

Questions of Salvation



What Is Salvation?



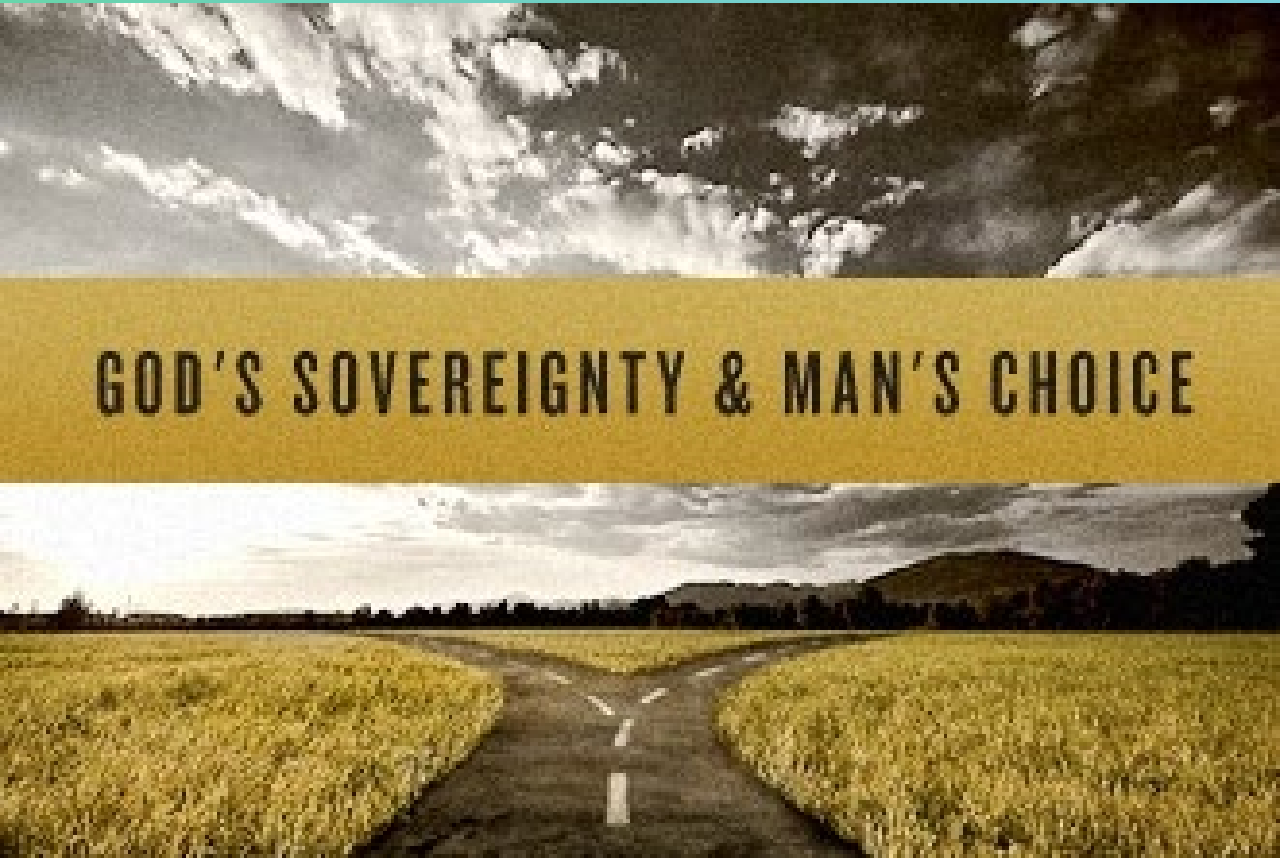
- What does it mean to be saved?
 - Deliverance from danger or suffering
 - Rescue
- Saved from what?
- Saved for what?

Salvation from What and For What?

- A salvation **from** sin and the wrath of God
- A salvation **for** eternal life
- A salvation **for** life in the kingdom and fellowship with God



Do We have a Choice in Salvation?



