

# GOD'S SOVEREIGN CHOICE IN SALVATION

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- IN HIS SOVEREIGNTY, GOD CHOOSES TO SEE US AS RIGHTEOUS
- THIS RIGHTEOUSNESS IS IN, OF, FROM AND BECAUSE OF JESUS CHRIST
- JESUS MADE THE PERFECT SACRIFICE AS OUR SINLESS SUBSTITUTE
- HIS SACRIFICE SATISFIES (propitiates) GOD'S JUSTICE REGARDING SIN
- GOD'S CHOICE IS BASED ON WHAT JESUS DID, NOT WHAT WE DO; THEREFORE, GOD'S PERFECT JUSTICE AND HOLINESS ARE PRESERVED
- SALVATION IS NOT DEPENDENT ON ANYTHING OF US
- JESUS PAID OUR DEBT IN FULL - HE ALONE IS WORTHY, ABLE TO DO SO
- THE WORK OF ATONEMENT IS COMPLETED IN CHRIST - IT IS FINISHED!
- GOD'S CHOICE IS PERMANENT AND ETERNAL!; MORE THAN A "PARDON"

**NOTE:** An accurate understanding of the doctrines of sin and judgment is necessary to fully appreciate the truths presented here. Those teachings are explored extensively in the separate studies entitled "[Sinners All](#)", "[God's Separation from Sin and Sinners](#)", and "[The Certain and Necessary Judgment of God](#)." For greatest benefit, see also the study entitled "[God's Salvation Plan](#)."

(For a thorough treatment of [Eternal Security](#), refer to separate posting on this site.)

## God can and will, and has the right to do whatever He pleases

- Ps 115:3      Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him.
- Ps 135:6      The LORD does whatever pleases him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths.
- Dan 4:35      All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?"
- Isa 46:10-11    I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please. <sup>11</sup>From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose. What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do.
- Isa 14:24      The LORD Almighty has sworn, "Surely, as I have planned, so it will be, and as I have purposed, so it will stand.
- Isa 14:26-27    This is the plan determined for the whole world; this is the hand stretched out over all nations. <sup>27</sup>For the LORD Almighty has purposed, and who can thwart him? His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back?

- Job 42:1-2 Then Job replied to the LORD: <sup>2</sup>"I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted.
- Lk 1:37 For nothing is impossible with God."
- Lk 10:21 At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.
- Eze 12:28 "Therefore say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: None of my words will be delayed any longer; whatever I say will be fulfilled, declares the Sovereign LORD.'"
- Dt 3:24 "O Sovereign LORD, you have begun to show to your servant your greatness and your strong hand. For what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do the deeds and mighty works you do?
- Ecc 7:13 Consider what God has done: Who can straighten what he has made crooked?
- Lam 3:37 Who can speak and have it happen if the Lord has not decreed it?
- Pr 16:9 In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.
- Pr 19:21 Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.
- Dan 4:17b so that the living may know that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of men.'
- Act 17:24-26 "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. <sup>25</sup>And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. <sup>26</sup>From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.
- Isa 45:9 "Woe to him who quarrels with his Maker, to him who is but a potsherd among the potsherds on the ground. Does the clay say to the potter, 'What are you making?' Does your work say, 'He has no hands'?
- Rom 9:20-21 But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?'" <sup>21</sup>Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?
- Isa 29:16 You turn things upside down, as if the potter were thought to be like the clay! Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, "He did not make me"? Can the pot say of the potter, "He knows nothing"?
- Jer 18:1-6 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: <sup>2</sup>"Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message." <sup>3</sup>So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. <sup>4</sup>But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him. <sup>5</sup>Then the word of the LORD came to me: <sup>6</sup>"O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter does?" declares the LORD. "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.
- Isa 64:8 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.

## **God's sovereign choice in redemption; justification; salvation**

- Mt 11:27 All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.
- Mt 22:14 "For many are invited, but few are chosen."
- Mk 3:13-14 Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. <sup>14</sup>(He appointed) ...
- Jn 6:44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.
- Jn 6:65 He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him."
- Jn 1:12-13 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God- <sup>13</sup>children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.
- Rom 8:28-30 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup>And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.
- Rom 8:33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.
- Jam 2:5 Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?
- 1Co 1:21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.
- Rom 9:11-12 Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad-in order that God's purpose in election might stand: <sup>12</sup>not by works but by him who calls-she was told, "The older will serve the younger."
- 1Pe 1:1-2 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, <sup>2</sup>who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.
- Lk 18:7 And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?
- Col 3:12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.
- 1Th 1:4 For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you,
- 2Th 2:13 But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.
- 1Pe 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.
- Eph 1:4-5 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love <sup>5</sup>he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will-
- Eph 1:11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,

Jam 1:18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

Rom 11:5 So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace.

