

SOTERIOLOGY:  
The Doctrine of Salvation  
Gulf Coast Baptist Church  
Bible Institute

GOD'S ROLE IN SALVATION

- I. God the Father - The Architect
  - A. The Father originated the plan of salvation prior to Creation
    1. Christ was foreknown before the foundation of the world - 1 Pe. 1:19-20
    2. Christ is the Lamb that was slain as from the foundation of the world - Rev. 13:8
  - B. Election - God's choosing outside of time
    1. Election - *eklegomai* - "in the Middle voice, 'to choose for oneself,' not necessarily implying the rejection of what is not chosen, but 'choosing' with the subsidiary ideas of kindness or favor or love" - Vine's
      - a) Believers have been chosen in Christ - Eph. 1:4
      - b) Paul's knowledge that these believers were chosen and beloved encourages his communication to the Father - 1 Th. 1:4
      - c) Paul expresses gratitude for these believers because God had chosen to salvation from a quality of a beginning - 2 Th. 2:13
      - d) God's choosing of individuals to salvation out from the nations is distinct from His choosing of Israel in the OT - 1 Peter 2:9
    2. The need to balance Election with Man's Free Will
      - a) Christ' death was for all men - Jo. 3:16
      - b) God desires that all might be saved - 1 Ti. 2:4
      - c) God did not determine that any should perish - 2 Pe. 3:9
      - d) God's choosing is never on the basis of one's worth or superiority, it is all of grace
        - (1) OT: Israel - Deu. 7:6-8
        - (2) NT: Church - 2 Ti. 1:9
  - C. Calling - God's calling to salvation in time
    1. Called - *kletos* - "called, invited" - Vine's
      - a) Jo. 6:44 - The Father is responsible for drawing one to Christ (drawing: *helko* - "The word does not imply force, still less irresistible force, but merely attraction of some kind, some inducement to come" - Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges)
      - b) 1 Cor. 1:9 - The faithful God called believers to share together with God the Son
      - c) Gal. 1:15 - At the exact right time, God called Paul by His grace to salvation
      - d) 1 Th. 2:12 - believers have been called unto God's kingdom and glory
      - e) 2 Ti. 1:9 - believers have been invited to be set apart
  - D. God saves according to His mercy - Tit. 3:5
    1. Mercy: *eleos* - "kindness or good will towards the miserable and the afflicted, joined with a desire to help them" - Outline of Biblical Usage
  - E. God made us alive together with Christ - Eph. 2:5, 8