

Jonah 2:9: Salvation is from the LORD.

Intro: I was a sophomore in college (Navy) & our football team was traveling down to North Carolina to play Wake Forest. I went to support the team because I got a free trip down there, & I could spend the day with my family & get a night at home with them. My friend, Ben Selph, gave me a tape series to listen to: “A Southern Baptist’s Explanation of Calvinism.” In one very real sense, that is why I’m here today as a pastor. This tape series exploded my past thoughts about God, & opened my eyes to the God of the Bible like never before!

1. God Does Everything, First And Foremost For His Own Glory[2) God ordains all things; 3) All deserve hell]

John Piper: “Is God for us or for Himself?” Your child has probably never come home with a Sunday school lesson with the title: God loves Himself more than He loves you. God’s chief end: to glorify Himself!

a. Why did God create us? Isaiah 43:6-7: Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth . . . everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory.

b. Why did God choose a people for himself and make Israel his possession? Jer. 13:11: I made the whole house of Israel . . . cling to me, says the Lord, that they might be for me a people, a name, a praise, and a glory.

c. Why did God rescue Israel from bondage in Egypt? Psalm 106:7-8: Our fathers, when they were in Egypt, did not consider Your wonderful works . . . but rebelled against the Most High at the Red Sea. Yet he saved them for his name’s sake that he might make known his mighty power.

d. Why did God spare them again and again in the wilderness? Ezekiel 20:14: I acted for the sake of my name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations in whose sight I had brought them out.

e. Why did God use his sovereign power to bring back his people from exile after punishing four generations of sin? Isaiah 48:9, 11: For my name’s sake I defer my anger, for the sake of my praise I restrain it for you . . . For my own sake, for my own sake I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another.

f. Why did God ultimately save & redeem us in Christ? Ephesians 1: he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ . . . ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace . . . ¹² we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory . . . ¹⁴ the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

g. Why will Jesus come back? 2 Thess 1:9-10: Those who do not obey the gospel will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction and exclusion from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints and to be marveled at in all who have believed . . . **GOSPEL!**

This is good news for us! And God is for us because when He is first & foremost for Himself (He is!), He is acting as the all glorious God Who gives Himself to us as the only Being Who can fully satisfy our souls! This is love!
- **Jonah 2:9:** Salvation is from the LORD . . . [& for the LORD’s glory! All the glory belongs to God!]

2. God Ordains Every Single Thing That Happens In This World

WCF 3:1: God, from all eternity, did, by the most wise & holy counsel of His own will freely, & unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass: yet so, as thereby neither is God the author of sin, nor is violence offered to the will of the creatures; nor is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established.

Charles Spurgeon: I believe that every particle of dust that dances in the sunbeam does not move an atom more or less than God wishes – that every particle of spray that dashes against the steamboat has its orbit, as well as the sun in the heavens – that the chaff from the hand of the winnower is steered as the stars in their courses. The creeping of an aphid over the rosebud is as much fixed as the march of the devastating pestilence – the fall of [dry, withered] leaves from a poplar is as fully ordained as the tumbling of an avalanche.

- a. Seemingly random things: Prov. 16:33:** The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.
 - **Matthew 10:29-30:** Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. ³⁰ And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.
- b. The heart of the most powerful man on earth: Prov. 21:1:** The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.
- c. Our daily lives & plans: Prov. 19:21:** Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.
 - **James 4:13-15:** Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit" – yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring . . . Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."
 - **Psalms 139:16:** All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.
- d. Salvation: Romans 9:15-16:** "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.
 - **Acts 13:48:** As many as were appointed to eternal life believed. [**Jonah 2:9:** Salvation is from the LORD.]
- e. Life & death: 1 Samuel 12:6:** The LORD kills & brings to life; he brings down to Sheol & raises up.
- f. Disabilities: Exodus 4:11:** Then the LORD said to [Moses], "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?"
- g. The death of Jesus: Acts 2:23:** this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.
 - **Isaiah 53:10:** Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief
- h. Calamity & tragedy: Amos 3:6:** Does disaster come to a city, unless the LORD has done it?
 - **Isaiah 45:7:** I form light & create darkness, I make well-being & create calamity, I am the LORD, who does all these things.
 - **Job 1:21-22; 2:10:** "The LORD gave, & the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong . . . "Shall we receive good from God, & shall we not receive evil?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.
 - **Gn 50:21; Ps 105:17:** As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today . . . [God] sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave
 - **Lamentations 3:37-38:** Who can speak and have it happen if the Lord has not decreed it? ³⁸ Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that both calamities & good things come?
- i. All things: Ephesians 1:11:** [God] works all things according to the counsel of his will.
 - **Psalms 115:3:** Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.
 - **Job 42:2:** I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.
 - **Daniel 4:35:** All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, & he does according to his will among the host of heaven & among the inhabitants of the earth; & none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"
 - **Isaiah 46:9-11:** remember the former things of old; for I am God, & there is no other; I am God, & there is none like me,¹⁰ declaring the end from the beginning & from ancient times things not yet done, saying, "My counsel shall stand, & I will accomplish all my purpose," ¹¹ calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, & I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, & I will do it. (Red Sea, 185K Assyrians)

