

The background of the slide features a faded, sepia-toned photograph of four large stone statues of men in historical religious attire, likely the Reformers. They are standing in a row, with the second figure from the left holding a book. Below the statues, a stone ledge is visible with a faint, carved inscription that includes the letters 'IHS' in the center, flanked by decorative flourishes.

A SURVEY OF THE REFORMATION

ITS HISTORY & DOCTRINE

HISTORY

1. Intro & Overview of Church History
2. Forerunners of the Reformation
3. The Protestant Reformation
4. Puritanism & the Legacy of the Reformers

DOCTRINE

1. Reformation Doctrine: The Big Picture
2. Total Depravity & Irresistible Grace
3. Particular Redemption & Unconditional Election
4. **Unconditional Election (cont.) & Perseverance of the Saints**
5. Answering Objections & Why the Reformation Matters Today

THE FIVE POINTS OF CALVINISM

- Today, the five counter-points that Dort raised against the Arminians, are remembered as the “five points of Calvinism” [TULIP].

Total Depravity – Fallen Man’s Inability to Come

Unconditional Election – God’s Sovereign Choice

Limited Atonement – Our Particular Redemption

Irresistible Grace – God’s Gracious, Enabling Call

Perseverance of the Saints – The Completion of God’s Work in Us

DESIGN OF THE ATONEMENT

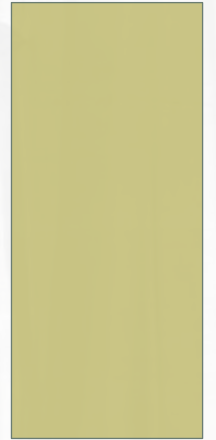
Design: *What did God intend with Christ's atonement? What was the atonement intended to accomplish?*

- Beyond merely making all men “savable”, God had special designs for the atonement:
 - To purchase the Church – Acts 20:28
 - To sanctify his Bride – Eph. 5:25-27
 - To protect his Sheep – John 10:15 (cf. 10:26-27)
 - To gather the Children of God – John 11:51-52
 - To ransom a People – Rev. 5:9
 - To consecrate those Given to him – John 17:6,9,19 (cf. John 6:39)



TULIP: UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

GOD'S SOVEREIGN CHOICE



UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

Since we are helpless and totally depraved, we need God to intervene. God doesn't sit on the sidelines and see who is worthy of being chosen, God chooses. And because of His choice, the "elect" live lives worthy of their calling. Scripture is quite emphatic that neither our belief nor our works fit us for being elected but rather, flow from our election.

- Some prefer to use the phrase "**Sovereign Election.**"
- Emphasizes the free choice of God which stands behind why some people believe and others do not.

ELECTION TEXTS

- Acts 13:48 “as many as were appointed to eternal life believed”
- Eph. 1:4 “he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him”
- 2 Thess. 2:13 “God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved”
- Rom. 8:29 “predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son”
- Rom. 11:5 “there is a remnant, chosen by grace”
- 1 Thess. 1:4 “we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you”
- James 2:5 “has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom?”
- Titus 1:1 “for the sake of the faith of God’s elect”
- Mark 13:20 “the elect, whom he chose”
- Col. 3:12 “God’s chosen ones”

THE POINT OF ISSUE

“Does God elect people because they believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, or does God elect people in order that they shall believe in Christ?” ~ Sam Storms

- To the Arminian, God’s **fairness** demands he treat everyone the same when it comes to election.
 - Jack Cottrell: God’s justice “leads him to treat all persons alike, and to bestow no special favors with respect to salvation.”
 - Henry Thiessen: “...only if God makes the same provisions for all and makes the same offers to all, is He truly just.”
- Sam Storms summarizes the Arminian view: “God’s justice makes it absolutely necessary that he do for one lost and undeserving sinner what he does for all.

JUSTICE & MERCY

“Let us assume that all men are guilty of sin in the sight of God. From that mass of guilty humanity, God sovereignly decides to give mercy to some of them. What do the rest get? They get justice. The saved get mercy & the unsaved get justice. Nobody gets injustice. ~ R.C. Sproul

- Experience and Scripture both tell us God doesn't treat everyone the same.
 - Do we choose our parents, culture, health or location (in time as well as place)?
 - Did Jesus appear to every Jewish zealot like he did to the Apostle Paul on the Damascus Road?
- Scripture teaches God has mercy on whom He wills – Ex. 33:19.
- Scripture teaches God withholds actions He knows would have resulted in belief and repentance – Matt. 11:21-24.