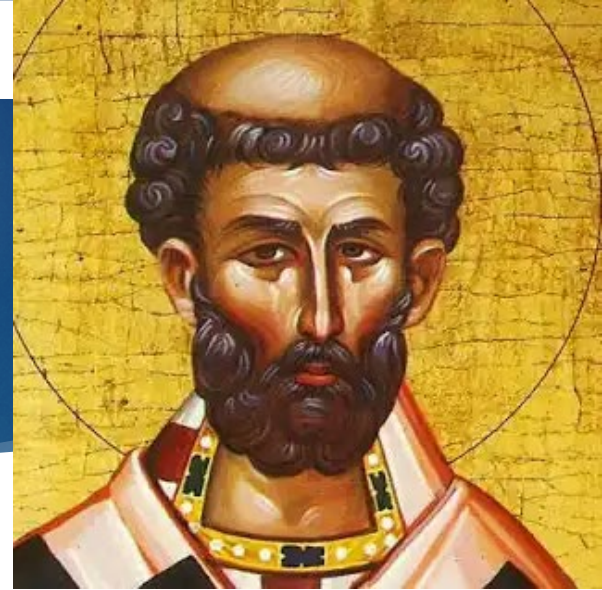
GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY & MAN'S CHOICE

- Do we make a choice to be saved?

Or

- Has the choice already been made by God?

St. Augustine



- ▶ Augustine of Hippo (354-430 A.D.)
- ▶ In his early writings, Augustine taught predestination based upon God's foreknowledge. Later In "The City of God," The mature Augustine promoted predestination based upon God's autonomous and inscrutable choice.
- ▶ Augustine argued that fallen man still has a free will but has lost his moral liberty; i.e. the state of original sin leaves us in the wretched condition of being unable to refrain from sinning.

The Swiss Reformation



- ▶ John Calvin (1509-1564 A.D.)
- ▶ Believed the Bible was the infallible guide for the church but believed it could be properly interpreted only by the elect
- ▶ Accepted the teaching of Augustine that the will of man is depraved and the doctrine of predestination
- ▶ While Augustine taught God permits people to be damned, Calvin stressed God “decreed” their condemnation and the number could not be increased or decreased.

TOTAL DEPRAVITY

UNCONDITIONAL
ELECTION

LIMITED ATONEMENT

IRRESISTIBLE GRACE

PERSISTENCE OF
THE SAINTS



The Swiss Reformation (Cont.)



- ▶ Jacob Arminius (1560-1609 A.D.)
- ▶ In the University of Leyden, Arminius began to teach that Calvin's emphasis on bondage of the human will, irresistible grace, predestination and election were not according to Scripture.
- ▶ He emphasized man's freedom of choice among churches in the Netherlands. He said freedom exists only where there is a power of choice.
- ▶ He also reasoned since God would only will what is right, that his will was restricted by justice.

The Swiss Reformation (Cont.)



- ▶ Conflict between **Calvinism** and **Arminianism** was a source of division among believers then and continues to be now.

Can God's God Do Anything He Chooses (Is God Sovereign)?

- Psalm 115:3

“Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.”

- What does that mean?
- God **alone** has free will to do **anything** he chooses.
 - Why?



Has God **Chosen** to Allow Mankind to make Certain **Choices**?

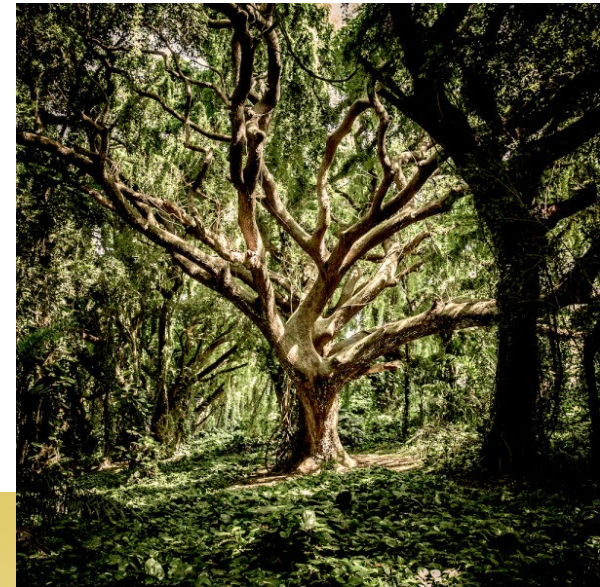
- Genesis 2:15-16

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”



Has God **Chosen** to Allow Mankind to make Certain **Choices**?

- ▶ Why did God give Adam and Eve a **choice** by placing the tree in the garden and giving them a command which they could either obey or not?
- ▶ What glory can a robot give to its maker when it only does what has been programmed to do?
- ▶ Can our **choices** bring glory and honor to God?



