



Truth in the Balance



- How is God's Grace Given?

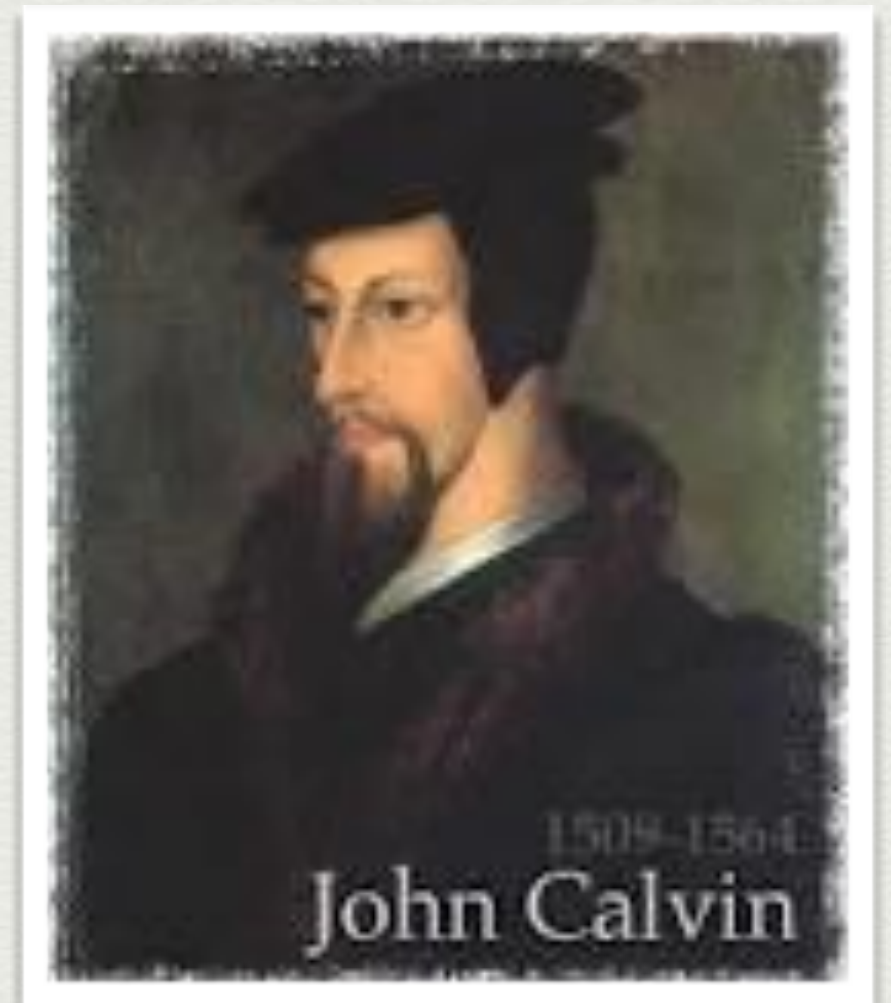
- Sovereign Election vs Free Will

Family Builder's Class  
Eastridge church of Christ



# Truth in the Balance

- The Catholic Church
- The Reformation and John Calvin (1500's)



# Truth in the Balance

- Calvin's "TULIP"
  - ✧ Total Depravity
  - ✧ Unconditional Election
  - ✧ Limited Atonement
  - ✧ Irresistible Grace
  - ✧ Perseverance of the Saints



# Truth in the Balance

- Nehemiah 9:17 "But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love ..."
- Deuteronomy 32:4 "“The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he."
- Psalms 25:6 "Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old."

# Truth in the Balance

- So how and why does God give his grace?  
Does God choose or "elect" who will be saved and who will not, or do we have free will to choose to be saved or to be lost?
- What does the Bible say and how do we read it? (Lk 10:26)



# Truth in the Balance

- Verses supporting "Free Will" ... That man chooses to obey the gospel or not, to be saved or not, and to receive God's free gift or not.

# Truth in the Balance

- John 12:32 "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."
- 1 Timothy 2:3-4 "God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."
- 1 Timothy 4:10 "For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe."
- 2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."



# Truth in the Balance

- Matthew 23:37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not!" (also a Shepherd calling his sheep in Jn 10).
- Isaiah 65:1 "I was ready to be sought by those who did not ask for me; I was ready to be found by those who did not seek me. I said, "Here am I, here am I," to a nation that was not called by my name."
- Revelation 2:21 "I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality."
- 2 Thessalonians 1:8 "... in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus."



# Truth in the Balance

- 2 Chronicles 15:2 "and he went out to meet Asa and said to him, "Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: The LORD is with you while you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you."
- Jeremiah 21:8 "And to this people you shall say: 'Thus says the LORD: Behold, I set before you the way of life and the way of death.'"
- Ezekiel 18:23 "Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord GOD, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live?"
- Ezekiel 33:11 "Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?"



# Truth in the Balance

- What can we conclude from these verses?



# Truth in the Balance

- Verses that many use to teach that God, by his sovereignty, chooses who will be saved, and they are known as "the elect" in Scripture. He chooses them and then enables them to be saved. Further, he predestined (determined ahead of time) who the elect would be.

# Truth in the Balance

- Romans 8:28-30 "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. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified."



# Truth in the Balance

- Ephesians 1:4-11 "even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will"

# Truth in the Balance

- 1 Peter 1:1-2 "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who are elect exiles of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood"
- Acts 13:48 "And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed."
- 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 "But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."



# Truth in the Balance

- 2 Peter 1:10 "Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall."
- John 6:44 "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day." (Je 31:3)
- John 6:65 "And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father."
- John 12:32 "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

# Truth in the Balance

- Acts 16:14 "One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul."  
(look at being "veiled", 2 Cor 4:3-4)
- 1 Corinthians 3:6-7 (NASB) "I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth."



# Truth in the Balance

- So what do we think? Do these verses change modify our understanding at all? How do you read it?
- One further “wrinkle” in the idea of election

# Truth in the Balance

- Isaiah 42:1 "Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations."
- Luke 9:35 "And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!" "
- 1 Peter 2:6 "For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."



# Truth in the Balance

- Ephesians 1:4-11 "even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will"

# Truth in the Balance

- Romans 8:28-30 "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. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified."



# Truth in the Balance

- Read Romans 9 in the context of God's sovereign plan for salvation through the elect one, Jesus Christ, for a full perspective on election.

# Truth in the Balance

- Let's apply what we've learned and "sow" the word in our hearts!
  - ✠ God has chosen and predetermined the plan for salvation in Christ!
  - ✠ God desires for all people to be saved! He wants an eternal relationship with YOU!
  - ✠ You can't cheat your way to God ... He calls to you and draws you through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, and through the gospel of Jesus Christ.
  - ✠ It is only through this plan and calling that you may come to God, through Christ, by grace through faith!



# Truth in the Balance

- What's the bottom line? This is all so confusing!!!
- Colossians 1:19-20 "For in him (Christ) all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross."

## Here's next week's lesson:

1. Predestination and God's sovereignty versus free will
2. Salvation: By Grace alone through faith alone versus by Grace through faith.
3. The heart versus the mind.
4. "Once saved always saved" or "once saved barely saved".
5. What should we stress in our teaching? Relationship or doctrine?
6. Mary or Martha? Working for the Lord versus rest
7. Happy versus Holy



# Preserve God's Word!



- **Get into the Word, and get the Word into you!**

