

## **Foundations For Your Faith - Lesson 11 NIV Ephesians 1:3-11 – God’s Sovereign Will**

Read Ephesians 1:1-11 carefully, several times, and then answer the following questions from the verses as noted.

**vs. 1-3      Are we waiting for the blessings, or are they already ours?**

**Where are these blessings located? 2 locations mentioned (“in”)**

**How many times in Ephesians 1 can you find the phrases - in him, in Christ, in whom, in the Lord Jesus, etc....**

**vs. 4      When were believers chosen? See also Romans 9:10-29; 2 Tim. 1:9**

**Doesn’t man have a free will? How free?**

**vs. 5      Why were we predestined to be adopted as sons? (Ultimate purpose)**

**vs. 6      Who is “the One He loves”?**

**vs. 7-9      Why are we privileged to know His will when so many do not, and do not care?**

**vs. 11      On what basis are we “made heirs” ? see also Romans 8:17**

**vs. 11      How many things are included in God’s plan? (Even sin?)**

**Romans 8:28-30**

**List the order of events in our salvation experience – from eternity, through time, into eternity**

- 1.**
- 2.**
- 3.**
- 4.**
- 5.**

**Quiz on Lesson 11 NIV  
Ephesians 1:3-14 God's Will (Theology Proper)**

What favorite phrase of Paul describes the believer's position, particularly in the book of Ephesians? \_\_\_\_\_

When were believers chosen by God?

According to Ephesians 1, why were believers chosen unto salvation?

What key verse in Ephesians 1 declares that God has planned all things and is working out that eternal plan in every respect? \_\_\_\_\_

Is God the cause of sin?

T/F God has predestined some people to hell?

"Free Will" is always limited by the boundaries of one's \_\_\_\_\_.

The "Twin epistles" are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  


The emphasis of each: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Teacher's Guide - Foundations For Your Faith - Lesson 11** **Ephesians 1:3-11 – God's Sovereign Will (Theology Proper)**

Read Ephesians 1:1-11 carefully, several times, and then answer the following questions from the verses as noted.

vs. 1-3

**Are we waiting for the blessings, or are they already ours?**

***They are already ours in Christ in the heavenly realm***

In one sense, it is true that we are waiting for them. For we have not yet been glorified, and we are awaiting the ultimate fulfillment of the promises.

Yet, in the sense of Ephesians 1:3, these blessings are already ours! The "check" has been written out to us and given to us, and the cash is in the bank in our name. We have not spent it yet; we have not received the full experience of all that is really and fully ours. But it is really and fully ours already. The blessings have been given to us. The will is in force because of the death of the testator, all these blessings are ours. However, the full distribution of all of the effects has not been handed to us yet.

**Where are these blessings located? 2 locations mentioned ("in")**

***Located in heaven in Christ, and Christ is in heaven.***

**What word describes these kind of blessings?**

- ***Spiritual not material;***
- ***heavenly not earthly;***
- ***eternal not temporal.***

**How many times in Ephesians 1 can you find the phrases - in him, in Christ, in whom, in the Lord Jesus, etc....**

***Approximately 12 times***

- ***His plan; his purpose, his blessings; the fullness of his purpose, are all in Christ.***

**1) All these blessings are in Christ.**

**2) God planned it because it pleased him. It was for God's glory.** Even our salvation was not simply for our ultimate benefit but for the ultimate glory of God. The damnation of the sinner is ultimately for the glory of God. It will glorify his justice and his eternal holiness. Just as our salvation will glorify his grace.

***This makes everything God-centered.*** The natural man hates this concept because God is God and in control of everything. The carnal man hates it because he wants to believe he is in control; that salvation is because he makes the right decision; he deserves it; God saw the future only because He sees more than we do; but man is in control of his own destiny.

The emphasis here in Ephesians is on the glory of God.

vs. 4 When were believers chosen? See also Romans 9:10-29; 2 Tim. 1:9  
**Before the foundations of the world were laid down – before creation!**

vs. 5 Why were we predestined to be adopted as sons.

1) **It was according to the good pleasure of his will,**

2) **To the praise of his glorious grace.**

We were marked out for the good pleasure of His will.

According to that which seemed good in His heart's desire. 2 Thess. 2:13-14

- **WORD STUDY - Adopted**

**Adoption = son-placing - place in position as an adult son – full heir**

English meaning of Adopted - take someone from one family and bring them into another.

