

Preserved by God

September 29, 2019 ~ Five Points of Calvinism ~ Romans 8.28-39

Recap of Previous Messages

- This is the last message in a 5-week series entitled the “**Five Points of Calvinism**”
- 1st message was “**Enslaved by Satan**”
 - Fallen man, from conception, is by nature enslaved to do Satan’s will
 - Man does this willingly (but unwittingly) because he’s apathetic towards God
- 2nd message was “**Chosen by Father**”
 - Father God “**before the foundation of the world**” elected some to be in Christ
 - God’s choice was not dependent on anything foreseen in man (will or works)
- 3rd message was “**Saved by Son**”
 - Jesus came to earth to be the propitiation for the sins of the elect only
 - Jesus gave His life as a “**ransom for many**”, for His “**sheep**”, for His “**friends**”
 - Specifically – for all those that the Father gave Him
 - Jesus did not die for those He refused to pray for in High Priestly Prayer
- 4th message was “**Regenerated by Spirit**”
 - One must be reborn to see the depths of sin and the great glory of God
 - Conformity to outward ceremony (e.g., circumcision, baptism) doesn’t save
 - Peter stated the Spirit falls upon “**as many as the Lord our God will call**”

Today’s Message – “**Preserved by God**”

- Last week we covered the start of **Phil 1.6** / Today we’ll cover the rest
 - “**He who has begun a good work in you – will complete it**”
- Another title could be “**Once Saved, Always Saved**”
 - Past 3 messages proved loss of salvation is impossible
 - Arminians fear loss of salvation because they believe they initiated it
 - Today we’ll marshal much Scriptural evidence against this possibility
 - We’ll also address 3 texts that appear to warn of a loss of salvation

Salvation FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions

- Sermon structured as a set of 5 questions and answers
- In modern lingo this is referred to as a FAQ
- This can be a mere marketing device – but I’ll try and use it honestly | helpfully

Xition: Let’s begin with the first question – “**What is salvation?**”

1. "What is Salvation?" / (Online **dictionary.com** site gives theological definitions)

- **Def:** Salvation – noun – "Deliverance from the power and penalty of sin"
- **Def:** Saved – verb – "Delivered from the power and consequences of sin"
- Our 3rd message was titled "Saved by Son" / Saved is verb form of salvation
 - Last week we distinguished between conviction and salvation
 - **III:** Saving seats – "Are these seats saved? No, but they're under strong conviction."
- Yet last week we spoke of the "Order of Salvation" or "Plan of Salvation"
- We can use "salvation" to describe everything – not just Christ's sacrifice
- Titles could be: "Salvation Needed, .. Ordained, .. Secured, .. Applied, .. Assured"

2. "When Does Salvation Occur?"

- Many speak as if "being saved" occurs at point in time when this life ends
 - There is merit to this – Christians & non-Christians can appear very similar
 - Christians can be rude & offensive / non-Christians can be polite & helpful
 - **III:** Sayings – "God isn't finished with me yet"
 - **III:** Sayings – "Christians aren't perfect, just forgiven"
 - Peter warns us to "make our call and election sure" (2 Peter 2.10)
 - **III:** DVD of your life – Randomly stopping ("Were you acting like a Christian?")
- Christians must exercise faith on earth – "Faith is the substance of things hoped for – the evidence of things not seen."
 - Preached sermon 10 years ago "The End of Faith" / Faith will become sight
 - **III:** John Shepherd ~ Concerned that I'd traumatized his daughter Faith
- **III:** T-Shirt – "Pastor Warning – Anything you say or do may be used in a sermon!"
- Again – Some people think salvation occurs only at the end of life
 - **III:** Concert tickets – Hide them so they won't be lost / Can't find them later
 - This isn't salvation / Saved people have been transformed here / now
- Clearest evidence of being saved isn't conversion testimony – but living for God
- "When does salvation occur?"
 - The Father and Son's work occurred in past – "Chosen and Saved"
 - "Saved by Son" / Saved when converted

Xition: Next question – "What changes resulted from regeneration?"

3. “What Changes Result from Regeneration?”

- Spirit’s work occurs during our lives – “**Regeneration**” changes us
- If salvation could be lost, this work would have to be undone / “**What work?**”
- Five changes that occur with our “**salvation**” | “**conversion**” | “**regeneration**”
 1. Believers are reborn – regenerated by Spirit
 2. Believers die to sin and become alive to God / Reverse polarity
 3. Holy Spirit takes up residence in believers – become a “**temple**”
 4. HS’s presence in believers is “**seal**” or “**guarantee**” of remaining in them
 5. Believers reside spiritually with Christ in heaven – “**citizenship**” is there
- Pay close attention to “**tense**” of verbs – past | present | future

3.1 Believers have been “**born again**” i.e., “**born of God**” (6 vss)

- **Col 2.13** ~ “And you, being dead in your trespasses and uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses.”
- **Tit 3.5** ~ “not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.”
- **1 Pet 1.23** ~ “having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.”
- **1 John 3.9** ~ “Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.”
- **2 Cor 5.17** ~ “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”
- **Gal 6.5** ~ “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.”

3.2 Believers have Died to Sin (6 vss)

- **Rom 6.2-3** ~ “How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?”
- **Rom 7.5-6** ~ “For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death. But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.”

- **Gal 2.20** ~ “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”
- **Col 3.1-3** ~ “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”
- **1 Pet 2.24** ~ “who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness – by whose stripes you were healed.”
- **Rom 6.10-11** ~ “For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

3.3 Holy Spirit Dwells in Believers (5 vss)

- **1 Cor 3.16** ~ “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”
- **1 Cor 6.19** ~ “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?”
- **2 Tim 1.14** ~ “That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.”
- **1 John 3.24** ~ “Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.”
- **Jude 19** ~ “These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.”