Has God Allowed Mankind to make Certain Choices?

- Deuteronomy 30:19

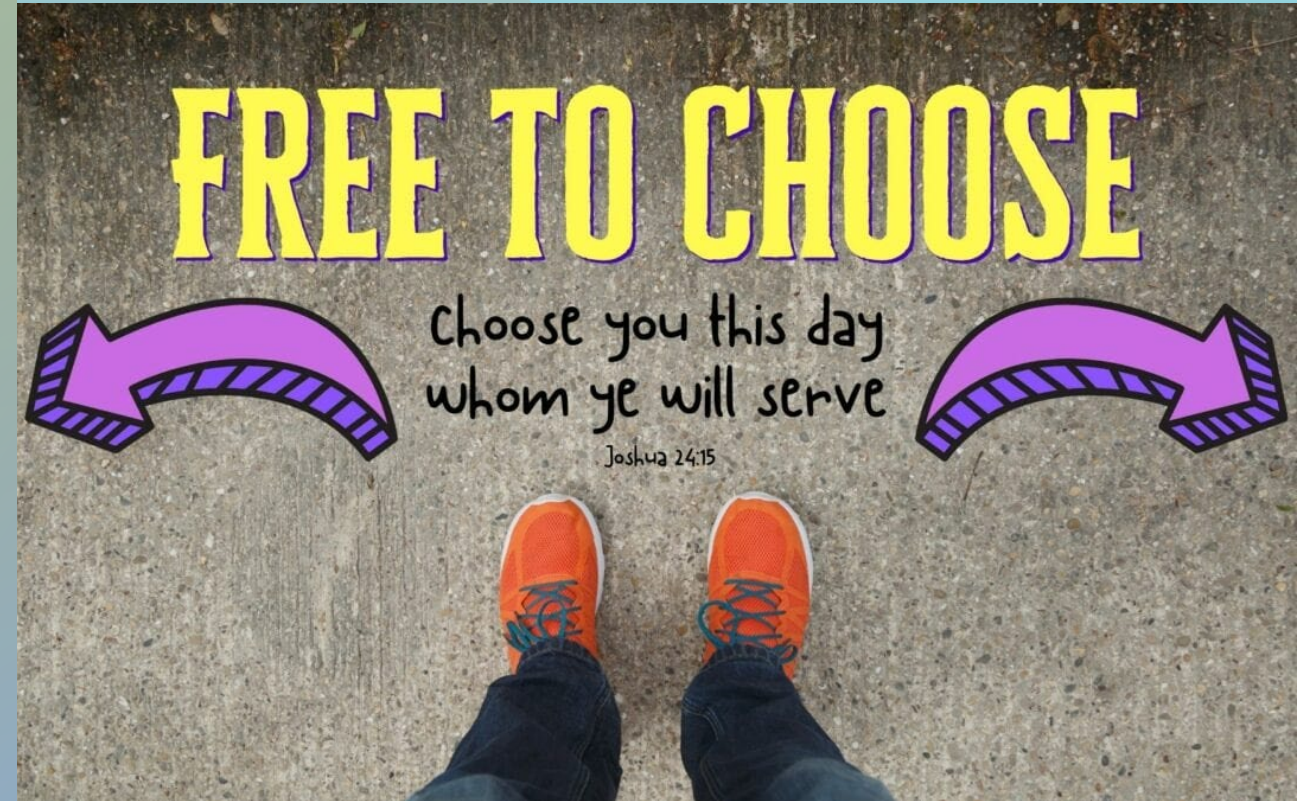
I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have **set before** you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore **choose** life, that you and your offspring may live,



Has God Allowed Mankind to make Certain Choices?

- Joshua 24:15

And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, **choose** this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”



Can God's Choice be Affected by Our Choice?

- 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 were not **willing!**”



JESUS' LAMENT

MATTHEW 23:37-39

Can God's Choice be Affected by Our Choice?

- ▶ If God can do anything he wants, and he wanted to gather Jerusalem's children to him, why didn't he?
- ▶ God chose to give them the choice to go against his will.
- ▶ So our choice can affect God's choice.
- ▶ God's choice is to choose those who choose to have faith in him.



JESUS' LAMENT

MATTHEW 23:37-39

Has God Chosen Certain People for Adoption?