A SPECIAL LOVE

“If all of us are so depraved that we cannot come to God without being born again by the irresistible grace of God, and if this particular grace is purchased by Christ on the cross, then it is clear that the salvation of any of us is owing to God’s election. ~ J. Piper

- Man is totally depraved, enslaved to his fallen nature. (T)
- The Spirit gives an inward call that awakens them from death and provides spiritual regeneration to believe. (I)
- Jesus actually propitiated God’s wrath for these awakened sinners, bearing the full penalty for their sin. (L)
- It follows, that God the Father stands behind this, and choose the individuals for whom Jesus would die, and for whom the Spirit would provide the inward call and efficacious grace. (U)

~ John Piper, *What We Believe about the Five Points of Calvinism* (booklet, 1986), pg. 19

THE GOLDEN CHAIN OF SALVATION

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. Rom. 8:28-30

- **ALL** the **foreknown** were **predestined**
 - **ALL** the **predestined** were **called**
 - **ALL** the **called** were **justified**
 - **ALL** the **justified** will be **glorified**
- Teaches a special inward call – *all the called are glorified*
- So if belief is the basis for election, the very belief was granted by the call.
- Vs. 28 frames vs. 29-30 to be speaking of special grace

FOREKNOWLEDGE

- Foreknowledge of personal choices on which election is based, is not in view in the text.
- Foreknowledge must mean at least that God knows who He is choosing before He chooses them. But it means more.
- “Knowledge” or “to know” often has a greater sense than mere apprehension of facts.
 - Matt. 7:23 “I never knew you”
 - John 10:14, 27 “I know my own and my own know me... My sheep hear my voice and I know them”
 - Amos 3:2 “You only have I known of all the families of the earth”
 - Gen. 4:1 “Adam knew Eve his wife”
 - See also, Gen. 18:19, Jer. 1:5, Ps. 1:6, **1 Pet. 1:2, 20**

FOREKNOWLEDGE, cont.

“God’s foreknowledge is an active, creative work of divine love. It is not bare prevision which merely recognizes a difference between those who believe and those who do not believe. God’s foreknowledge creates that difference! ...God’s pre-temporal love and gracious affection for sinners...” ~ Sam Storms

CONTRASTS

- **NON-ELECT:** "...they stumble because they disobey the word, **as they were destined to do.**" ~ 1 Pet. 2:8b
- **ELECT:** "But **you are a chosen race**, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." ~ 1 Pet. 2:9
- **NON-ELECT:** Deception comes to those perishing "because they refused to love the truth and so be saved." More delusion is given them so that they will all be condemned "who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness." ~ 2 Thess. 2:10-12
- **ELECT:** "But we ought always to **give thanks to God for you**, brothers beloved by the Lord, **because God chose you** as the firstfruits **to be saved**, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. To this he called you through our gospel..." ~ 2 Thess. 2:13-14a

ROMANS 9 ON ELECTION

- **The clearest passage on God's unconditional election is Rom. 9.**
- Paul's concern is seen in 9:1-6 & 10:1 – why are so many Israelites not saved? Has God rejected His people or forgotten his promise? Rom. 9-11 addresses this.
- God never intended that all Israel be saved – only a remnant – Rom. 9:6-7
- Just being physically connected to Abraham isn't enough – Isaac not Ishmael, Jacob not Esau – Rom. 9:7-13
- The choice is God's, before their birth, not dependent on works, or of human will or exertion – Rom. 9:11,16
- God's choice involves his saving love, as opposed to his holy hatred – Rom. 9:13

ROMANS 9 - OBJECTIONS

- **What makes Rom. 9 so clear is the natural objections that Paul raises and then answers.**
- Objection 1: Doesn't this make God unjust? – Rom. 9:14
- Answer: By no means. To be God means He can be discriminating with his mercy – Rom. 9:15-18
- Objection 2: How can God find fault with men? Rom. 9:19
- Answer 1: Man is in no position to judge man, we are the clay and he is the potter – Rom. 9:20-21
- Answer 2: God has the right to make vessels for honor and vessels for dishonor. And he has done so to display his glory and power. Rom. 9:22-24ff.

ROMANS 9 - REFLECTIONS

“If Paul meant that election is based on some foreknown human decision, why did he not say so? Instead he declares that the decree was made before the children were born and before they had done any good or evil. (9:11)... If Paul believed that God’s predestination was based on foreseen human choices, this was the context in which to spell it out... In verse 16 he makes it clear. “So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.” ...The apostle declares: It is not of him who wills. The non-Reformed views must say it is of him who wills... This one verse is absolutely fatal to Arminianism.” ~ R. C. Sproul

ADDITIONAL POINTS ON ELECTION

- **Election is “by grace”** – Rom. 11:5-6, Eph. 1:5-6, Matt. 11:26, 2 Tim. 1:9-10
- *Grace means it is not deserved, so election cannot be “conditional.”*
- **Election was “before time”** – Eph. 1:4, 2 Tim. 2:9-10, Rev. 13:8, 17:8, Rom. 9:11
- *“To say that God chose us before the existence of all created things is to say that he chose us without regard to any created thing. Election is not something that awaits an event in human history... it antedates all human history.” ~ Sam Storms*

