

The Big Idea: At the heart of Christianity is the good news of what God has done for us through Christ, and it is amazing.

I. Salvation – God’s amazing plan

A. Let’s try and understand the ISSUES involved

1. At the HEART of the matter

- Our CONDITION – SIN
- God’s CHARACTER – HOLY
- Only SOLUTION - SAVIOR

2. Two SCHOOLS of thought – many debates

- PELAGIUS versus AUGUSTINE
 - Adam – MORTAL IMMORTAL
 - No CONNECTION We all SINNED in Adam
 - Human will - FREE Human will - BONDAGE
 - Grace ASSISTS Grace - ESSENTIAL
- Erasmus & Luther / Arminius & Calvin / Whitefield & Wesley

Today – evangelical church – two camps – Arminian & Calvinist

A = Methodist, Nazarene, Assembly of God, Pentecostal, Ch of Christ

C = Presbyterian, Reformed E = Baptist, Lutheran, Ev Free, Episcop.

3. Where do we put the EMPHASIS?

- Is God the INITIATOR or man?
- Did you choose GOD or did he choose YOU?
- Free GRACE or free WILL?

B. Let's understand the FOUNDATION of our faith

1. The PROMISE v. 28

- All things are working for good...
- Ultimate good and purpose...likeness of Christ (2 Cor 3:18)

2. The PROCESS vs. 29-30

- HOW God is doing it...
 - Five active verbs that go TOGETHER
 - All five verbs refer to the SAME people
 - They cover the PAST, PRESENT, and FUTURE
 - They start in HEAVEN, move to EARTH, then back to HEAVEN
- WHAT God is doing...
 - FOREKNOWLEDGE
 - PREDESTINATION
 - CALLING
 - JUSTIFICATION
 - GLORIFICATION

II. What we take away...

Be encouraged, God is at work, it's by grace that we're saved and it's his promise to complete what he has begun.