Hebrew = Bar Mitzvah - son-placing

Greek – huiothesian – son-placing

**Taking a born son and making him joint-heir & full partner; he is now an adult son.**

**Adult son - Privilege & responsibility.**

**Teknos = born one**

**Paidon = little son, toddler**

**Huios = adult son**

Joint heirs with Jesus Christ; co-laborers with Him. John 1:12 1 John 3:1-2

Rom. 8:14 - If you are led by the Spirit of God, you are the sons of God.

- **WORD STUDY – will of God**

What is the will of God?

There are two words for “will” in the scriptures:

- Thelo = desire
- Bulomi = plan.

We are talking about his "desire" Thelo - (not his desire that any should perish)

This is obviously included in his "plan" (Bulomi) but it is not his desire (Thelo)

**Not everything in his plan is according to his desire.**

**Another way of looking at the Will of God**

- **Decretive Will = (decree) everything included**
- **Preceptive Will = (precepts) (Psa. 119 law, commands – only that which is according to God's righteous character)**

**Preceptive will of God concerning sinners; to repent and believe.**

**Decretive will of God concerning sinners; Judas went to God's determinate place.**

- **There are things in the decree that are not according to his pleasure.**

*He has no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but he has decreed that "the soul that sinneth it shall die"*

There are things in his precepts, which say that all men are to repent; but it is obvious that the repentance of all men is not in his decree. He decreed that I would be saved. God did not have a precept that Adam & Eve would sin; his precept was "do not"; but the fall was

included in his plan. Christ is called the Lamb crucified before the foundation of the world . sin was no surprise to God.

**Doesn't man have a free will?**

***Free in that he is not coerced to do that which he does not want to do.***

- **What do we mean by "free will"?**

***We mean a man is able to do what he is most inclined to do at the moment.***

***He is not a robot – he experiences desires, and acts on them by a series of choices.***

**How free?**

***Free to act in accordance with the desires that are bounded by his nature, as a fallen being.***

***He is not coerced against his will, but acts in accordance with it.***

- **Thought Question:**

**Does God have free will? Is He not the most ultimately free Being in the universe.**

**How free is God?**

**Is He free to sin?**

***God is perfectly free to be what He is – God! Holy, perfect, pure! Titus 1:2***

**vs. 6 Who is "the One He loves"?**

***Christ – "This is my beloved Son..."***

**vs. 7-9 Why are we so privileged to know His will, when so many do not and don't care?**

***It is according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself.***

***It is what pleased God.***

- **Thought Question**

**Romans 9:19 Why is God punishing anybody?**

Isn't everybody doing what God determined anyway?

Answer: vs. 20 "You are a piece of clay and I am the potter."

God is sovereign and he can do what he chooses!

The Doctrine of the Sovereignty of God does not satisfy man's arrogant nature.

Man says " I will do it my way". Who does GOD think He is, anyway? God?!!

William Ernest Henley. 1849. 1903

## 7. Invictus

OUT of the night that covers me,  
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,  
I thank whatever gods may be  
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance  
I have not winced nor cried aloud.  
Under the bludgeonings of chance  
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears  
Looms but the Horror of the shade,  
And yet the menace of the years  
Finds, and shall find, me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,  
How charged with punishments the scroll,  
I am the master of my fate:  
I am the captain of my soul.

**vs. 11 On what basis are we “made heirs” ? see also Romans 8:17**

Gk. (In whom we have been made his inheritance)

***We are his inheritance because it pleased Him to make us so.***

According to the plan of *his good pleasure*..... (James 1:17)

***We are both the inheritance as well as heirs - Rom. 8:17.***

### • WORD STUDY

**Predestination: determine the destination beforehand**

We were made an inheritance;

designated as a heritage;

having been previously "marked out" according to the purpose of His will.

A past complete act having present results.

**vs.11 How many things are included in God's plan?**

***All things according to the counsel of His will.***

**Thought Question: *How does God know what will happen?***

- Is it because he sees better than we do, and can tell the future. (Does God learn things?)
- or because he has determined the future and knows his plan eternally

**God decreed to allow sin, but there was no doubt about the certainty of it.**

There was no doubt about the reality of it and no doubt about the fact that sin would occur.