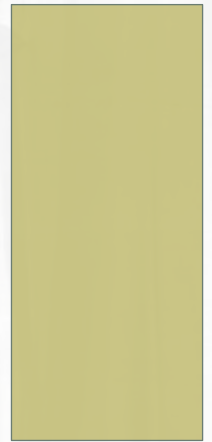
SPURGEON ON ELECTION

“In the very beginning, when this great universe lay in the mind of God... before the mountains were brought forth; and long ere the light flashed through the sky, God loved His chosen creatures. Before there was any created being... when space itself had not an existence, when there was nothing save God alone—even then, in that loneliness of Deity, and in that deep quiet and profundity, His bowels moved with love for his chosen. Their names were written on His heart, and then were they dear to His soul. Jesus loved His people before the foundation of the world—even from eternity! And when He called me by His grace, he said to me, “I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.” C.H. Spurgeon



TULIP: P PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

THE COMPLETION OF GOD'S WORK IN US



PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

God preserves all the elect so that not one of them is finally lost, but He also so works in them that they persevere in their faith. When they fall, they aren't utterly destroyed, they get back up. They bear fruit and have good works which testify to the genuineness of their professed faith. For those who fail to persevere, we are not the ultimate judge, God is. But we should exhort one another daily to "fight the good fight of faith". When understood properly, this point allows believers to take seriously the many warning passages and "if" statements in Scripture. It also gives us confidence to trust that "He who began a good work in [us], will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

- Some prefer to use the phrase "**Security of the Believer**" or "**Eternal Security.**"
- Emphasizes that God completes His work in the lives of the elect so that none of them finally fall away from grace.

WHY “PERSEVERANCE”?

- Perseverance of the saints is often mis-stated as “preservation of the saints.”
- Preservation or “eternal security” is true. But perseverance speaks of the **obligation on the part of believers to persevere**, to “endure to the end.”
- Common Errors today:
 1. One can lose salvation (Pentecostal, true Arminian)
 2. One needs the Church rites to preserve salvation (R.C.)
 3. Once Saved Always Saved (most Baptists) – problem is a presumption that if you say the prayer, you are secure
 4. Free Grace theology (some Evangelicals who are opposed to “Lordship salvation”) – error lies in saying repentance is something optional, the merest faith saves

PROBLEM WITH ONCE SAVED, ALWAYS SAVED

“Today’s popular evangelical maxim “once saved, always saved” while based in the Biblical truth of justification by faith alone has morphed into a virtual get-out-of-jail-free card for far too many. The church’s duty to make disciples of all nations has been downgraded to an optional extra. The gospel call to repent and believe has become a plea for sinners to assent to the facts of the gospel, pray a prayer, and join the cool Christian club called churchianity. Gone are the stern warnings to “watch and pray” and “endure to the end”. Gone are the bold exhortations to “make your calling and election sure” and “be diligent to be found in [Christ] without spot or blemish”. In their place are the warm assurances “since you confessed you are saved” and “since eternal life is a free gift, God cannot take it back”, and the friendly reminders “everybody makes mistakes” and “don’t sweat: remember, we’re under grace!” The old doctrine that saints must diligently make a personal effort to persevere in faith has been overshadowed by the new doctrine that saints can live just like anyone else in the world and as long as they once assented to gospel truths they are most certainly bound for heaven.”

SECURITY TEXTS (GOD KEEPS)

- John 10:26-30 “I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand”
- John 5:24 “has passed from death unto life”
- Rom. 8:33-39 “[nothing] shall separate us from the love of God in Christ”
- Heb. 10:14 “perfected for all time those who are being sanctified”
- 1 Pet. 1:5 “by God’s power... being guarded through faith for... salvation”
- Phil. 1:6 “he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion”
- 1 Thess. 5:23-24 “Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, he will surely do it.”

IF TEXTS (MAN MUST ENDURE)

- 1 Cor. 15:1-2 “the gospel... by which you are being saved, **IF you hold fast... unless you believed in vain**”
- Col. 1:21-23 “you... he has now reconciled... **IF indeed you continue in the faith**, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel”
- Mark 13:13 “the one who **endures to the end** will be saved”
- Heb. 3:12-14 “we have come to share in Christ, **IF indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end**” (see also 3:6)
- John 8:31 “**IF you abide in my word**, you are truly my disciples”
- Rom. 8:13 “**IF by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body**, you will live”
- Heb. 12:14 “**holiness** without which no one will see the Lord”
- Luke 8:13 “**believe for a while... [but] fall away**”

GOD WORKS IN HIS ELECT TO ENDURE

- Phil. 2:12b-13 “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”
- Hebrews 13:20-21 “working in us that which is well pleasing in his sight”
- Jude 22, 24 “Keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life... Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy.”
- Phil. 1:6 “he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ”
- 1 Cor. 1:8-9a “[Jesus Christ] will sustain you to the end guiltless... God is faithful”