- Ephesians 1:3-5

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as 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 to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the **purpose of his will,**”



Has God Chosen Certain People for Adoption?

- ▶ Is God's **choice** arbitrary or is it based on our **choice**?
- ▶ If it is based on our **choice**, how can it be from before the foundation of the world?





- Romans 8:28-30

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are **called** according to his purpose. ²⁹ 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**, and those whom he **called** he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

- What is the basis of God's predestination and calling?

Meaning of “Predestine”

The logo features the text "The CHOSEN" in a teal, serif font, centered within a dark circular emblem. This emblem is surrounded by a decorative border of stylized, overlapping leaves or feathers in shades of grey and teal, creating a textured, circular wreath effect.

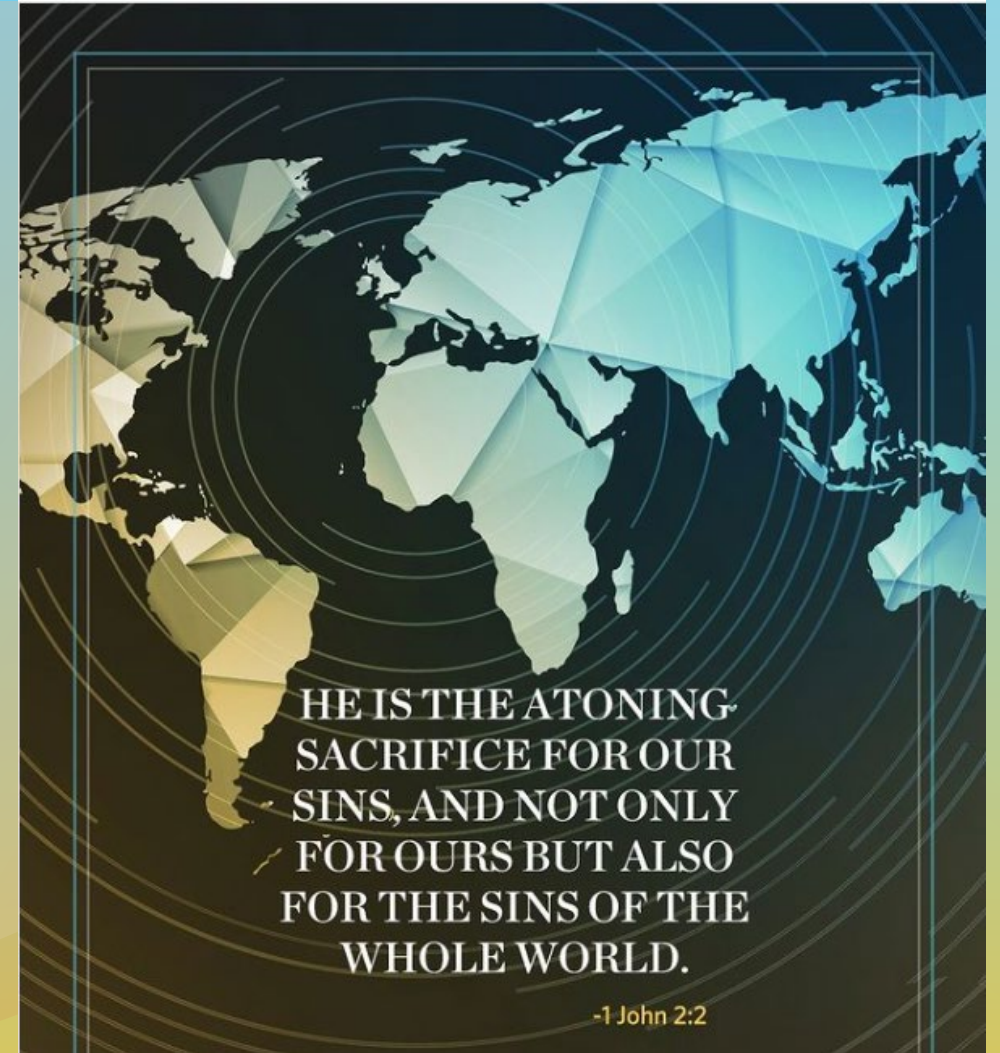
The
CHOSEN

- ▶ προορίζω – proorizo = to decide beforehand; to determine before
- ▶ What was the determination/decision based on?
- ▶ Προγινώσκω – proginosko = to know before
- ▶ Those God knew before he determined before to **choose**.
- ▶ What did God know before about those he **chose**?
- ▶ If we are saved by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8), is it our **choice** to have faith?

