCF

# God's Providence

“God in his ordinary Providence maketh use of means; yet is free to work, without, above, and against them at his pleasure.” 2LCF 5:3

“It is to be expected, *ordinarily*, that God will use certain methods to bring the elect to salvation. These methods *ought* to be the focus of our efforts. If God uses other methods, he is free to do so; but our task is to use the appointed methods.”

Dr. James Renihan

# Effectual Calling

“Those whom God hath predestinated unto Life, he is pleased in his appointed, and accepted time, effectually to call by his word, and Spirit, out of that state of sin, and death, in which they are by nature, to grace and Salvation by Jesus Christ; . . .” 2LCF 10:1

Others not elected, although they may be called by the Ministry of the word, and may have some, common operations of the Spirit, yet not being effectually drawn by the Father, they neither will, nor can truly come to Christ; . . .”

3LCF 10:4

# Saving Faith

*“The Grace of Faith, whereby  
the*

*Elect are enabled to believe to  
the saving of their souls, is the  
work of the Spirit of Christ in  
their hearts; and is ordinarily  
wrought  
by the Ministry of the Word.”*

The Ministry  
of the  
Word

Elect are Effectually  
Called by the  
Word and Spirit —  
2LCF 10:1

The phrase “ministry of the Word”  
is used five times in 2LCF.

10:3 – Those incapable of being called.

10:4 – Non-elect called outwardly.

14:1 – Ordinary means of salvation.

26:5 – Christ calls elect to Himself by  
the ministry of the Word.

26:10 - The work of pastors is the  
ministry of the Word.

*Q. 94. What are the outward means, by which Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption?*

*A. The outward and ordinary means, by which Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption, are his ordinances, especially the Word of God, baptism, the Lord's Supper, and prayer; all which means are made effectual to the elect for salvation. Baptist Catechism*

*Q. 95 How is the Word made effectual to salvation?*

*A. The Spirit of God makes the reading, but especially the preaching of the Word, an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners; and of building them up in holiness and comfort through faith unto salvation.*

Baptist Catechism

This phrase, “ministry of the Word”, is best understood as a reference to the preaching of the Word by Christ’s appointed men.

Thus, the *ordinary* means by which grace is brought to the elect is that of the ministry of the Word, i.e. the pulpit ministry of the church, or those sent by the church.

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

*“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace,  
Who bring glad tidings of good things!”*

*Romans 10:14-15*

God has used other means also, such as:

Religious conversation – Proverbs 13:20

Dreams – Job 33

Afflictive Providences – Manasseh

Miraculous events – Saul of Tarsus

(Benjamin Beddome commentary on the Baptist Catechism)

But, these are not the *ordinary* means  
appointed by God for salvation.

## Summary

- 1) Evangelism means to proclaim the Gospel.
- 2) God's purpose in evangelism is to save people and bring them to glory.
- 3) Salvation requires special revelation of God found only in the Word of God.
- 4) God has decreed everything, in eternity, including who will be saved and the means by which they will be saved.

- 5) In His Providence, God uses the means He has “fore-ordained” to save people.
- 6) God effectually calls people to salvation by His Word, specifically the Ministry of the Word, and Spirit.
- 7) Christ communicates redemption to us by His ordinances – Word, Baptism, Lord’s Supper, Prayer.
- 8) The Spirit makes the reading, but especially the preaching of the Word an effectual means of salvation.

- 9) Saving Faith is ordinarily wrought by the Ministry of the Word.
- 10) Christ calls the elect to Himself by the Ministry of the Word.
- 11) The work of pastors is the Ministry of the Word.
- 12) The ordinary means by which people are saved is by the Ministry of the Word, by preaching.