Sin was included in the decree because it was cared for before the foundations of the world.

When it comes to sin, God decreed to allow sin to come into the world and the effects of sin.

- **He decreed to allow sin; He did not cause it, but sin was still determined.**

**It was in the scope of his plan.**

- **He also decreed to bring his Son into the world to die for sinners.**

**Thought Question: How does God know who will be saved?**

- ***Because he has decreed it or only because he has foreseen it?***

If God has only foreseen it, then that would mean that a dead sinner, by himself, had to come to life, repent and believe with a wicked and sinful nature.

How does this correspond to such passages as Romans 8:7 and 1 Cor. 2:14

"He works all things after the counsel of his own plan." Rom. 8:28

- **He not only sees but determines.**

- **God has included all things within the scope of his plan; sin and the results of sin never please him but they were, none the less, included in the scope of his plan. He is not the author of sin, but he is the author of his plan, which has included sin in it.**

**Even Sin?**

**Yes, in the sense that God knew that sin was going to occur. But He did not create it. He created the angels and they fell, and He created man and he fell.**

He permitted it to happen. God was not the cause of it. It did not occur because of the coercion or causality of God. He decreed to allow it. Man is the cause of it.

**Redemption was eternally in the mind and purpose of God. Rev. 13:8 - "Christ was the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." God anticipated that this would happen in His foreknowledge.**

**Romans 8:28-39**

List the order of events in our salvation experience . from eternity, through time, into eternity

1. foreknew . election . to determine the relationship beforehand
2. predestined . determined the destination of the elect - Christlikeness
3. called . effective call . efficacious call . calling to eternal life in Christ
4. justified . declared righteous in Christ on the basis of their faith, result of call
5. glorified . perfected in body, soul and spirit . ultimate, eternal Christlikeness

## DEFINITIONS

- **Foreknowledge - Election** - The sovereign act of God whereby He freely chose certain human beings to be saved. **2 Tim. 1:9**

Foreknowledge in the book of Romans is equivalent to election. Election means to choose. **John 6:35-40; John 6:43-44; John 6:64-65; John 17:1-2**

To fore know means to choose to establish a relationship with. . "Know" is more than intellect. It means relationship!

Matt. 7:23 "I never knew you+. God didn't lose His omniscience!

He meant, "I never had a saving relationship with you." "You are not one of mine+.

- **Predestinated** - The sovereign act of God whereby He determined beforehand the destination of those He chose to salvation . Christlikeness with Him in heaven  
Predestinate is to predetermine the destination. God chose our destination before time.

**In time, how did God pull this off? He called.** "My sheep hear my voice" Begins with the conviction of sin; the hearing of the Gospel; the assurance in our hearts that it is true; repentance for sin; and faith in Christ. **John 10:27-28**

- **Called** - The act of God whereby He commands sinners through the gospel to receive His salvation through Jesus Christ and effectively brings them to life through the gospel and the regeneration of the Spirit . **Acts 13:48; Acts 16:14**

We believed because we were calledō ..then we were Justified. Calling is not just the instant that you responded, but it includes all the preparatory work. Planting, watering, God gives the increase.

- **Justified** . declared righteous in Christ on the basis of faith, a result of calling  
God delivers the believer from the penalty of his sins and declares him righteous on the basis of the faith he has in Christ which resulted from the Spirit's regeneration and the gospel received
- **Glorified** - This is the completion of our salvation in that God delivers our body from mortality, inherent corruption, and the resident sin-principle and changed it for the future state. Glorified = eternity future - but here it would include sanctification as well. Since God has determined glorification as the definite conclusion and end of sanctification. Glorification includes sanctification in Romans 8.

**How many of those he chose in eternity past end up glorified in eternity future? All  
See the progression?**

**How many that he predestined end up called? all**

**How many of those who are called end up justified? all**

**How many who are justified end up glorified? all**

- **The Armenian view is that God chose everybody.**

The Holy Spirit works in everybody's heart the same.

God convicts and invites, but that's it. The sinner is capable and free to choose the godly choice and submit to Christ and repent and believe just as he is. It takes no miracle of regenerating grace. God only acts if and after man acts.

God justifies everybody who believes. This is their free and capable choice.

If they hang in there to the end and do not lose their salvation, they will be glorified.

They would say that Rom. 8 is everybody; Calvinists would say it is a specific group.

