



## **Summary of the Reformed Doctrine of Irresistible/Efficacious Grace**

(Adapted from Comments made by Loraine Boettner in *The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination*)

- 1) Those whom God predestinated to 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.
- 2) God enlightens the minds of the Elect spiritually and savingly to understand the things of God; taking away their heart of stone, and giving them a heart of flesh; renewing their wills.
- 3) By God's almighty power, He determines them to that which is good, and effectually draws them to Jesus Christ; yet so as they come most freely, being made willing by his grace.
- 4) The *Ordo Salutis*, or *Order of Salvation*, is as follows: election, predestination, general Gospel call, inward effectual call, regeneration, conversion, justification, sanctification, and glorification.
- 5) The merits of Christ's obedience and suffering are sufficient for, adapted to, and freely offered to all men, but God only efficaciously persuades some to come to Him.
- 6) The work of God in redemption has been rendered effective through the mission of the Holy Spirit who operates on the chosen people to bring repentance and faith, and thus made heirs of eternal life.
- 7) The regeneration of a man's heart is solely a sovereign gift of God, and is graciously given only to His Elect, whom He chose before the foundation of the world.
- 8) Sinful man stands in need, not of inducements or assistance to save himself, but precisely of saving; and Jesus Christ has come not to advice, or urge, or woo, or help him to save himself, but to save him.
- 9) In regeneration God bids the sinner live; and immediately he is alive, filled with a new spiritual life.
- 10) The soul is the subject, and not the agent of change. It co-operates, or, is active in what precedes and in what follows the change, but the change itself is something experienced, and not something done.
- 11) The non-elect hear the Gospel, and never believe, not because there is not enough evidence, but because they are not chosen, and therefore their nature is inherently opposed to Christ.
- 12) Christ's power in salvation is exerted through the Holy Spirit, where His purchased Redemption is applied only to whom it was intended, precisely at the divinely predetermined time.
- 13) Regeneration is exclusively God's work, and it is an act of His free grace in which He implants a new principle of spiritual life in the soul. It is performed by supernatural power and is complete in an instant.
- 14) Christ's active obedience is that by His vicarious suffering and death He fully paid the debt which His people owed to divine justice, this releasing them from the consequences of sin.
- 15) Christ's inactive obedience is that by keeping the law of perfect obedience and living a sinless life He vicariously earned for the, the reward of eternal life.
- 16) It is God the Lord who saves us, not we ourselves. God the Lord did not merely open up the way of salvation, and leave it, according to our choice, to walk in it or not.
- 17) Special grace, or effectual grace, is God's grace applied in salvation only to the Elect, cannot be resisted, and is always accompanied by the illuminating power of the Holy Spirit.
- 18) Common grace is the source of all order, refinement, culture, common virtue, etc., which we find in the world, and through it the moral power of the truth upon the hearts and conscience is increased and the evil passions of men are restrained, but does not produce regeneration and can be resisted by man if God so chooses.