Has God Made It Possible for Everyone to be Saved?

- 1 John 2:1-2

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the **whole world**.



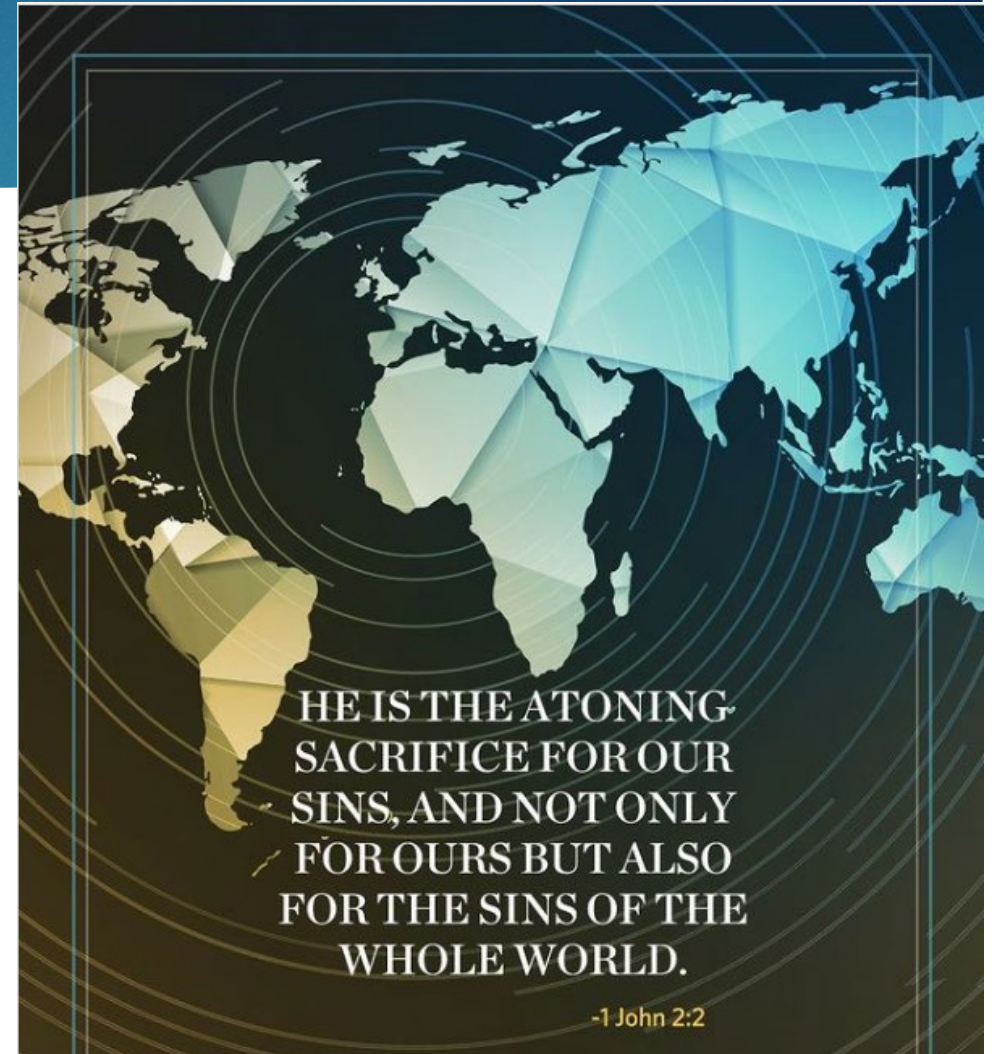
Has God Made It Possible for Everyone to be Saved?

- John 3:16-18

“For God so loved the **world**, that he gave his only Son, that **whoever believes** in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order **that the world** might be saved through him. ¹⁸ **Whoever believes** in him is not condemned, but **whoever does not believe** is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”

Has God Made It Possible for Everyone to be Saved?

- ▶ Did Jesus die as a means of salvation only for the church?
- ▶ If God **chose** to make it impossible for some people to be saved, why did he send Jesus to die for them?



Does God want Everyone to be Saved?

- 1 Timothy 2:3-4

³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires **all people** to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

- 2 Peter 2:9

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.**



Thank you

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