

# A Guide to Reformed Theology

Reformed theology is a comprehensive system of Christian belief from the 16th-century Reformation. It is God-centered, governed by Scripture, and integrates doctrine, worship, and all of life under God's sovereignty.

## CORE BELIEFS



### A God-Centered System of Faith

Emphasizes God's sovereignty, salvation by grace, and a covenantal view of Scripture.

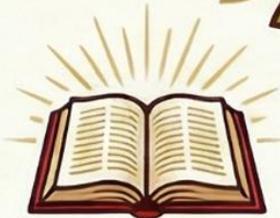


### A High View of God

God is sovereign and actively governs all things according to His will.

## THE FIVE SOLAS (Reformation Gospel)

Sola Gratia	Grace Alone
Sola Fide	Faith Alone
Solus Christus	Christ Alone
Sola Scriptura	Scripture Alone
Soli Deo Gloria	To the Glory of God Alone



### Scripture as the Final Authority

The Bible is the ultimate rule for all matters of faith and life.

## KEY DOCTRINES & FRAMEWORKS

### A Creedal & Confessional Faith



Affirms historic Christian creeds and uses confessions as summaries of biblical teaching.

**Law and Gospel**  
The Law reveals righteousness and exposes sin to drive people to Christ, while the Gospel provides grace, leading believers back to the Law as a guide for grateful living

### A Covenantal Framework

Understands Scripture as a unified story of God's relationship with His people through covenants.



## THE DOCTRINES OF GRACE (TULIP Acrostic)

T	Total Depravity
U	Unconditional Election
L	Limited Atonement
I	Irresistible Grace
P	Perseverance of the Saints

# Review

- Week 1: Experimental Calvinism – The Heartbeat of the Reformed Faith
- Week 2: Defining Reformed Theology 1 – Historical Foundations, Five Points
- Week 3: Defining Reformed Theology 3 – Covenant, Confessions, Catechisms
- Week 4: Defining Reformed Theology 2 – Five Solas
- Week 5: Scripture and God’s Sovereignty – Scripture and ALL Sovereign God.

# **Reformed Theology**

## **Week 6**

### **Salvation and Election**

# Check on Learning/Application Questions

## **Application Questions:**

- 1) Why is it so important for us to establish the authority of God's Word at the outset of our study of theology?
- 2) What objections are raised to the doctrine of God's sovereignty? How does the Bible address these objections?
- 3) How does the doctrine of election magnify the grace of God in salvation? How does it spotlight human depravity?
- 4) How would you address the assertion that election is simply a doctrine taught by the reformers and not in the scriptures?
- 5) Why are those who believe in election sometimes guilty of a failure to earnestly engage in personal evangelism? How does an understanding of election and God's sovereignty fuel the evangelistic enterprise?

# The Necessity of God's Sovereignty for Our Salvation

- Man cannot overcome his basic inclination to sin (1 Corinthians 2:14). He cannot come to God on his own accord (John 3:19, Romans 8:7-8).
- This is why our only HOPE is in GOD and his SOVEREIGNTY (John 15:5).
- GOD ALONE gets the credit John 6:65, Ephesians 2:4, Genesis 15:7-21.

# The Doctrine of Election

- Genesis “BACK TO THE BEGINNING!”
- Genesis 12, Joshua 24:2-3 – God **chose** Abraham.
- Deuteronomy 7:6-8 – God **chooses** unworthy people.
- Ephesians 1:4, Col 3:12, 1 Peter 1:1, 1 Peter 5:13, – believers are called God’s **chosen**.

# The Doctrine of Election (continued)

Election plays a central part in the Bible's account of Salvation thus it must play a central part in our own theology.

“I am persuaded, till a man comes to believe and feel these important truths [of election and the perseverance of the saints], he cannot come out of himself; but when convinced of these, and assured of the application of them to his own heart, he then walks by faith indeed, not in himself but in the Son of God, who died and gave himself for him. Love, not fear constrains him to obedience.”