1Co 1:30 It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God-that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

2Co 5:5a Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose

2Co 5:18a All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ

Rev 17:14 They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings-and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers."

Lam 3:58 O Lord, you took up my case; you redeemed my life.

### **Jesus - payment for sin**

Mk 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Heb 7:27 Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.

Heb 9:15b now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

Heb 9:26b But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Rom 4:25 He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

2Co 5:21a God made him who had no sin to be sin for us,

Gal 3:13a Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us,

Isa 53:4-6 Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup>But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. <sup>6</sup>We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isa 53:12 For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

1Pe 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

Ps 130:8 He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

Gal 4:4-5 But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

Tit 2:14a who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness

Col 1:14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Eph 1:7a In him we have redemption through his blood,

Heb 9:22b and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Rom 5:8-9 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

Heb 13:12 And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood.

Rev 1:5b To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,

Rom 3:25a God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood.

- Heb 2:17 For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.
- 1Jn 2:2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.
- 1Jn 4:10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

### **Jesus alone is worthy**

- Ps 49:7-8 No man can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for him-- <sup>8</sup>the ransom for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough--
- 1Pe 1:18-19 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.
- Gal 2:21b for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"
- Heb 7:11 If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the law was given to the people), why was there still need for another priest to come--one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron?
- 1Ti 2:5-6 For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who gave himself as a ransom for all men--the testimony given in its proper time.
- Jn 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"
- 1Jn 3:5 But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin.
- 1Jn 4:14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.
- 1Pe 2:22 "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."
- 1Pe 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.
- Ps 130:8 He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.
- Heb 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin.
- Phl 2:9-11 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- Rom 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,
- Heb 3:3 Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself.
- Rev 5:2-5 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?" <sup>3</sup>But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. <sup>4</sup>I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside. <sup>5</sup>Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."

- Rev 5:9-10 And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. <sup>10</sup>You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."
- Rev 4:11 "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

### **God's justice satisfied (propitiated)**

- Ps 130:7 O Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.
- Jn 19:28-30 Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." <sup>29</sup>A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. <sup>30</sup>When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.
- Heb 1:3b After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.
- Heb 8:1 The point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven,
- Heb 10:12 But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.
- Rev 3:21 To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.
- Isa 40:1-2a Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for,
- Act 13:32-33a "We tell you the good news: What God promised our fathers <sup>33</sup>he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus.
- 1Co 15:3-4 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,
- Col 2:13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,
- 1Jn 2:12 I write to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.
- Heb 10:18 And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin.
- 1Co 6:9-11 Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders <sup>10</sup>nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup>And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.
- Rom 8:3-4a For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, <sup>4</sup>in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us,

- Eph 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.
- 1Pe 3:18a For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.
- Rom 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
- Rom 5:10-11 For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! <sup>11</sup>Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.
- Col 1:19-22 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, <sup>20</sup>and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. <sup>21</sup>Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. <sup>22</sup>But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation-
- Jude 24 To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy-
- Eph 1:4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.
- Eph 5:27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.
- Rev 14:5 No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.

### **Our righteousness vs. the righteousness of God**

- Lk 18:9-14a To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: <sup>10</sup>"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men-robbers, evildoers, adulterers-or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' <sup>13</sup>"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' <sup>14</sup>"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God.
- Isa 64:6a All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;
- Mt 22:11-13 "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. <sup>12</sup>'Friend,' he asked, 'how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless. <sup>13</sup>"Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'
- Phl 3:7-9 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup>What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ-the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.

- Rom 3:21-22a But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. <sup>22</sup>This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.
- Rom 10:3-4 Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.
- 2Co 5:21b so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
- Heb 11:7 By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.
- Rom 1:17 For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."
- Rom 4:24 but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.
- 2Pe 1:1 Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:

### **Permanent; eternal**

- Heb 5:9 and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him
- Heb 9:12 He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.
- Heb 9:15a For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—
- Eph 3:11 according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- Tit 3:7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.
- 1Pe 1:18-19 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.
- 1Pe 1:23-25 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. <sup>24</sup>For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, <sup>25</sup>but the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.
- Rom 6:22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.
- Heb 10:10 (And by that will,) we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.
- Heb 10:14 because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.