3. Introduction To The Five Points Of Calvinism (Five Points Of Jesus!)

David Steele & Curtis Thomas: In 1610, just one year after the death of James Arminius (a Dutch seminary professor) five articles of faith based on his teachings were drawn up by his followers. The Arminians, as his

followers came to be called, presented these five doctrines to the State of Holland in the form of a "Remonstrance" (i.e., a protest). The Arminian party insisted that the Belgic Confession of Faith and the Heidelberg Catechism (the official expression of the doctrinal position of the Churches of Holland) be changed to conform to the doctrinal views contained in the Remonstrance. The Arminians objected to those doctrines upheld in both the Catechism and the Confession relating to divine sovereignty, human inability, unconditional election or predestination, particular redemption, irresistible grace, and the perseverance of the saints. It was in connection with these matters that they wanted the official standards of the Church of Holland revised.

J. I. Packer: (1) Man is never so completely corrupted by sin that he cannot savingly believe the gospel when it is put before him, nor (2) is he ever so completely controlled by God that he cannot reject it.
(3) God's election of those who shall be saved is prompted by His foreseeing that they will of their own accord believe.
(4) Christ's death did not ensure the salvation of anyone, for it did not secure the gift of faith to anyone (there is no such gift); what it did was rather to create a possibility of salvation for everyone if they believe.
(5) It rests with believers to keep themselves in a state of grace by keeping up their faith; those who fail here fall away and are lost. Thus, Arminianism made man's salvation depend ultimately on man himself, saving faith being viewed throughout as man's own work and, because his own, not God's in him.

David Steele & Curtis Thomas: A national Synod was called to meet in Dort in 1618 for the purpose of examining the views of Arminius in the light of Scripture.

This Synod of Dort countered the five points of Arminianism with what have come to be called the five points Calvinism. But I call them the five points of Jesus, because Jesus taught them – the Bible teaches them! **TULIP**

Charles Spurgeon: That doctrine which is called "Calvinism" did not spring from Calvin; we believe that it sprang from the great founder of all truth. Perhaps Calvin himself derived it mainly from the writings of Augustine. Augustine obtained his views, without doubt, through the Spirit of God, from the diligent study of the writings of Paul, & Paul received them of the Holy Ghost, from Jesus Christ the great founder of the Christian dispensation.

4. Total Depravity

Men are so bad, depraved, sinful, & dead spiritually that they do not have the desire or ability even to seek God, trust God, or come to God without God first causing them to be born again & giving them spiritual life & a new heart.

- **Genesis 6:5:** The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, & that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

- **John 3:19-20:** And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, & people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light & does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

- **John 8:34:** Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin."

- **Romans 3:10-12:** as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ no one understands; no one seeks for God.

¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."

- **Romans 8:7-8:** For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸ Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

- **1 Corinthians 2:14:** The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, & he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

- **Ephesians 2:1:** And you were dead in the trespasses & sins

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5. Unconditional Election

God, from before the foundation of the world, chose those whom He would save, not based on anything they have done or would do in the future, & not based on anything He would foresee them doing in the future, & not based on their free will to choose Him, but based only on His love & sovereign will to choose them first.

- **John 15:16:** You did not choose me, but I chose you
- **Luke 10:21:** In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will."
- **John 17:9:** I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours.
- **Mark 4:10-12:** And when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. And he said to them, "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables, so that 'they may indeed see but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand, lest they should turn and be forgiven.'"
- **Matthew 11:27:** All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.
- **John 5:21:** For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will.
- **Matthew 24:22:** And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.
- **Matthew 22:14:** For many are called, but few are chosen.
- **Ephesians 1:4-5:** he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will
- **Romans 9:6-24:** But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, ⁷ & not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." ⁸ This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. ⁹ For this is what the promise said: "About this time next year I will return & Sarah shall have a son." ¹⁰ & not only so, but also when Rebecca had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, ¹¹ though they were not yet born & had done nothing either good or bad - in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of his call - ¹² she was told, "The older will serve the younger." ¹³ As it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated." ¹⁴ What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! ¹⁵ For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, & I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." ¹⁶ So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. ¹⁷ For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, & that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." ¹⁸ So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, & he hardens whomever he wills. ¹⁹ You will say to me then, "Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?" ²⁰ But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?" ²¹ Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honored use & another for dishonorable use? ²² What if God, desiring to show his wrath & to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, ²³ in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory - ²⁴ even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?

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6. Limited Atonement

Jesus died for those whom the Father chose to save, and in His death, He purchased everything necessary to justify, sanctify, and glorify all of God's elect, including their faith, repentance, sanctification, and perseverance in the faith unto glory. Jesus did not die to purchase a potential salvation but an actual and effective salvation. No one for whom Christ died will end up in hell because that would be a grave injustice in which the penalty of hell is inflicted by God twice – once on Christ on the cross and a second time on those who reject Christ. Jesus actually suffered all God's wrath toward the elect so that there is no more wrath burning toward them forever.

a. Jesus died for a particular group of people – those the Father chose: John 10:11, 26: I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep . . . but you do not believe because you are not my sheep.

