The Doctrines of Grace #10

Study Handout – Grace Bible Chapel

Calvinism - Unconditional Election & Limited Atonement

August 25th, 2024

Election Definition: The action of God in reference to men and the category of placement before Him through His great salvation. Unconditional election means God in His sovereignty determines to save some not based on anything within or by them but solely according to His own will.

<u>Unconditional Election - the Calvinist view - continued from last meeting...</u>

- Because of man's condition in depravity, salvation must be initiated completely from God.
 - Christ came to seek that which was lost (not those cooperating with His will) Matt.18:11.
 - o John 13:8 "chosen" is a term in the Scripture interchangeable with election.
 - Matt. 20:16 the call goes out to all but it is only the chosen (the elect) who respond to the call.
 - Those non-elect may respond superficially, but it does not result in true salvation.
 - One must ultimately be chosen, or they will not truly be saved (John 10:26).
 - o 1 Cor. 1:26 chosen of God has nothing to do with the person's merit.
- Foreknowledge does not mean "fore saw" in relation to God it means "fore love."
 - o Proginosko pro (before) ginosko (knowledge).
 - o Ginosko absolute knowledge often in Scripture indicates a relation between the person knowing and the object known (W.E. Vine) reference to Christ 1 Pet 1:20.
 - Know (ginosko) is an idiom for love (Matt. 7:23; 12:33; Lk. 10:22; John 8:32; 43; 55; 10:14; 10:15; 27; 14:7; 17; 16:3) "determined by context."
 - Rom. 8:28-29 doesn't say he saw something about us, it was God's initiation (the word "also" is repeated for each). He before decreed love (before determined a relationship) we were the object.
 - 1 Pet. 1:2 chosen not because of obedience but chosen to be transformed.
 - o Eph. 2:1-2 God must of necessity take the first step "we are dead" (Eph 2), and not walking (living) attractively, but "according to the course of the world...in disobedience."
 - o Eph. 1:3-6 things to notice:

Practical issues:

- All spiritual blessings come from God.
- The decision for choice was made before the created world God is carrying out what He determined.
 - kind intention of "His will" not our "free will."
 - according to "His good pleasure"- not our merit.
 - We do not know why He chose whom He chose, but we know there is no emphasis on anything outside of Himself.
- o Rom. 9:6-26 Paul is answering the question what happened to Israel?
 - Rom. 9:6 the Word of God has not failed.
 - Goes on to explain (Rom 9:7-13) that salvation is according to sovereign grace.
 - Rom. 9:11 God's choice (election) is not based on anything good or better in Jacob.
- o Rom. 9:14-21 answers the justice of God in how He chooses who will be saved.
 - "Injustice" here presupposes the context is addressing "unconditional election."
 - All objections are silenced ultimately in vs. 20 based on who God is.

i ractical issues.					

Limited Atonement:

Atonement

Atonement is the reconciliation between God and man, accomplished by the Lord Jesus Christ. The Scripture tells us that God first "foreknew" some individuals that is "before loved" them out of His own will. Those then He foreknew He predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son. Atonement is a key component of restoration. It is the basis of the justification of man with God.

A Comparison of Arminianism with Calvinism – Point Three

Arminianism Calvinism **Universal Redemption or General Particular Redemption or Limited Atonement** Atonement Christ's redeeming work was intended to save the Christ's redeeming work made it possible for everyone to be saved but did not actually secure elect only and actually secured salvation for them. the salvation of anyone. Although Christ died for His death was a substitutionary endurance of the all men and for every man, only those who believe penalty of sin in the place of certain specified on Him are saved. His death enabled God to sinners. In addition to putting away the sins of His pardon sinners on the condition that they believe, people, Christ's redemption secured everything but it did not actually put away anyone's sins. necessary for their salvation, including faith which unites them to Him. The gift of faith is infallibly Christ's redemption becomes effective only if man chooses to accept it. applied by the Spirit to all for whom Christ died, therefore guaranteeing their salvation.

Definition: "Limited atonement" means that Jesus' death on the cross had a definitive purpose to die specifically and only for those exercising faith who are chosen of the Father.

Scriptures used to support Unlimited Atonement

- John 3:14-18 "world"
- 2 Cor. 5:14-15 "for all"
- 1 Timothy 4:10 "Savior of all men"
- Titus 2:11 "salvation for all people"
- 2 Peter 3:9 "not will that any should perish"

Scriptures used to support limited Atonement

- Mat 1:21 Christ's announced purpose
- Mat 20:28; 26:28 "for many"
- John 10:11:15 "the sheep" a definite people
- Acts 13:48; 20:28 "which He purchased"
- Rom 8:29-30; Eph. 1:3-14 God's plan revealed.

Practical Considerations:	 Rev 5:9 "ransom men" – meaning behind world. 		

^{*}Source "The Five Points of Calvinism, Steele & Thomas, Presbyterian & Reformed Publishing, 1963