

Fact Check: Reconsidering Popularly Misinterpreted Scriptures

Sermon #7 John 6:28-47, 65 | Has God Selected Some to Salvation?

The Calvinist Doctrine of Predestination

- Calvinism (whether five-point or so-called four-point) believes that God has chosen who will be saved and who will be damned, and has done so for His glory.
- They have done so by proof-texting various passages, including the one we will consider today.
- With the presupposition that God selected only a few to go to Heaven and selected the rest for Hell, they were required to build a theological system to explain this position. Their doctrine is stated in the famed TULIP system.
 - T – **Total Depravity**: *man is so depraved that he is unable to receive the Gospel even when clearly presented to him.*
 - U – **Unconditional Election**: *God therefore chose certain people to be elect for salvation, thus choosing the balance for unconditional damnation. Nothing can be done to change one's position.*
 - L – **Limited Atonement**: *Because God cannot fail in what He does, He did not shed blood for the propitiation of those who are elect to damnation.*
 - I – **Irresistible Grace**: *Because man is so depraved that none would ever come to Him, God uses an irresistible grace to draw His elect unto Himself. Those chosen cannot not receive Him.*
 - P – **Perseverance of the Saints**: *Those who have truly received this irresistible grace will persevere to the end. Those who do not persevere were false believers who have been chosen for hell but made a false conversion.*

John 6 as a Proof Text

- Verses 28-29 - The people wanted to **work the works of God**, but Jesus said to them that **the work is of God**. Grammatically, God is the One who does the work, and His work is **that ye believe**.
- Verse 30 - If God was doing a work, the people wanted a **sign...that we may see, and believe**. They did not want a work of God, but a work of Christ, for they asked, **what does thou work?**
- Verses 31-35 – The people speak of the sign during the days of Moses, and Jesus claims to be the **bread of life** (v. 35).
- Verse 36 - This is the great dilemma of the passage. Verse 29 was not being implemented.
- Verse 37:

- **all that the Father giveth** - The correct translation is "that", as in KJV. This is in the neuter, not masculine.
 - NIV, GNB, NLT, The Message, and HCSB get this wrong.
 - The only way to interpret this correctly is to let Scripture interpret itself. What is the "thing" that the Father gives the Son? It is His inheritance. What is His inheritance? It is Israel.
 - These words are saying the same thing Paul says, that Israel has not been lost, but will be received and will be "the glory of His inheritance in the Saints" (Romans 9-11, Ephesians 1).
- **shall come to me** - When will Israel come? Not the first coming (John 1:11). Jesus had said He would be rejected and they would choose "another" (John 5:43). But, in spite of appearances of John 6, Jesus says "they will come!"
- **him that cometh...** - Unlike earlier in the verse, here Jesus is speaking about an individual. What of the one who does not join the nation in rejection? There is hope for him..."I will certainly not cast out." See John 1:12.
- Verse 39: Jesus again speaks of His inheritance (singular, neuter) and says He will **lose nothing** but will **raise it up again at the last day**.
- Verse 40: Jesus again speaks of the *individual* that may come before that time.
- Verse 44: Here (as in the end of v. 37 and v. 40) the Lord undoubtedly speaks of the individual. Does this prove the Calvinistic concept of total depravity and the rest of the system which follows?
 - Jesus has taught that only those **to whomsoever the Son will reveal** the Father are able to know the Father (Mt. 11:27).
 - This was a truth in the dispensation in which Jesus lived, which is why He forbade many to proclaim His identity.
 - However, the day would come, after the words of John 6 were spoken, in which the Father would draw all men unto Himself, as v. 45 and John 12:32.
- Verse 65: It was not **given** unto Judas to come to Christ (see the last words of the previous verse). One must prove that this is *true for all time* before building a Calvinist doctrine.

Summary

Jesus taught that He would receive His entire inheritance, losing none of it. He also taught that individuals who received Him during times that the nation rejected Him would receive eternal life.