- **Acts 20:28:** Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

- **Ephesians 5:25:** Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

b. Jesus' death saved, it didn't just make salvation possible: Matthew 1:21: She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

c. Jesus' death actually satisfied the wrath of God, no one for whom Christ died can go to hell: 1 John 4:10: In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

d. Repentance & faith are gifts of God, purchased for us on the cross, & Jesus died for the sin of unbelief:

- **Philippians 1:29:** For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake

- **Ephesians 2:8-9:** For by grace you have been saved through faith. & this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

- **Acts 5:31:** God exalted him at his right hand as Leader & Savior, to give repentance to Israel & forgiveness of sins

- **Acts 11:18:** they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

- **2 Timothy 2:25:** God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth

Charles Spurgeon: We are often told that we limit the atonement of Christ, because we say that Christ has not made a satisfaction for all men, or all men would be saved. Now, our reply to this is, that, on the other hand, our opponents limit it: we do not. The Arminians say, Christ died for all men. Ask them what they mean by it. Did Christ die so as to secure the salvation of all men? They say, "No, certainly not." We ask them the next question— Did Christ die so as to secure the salvation of any man in particular? They answer "No." They are obliged to admit this, if they are consistent. They say "No; Christ has died that any man may be saved if"— and then follow certain conditions of salvation. Now, who is it that limits the death of Christ? Why, you. You say that Christ did not die so as to infallibly secure the salvation of anybody. We beg your pardon, when you say we limit Christ's death; we say, "No, my dear sir, it is you that do it." We say Christ so died that He infallibly secured the salvation of a multitude that no man can number, who through Christ's death not only may be saved, but are saved, must be saved, and cannot by any possibility run the hazard of being anything but saved. You are welcome to your atonement; you may keep it. We will never renounce ours for the sake of it.

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7. Irresistible Grace

The Holy Spirit of God will finally overcome all resistance in the human heart of those God chose and those for whom Christ died, and He will cause them to be born again, grant them new hearts, and apply the work of Christ to them such that they will most certainly repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved.

- **Ezekiel 36:26-27:** I will give you a new heart, & a new spirit I will put within you. & I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh & give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ & I will put my Spirit within you, & cause you to walk in my statutes & be careful to obey my rules.

- **John 1:12-13:** But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

- **John 6:37:** All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.

- **John 6:44:** No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. & I will raise him up on the last day.

- **John 6:65:** This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.

- **John 10:27:** My sheep hear my voice, & I know them, & they follow me.

- **Luke 14:23:** And the master said to the servant, "Go out to the highways & hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled."

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8. Perseverance Of The Saints

Every single one God chose, the Son died for, & the Spirit regenerates (causes to be born again) will continue to grow in faith & repentance & grow in holiness & Christlikeness until they are fully & finally sanctified & glorified in the presence of King Jesus. None will fall away, & Christ will lose none of those whom the Father has given Him.

- **John 10:28-29:** I give them eternal life, & they will never perish, & no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, & no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

- **John 5:24:** Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word & believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

- **John 6:39-40:** And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, & I will raise him up on the last day.

- **John 3:36:** Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

- **Romans 8:28-39:** And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, & those whom he called he also justified, & those whom he justified he also glorified.³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died – more than that, who was raised – who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. **[Real warnings!]**

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- **Charles Spurgeon:** I have my own private opinion that there is no such thing as preaching Christ & Him crucified, unless we preach what nowadays is called Calvinism. It is a nickname to call it Calvinism; Calvinism is the Gospel, & nothing else. I do not believe we can preach the Gospel, if we do not preach justification by faith, without works; nor unless we preach the sovereignty of God in His dispensation of grace; nor unless we exalt the electing, unchangeable, eternal, immutable, conquering love of Jehovah; nor do I think we can preach the Gospel, unless we base it upon the special & particular redemption of His elect & chosen people which Christ wrought out upon the cross; nor can I comprehend a Gospel which lets saints fall away after they are called, & suffers the children of God to be burned in the fires of damnation after having once believed in Jesus. Such a gospel I abhor.

Christ Jesus Is First God's Glory Revelation
God's Glory Is First In His Prioritization
For He Does All Things For His Glorification
He Ordains Everything From End To Foundation
From Little Birds Flying To Hairs And Creation
From The Good To The Tragic, The Tears And Elation
And We Are Depraved In Total Alienation
Yet He Chose Us In Christ Before The Foundation
Based On Nothing In Us But His Love Determination

Christ Died For His Bride, His Elect From Every Nation
He Suffered God's Wrath As The Full Propitiation
Then Rose From The Dead For Our Justification
God's Spirit Then Draws With Irresistible Causation
And Keeps Us Forever, It's Eternal Preservation
This Is The Glory Of The True God's Salvation
Oh What He's Done To Save Us From Damnation
By Faith Alone Trust In Him For Full Reconciliation
And Give Praise To His Name With Your Life Adoration!

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