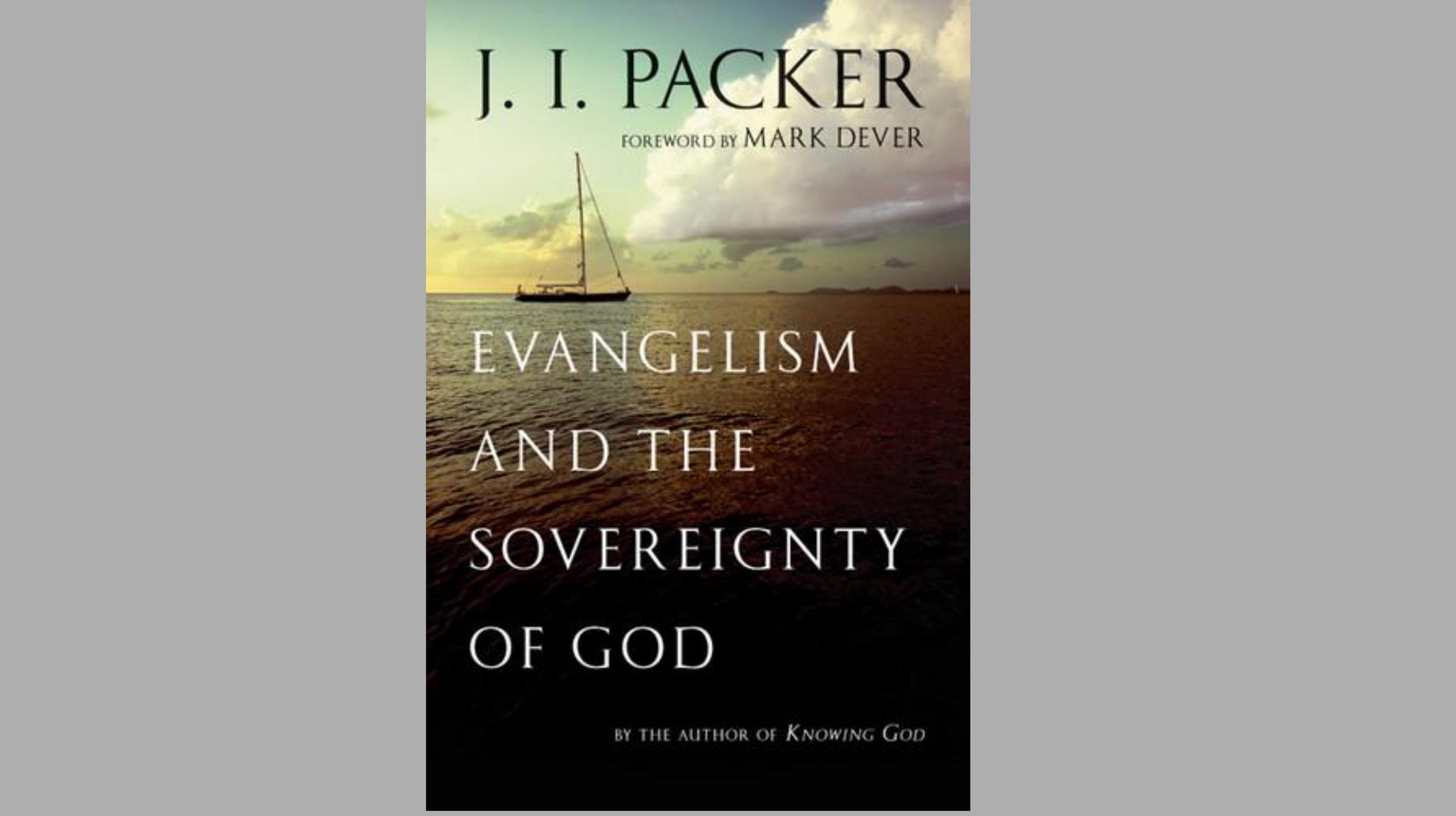
**BE AMAZED BY GRACE – IT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE!**

# The Doctrine of Election and Evangelism

2 Timothy 2:8-10 - Paul's **reason** and **motive** for gospel ministry

“What, then, are we to say about the suggestion that a hearty faith in the absolute sovereignty of God is inimical to evangelism? We are bound to say that anyone who makes this suggestion thereby shows that he has simply failed to understand what the doctrine of divine sovereignty means. ***Not only does it undergird evangelism, and uphold the evangelist, by creating a hope of success that could not otherwise be entertained***; it also teaches us to bind together preaching and prayer; and as it makes us bold and confident before men, so it makes us humble and importunate before God.” – J.I. Packer

Acts 18:9-10 - Election **stokes** evangelism.