3.4 Holy Spirit a Guarantee (Down Payment) or Seal (5 vss)

- **Rom 8.23** ~ “Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.”
- **2 Cor 1.22** ~ “who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.”
- **2 Cor 5.5** ~ “Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.”
- **Eph 1.13b-14** ~ “you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession ..”
- **Eph 4.30** ~ “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

Xition: Last of 5 changes that occur at regeneration is our citizenship

3.5 Believers Now Reside as Spiritual Citizens in Heaven (4 vss)

- Eph 2.6 ~ “and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus”
- Eph 2.19 ~ “Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God”
- Phil 3.20 ~ “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ”
- Col 2.12 ~ “.. you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.”

Summary of What Would Have to be Undone

1. Rebirth would have to be undone – new nature revoked – old nature restored
2. Application of Christ’s penal substitutionary atoning death on our behalf undone
3. Holy Spirit would have to abandon us – discard us as being part of the Temple
4. God must withdraw HS, thus violate guarantee, revoke deposit, break seal
5. We’d have to be spiritually evicted from heaven – have citizenship revoked
- This only covers undoing of regeneration
6. Our adoption would also have to be annulled / returned to orphanage

4. “What About God’s Promises?”

- To believe in “loss of salvation” we’d have to call God a liar
- John 5.24 ~ “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”
- John 10.27-28 ~ “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.”
- 1 Peter 1.3-5 ~ “God .. has begotten us again to a living hope .., to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

Xition: Last question concerns texts hinting at loss of salvation . . .

5. “But What About Texts Like Hebrews 6.4-6 and 10.26 and 2 Peter 2.20-21?”

- **Heb 6.4-6** ~ “For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and out Him to an open shame.”
 - Jesus told parable of tares and wheat – tares are in the Church
 - People see conversion then apostasy – “**parable of seed without depth**”
 - **Ex:** Simon the Sorcerer – **Acts 8** – may have repented
- **2 Pet 2.20-21** ~ “For if, after they escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.”
 - Entire chapter must be read and understood – “**parable of seed choked out**”
 - **Ex:** Demas – named in **Col** and **Phm** yet in **2 Tim** “Demas has forsaken me”
- **Heb 10.26-27** ~ “For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.”
- Reading all of **Hebrews 6** and **2 Peter 2** you see the context of each scenario
 - **Heb 6** emphasizes a mercenary attitude some have towards God
 - Writer ends emphasizing Abraham’s faithfulness through doubts
 - **2 Pet 2** is entirely warning of false teachers in churches
- With **Hebrews 10** you need only read prior two verses (**24-25**) to see context
 - Peter is warning people to evaluate faithfulness by people’s actions

John Warned of All Such Apostasies

- **1 John 2.18-19** ~ “Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.”

Xition: We come to our final text . . . But first remind you of **Phil 1.6** . . .

The Elect Will be “Preserved by God”

- Phil 1.6 ~ “He who has begun a good work in you will complete it”
- God will not adjust His sovereign choice based on our fickle wills or actions
- Son will not alter those for whom He died based on our willful sins
- Spirit will not abandon us as God’s guarantee and seal
- God finishes what He starts

Romans 8.28-39 Assures Us of All of This

- Back of handout highlights how these 12 verses apply to “Five points”
- “All things work together for good to those who love God”
- The elect will be “conformed to the image of His Son”
- God “freely gives us all things” essential for salvation
- Jesus “makes intercession for us” “at the right hand of God”
- Nothing “ shall be able to separate us from the love of God”
- That includes us – including our inconsistent wills and sinful behavior

**The natural man does not receive – and cannot know – the things of God (1 Cor 2.14)
We must exercise gentleness, patience, and humility with our Arminian brethren**

**Jude 24-25 ~ "Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and
to present *you* faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy;
To God our Savior, Who alone is wise,
be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen."**

Preserved by God - Handout

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1. What 3 words from **Phil 1.6** summarize our topic today? _____
2. What is an alternate title for today's message? _____
3. Salvation is deliverance from _____
4. What 5 changes happen to people who are regenerated?
 - a. Believers are _____
 - b. Believers _____ and become _____
 - c. Believers become _____ of the _____
 - d. Believers are _____ with Holy Spirit as a _____
 - e. Believers are made _____ of the _____
5. Verses given in support of these changes
 - a. Col 2.13, Titus 3.5, 1 Pet 1.23, 1 John 3.9, 2 Cor 5.17, Gal 6.5
 - b. Rom 6.2-3, Rom 7.5-6, Gal 2.20, Col 3.1-3, 1 Pet 2.24, Rom 6.10-11
 - c. 1 Cor 3.16, 1 Cor 6.19, 2 Tim 1.14, 1 John 3.24, Jude 19
 - d. Rom 8.23, 2 Cor 1.22, 2 Cor 5.5, Eph 1.13-14, Eph 4.30
 - e. Eph 2.6, Eph 2.19, Phil 3.20, Rom 8.11, Col 2.12
6. What was cited as meaning of these texts hinting at loss of salvation
 - a. Heb 4.4-6 _____
 - b. 2 Pet 2.20-21 _____
 - c. Heb 10.26-27 _____
7. What text makes plain that such people who "fall away" never truly believed?

8. What parable Jesus told best explains these texts and John's explanation?

9. What text well illustrates the last four of the 5 points of Calvinism? _____

Five Points of Calvinism in Romans 8.28-39

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be conformed to the image of His Son*, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? *It is God who justifies.* ³⁴ Who *is* he who condemns? *It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.* ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

"For Your sake we are killed all day long;
We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."

³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Enslaved by Satan

Chosen by Father

Saved by Son

Regenerated by Spirit

Preserved by God