J. I. PACKER

FOREWORD BY MARK DEVER

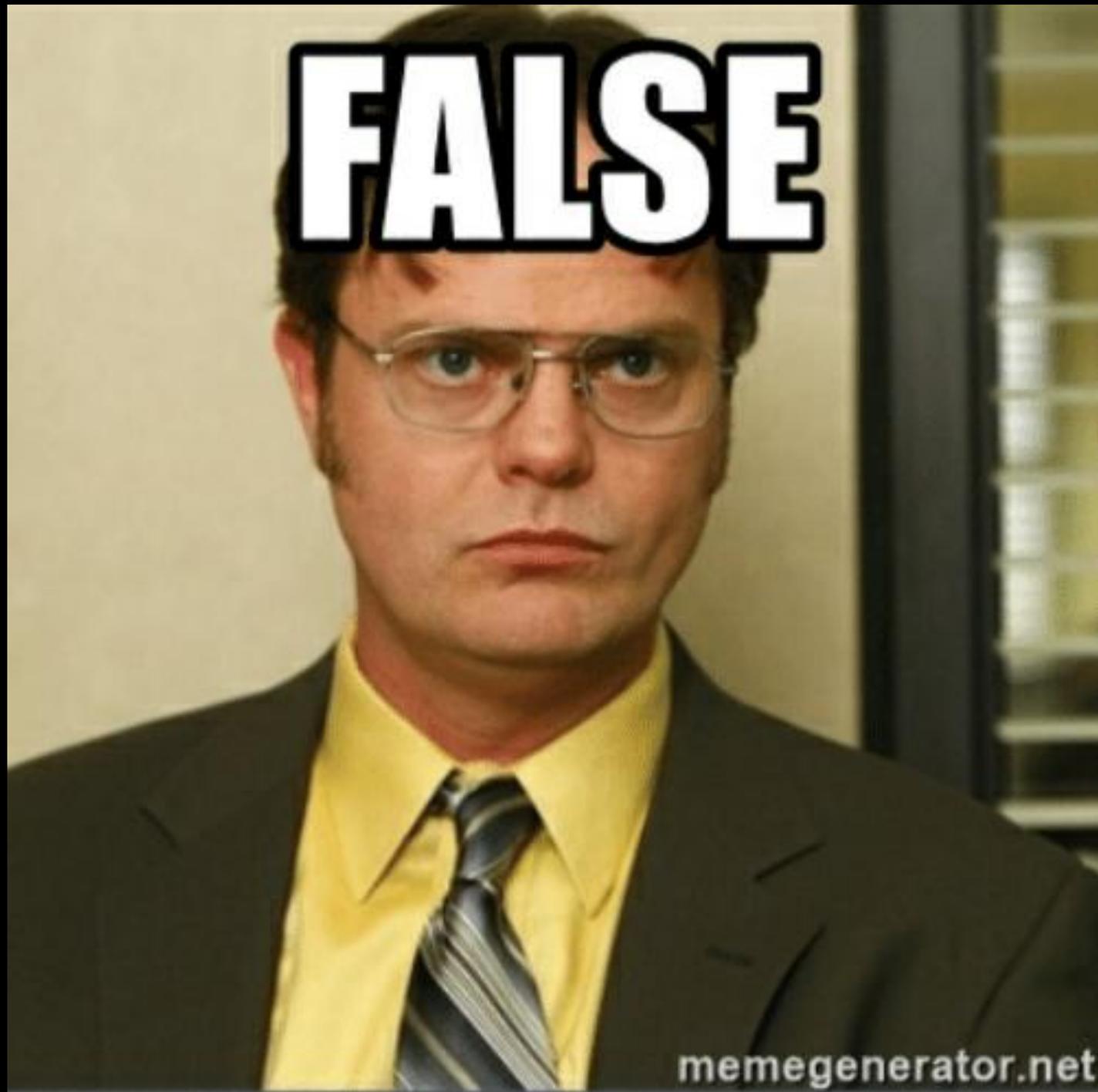
EVANGELISM  
AND THE  
SOVEREIGNTY  
OF GOD

BY THE AUTHOR OF *KNOWING GOD*

# The Doctrine of Election and Evangelism – John 6

- John 6:29-40 – **God's sovereignty** and **sincere Gospel offer**
- John 6:44, 47 – (antinomy)
  - TRUTHS IN TENSION
- John 6:60-65 This was easily understood by the disciples.

**FALSE**



# The Doctrine of Election and Evangelism – John 6 (continued)

- John 6:60 – 6:65 The disciples struggled with this.
- Does it comfort you to know that the earliest of Jesus disciples with this teaching?

# The Doctrine of Election – Conclusion

“ Is election a biblical doctrine? Yes, Our answer must be an emphatic yes! The Bible teaches that God’s saving work is entrenched in his work of election. As we understand who God is and who we are as sinners, we realize that God must be the one who chooses and saves. If it were not so, we could not be saved.”

- Dr. Jonathan L. Master

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**Next Week: Scripture and God's Sovereignty**  
– *Covenants Part 1 OT.*

In Master's book: pages 51–59.

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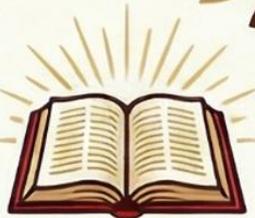
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