If you believe that God predestinated everybody, then you have to be a universalist, or say that God failed in His purpose of predestination. Therefore, predestination is meaningless.

This is why many Armenians end up becoming universalists. (Everyone is eventually saved)

Revelation 20 indicates that a multitude will be cast into the lake of fire.

If election includes everybody, then you cannot escape the fact that everyone must be glorified, or that God fails to accomplish His purpose. Either election is election or it isn't. Either God does what He purposes to do, or He fails at His own determined purpose.

- ***We must get our theology from the Bible, regardless of how uncomfortable it makes us.***

*If we truly believe the scripture is our authority, then let us bow to that authority and not "pick and choose" the doctrines we like, and reject the ones we don't. That's what Adam and Eve did!!*

***Election does not include everybody.***

***It is a specific group that are elected and ultimately glorified.***

**How can we tell who this group is?**

**2 Cor. 5:17; Matt. 7:15-23 – the results of a transformed life**

**FAITH WORKS! James, 1 John**

**By their fruits ye shall know them; those who confess faith in Jesus Christ.**

Everyone is to have the opportunity to hear and everyone is faced with the choice; everyone is faced with the decision and everyone will be held accountable to the decision. But we have to understand that, if they decide to receive Christ, it is because a miracle of grace has taken place in their hearts. It is not that the sinner had the natural capacity to make that holy decision themselves; they were dead in sins; blind to truth; unwilling to come.

***But God, through the ministry of "calling/drawing/regenerating" brings the lost, blind, dead sinner to life and to faith. Jesus said, "no man can come unto me except the father who hath sent me draw him." John 6:44; see also 6:35-40***

**The Armenian says he draws everyone. The Bible says He draws His elect.**

- *Even the faith with which I believed is the gift of God. Eph. 2:8,9.*

- ***There is a "General call" and an "Effectual Call."***

Who does the General call? The Church

Who does the efficacious call? The Holy Spirit of God.

**Paul gave the General call to Lydia.  
The Spirit of God gave the Efficacious call that opened her heart.**

**Acts 13:48 "Ordained to life..... efficacious call.**

- **Predestination always is in relation to grace.**
- **People go to hell because they are sinners. This is fair. This is impartial justice.**

**Every sinner deserves to be in hell. This is the justice of God. THIS IS FAIR!  
We sinners who believe are saved by his grace! The Mercy of God. THIS IS GRACE!**

- **All deserve to go to hell, but God by his grace before the foundation of the world chose some to go to heaven! Why? To the praise of his glory!**

**A SINNER IS JUDGED, NOT ON WHAT THEY COULD OR COULD NOT DO, BUT ON THE BASIS OF THE LIGHT WHICH THEY HAD AND THEIR RESPONSE TO IT.**

**DID ONE SUPPRESS TRUTH IN UNRIGHTEOUSNESS?  
Then he is judged accordingly.**

**"He that seeks me shall find me if he seeks me with all his heart."  
"No one seeks after God." Romans 3**

- **The seeking soul seeks because it is being sought!! Drawn by grace!!**

**Romans 8:28-39**

- **FOR YOUR FURTHER STUDY  
MORE DEFINITIONS**

**Salvation** – The sovereign work of God whereby **He delivers the sinner from condemnation** and imparts to Him new life, forgiveness of sin, and ultimate glorification in Heaven forever. Salvation refers to the entire work of God in rescuing the sinner. This work began in eternity past, continues in time, and continues on into eternity future.

**Election** - The sovereign act of God whereby, in eternity past, **He freely chose certain people to be His own.** This is an act of free grace on God's part. It is not the result of foreseen works or foreseen faith by man. Faith itself is the gift of God in the heart of man wrought by the gospel.

**Foreknowledge** – the sovereign act of God whereby, in eternity past, **He entered into an eternal, covenant relationship with His elect,** giving them to Christ before the world began.

**Predestination** - **The sovereign act of God whereby** He determined beforehand, in eternity past, the final and eternal destination of the elect **to be with Him and like Him in holiness, in heaven forever.**

## Called -

1. **The general call** of the gospel whereby **He commands all sinners through the gospel to receive His salvation** through Jesus Christ by repentance and faith.
2. **The effectual call** is the act of God by which **He actually draws His elect to Himself, through conviction, repentance and faith, thus securing their certain and everlasting salvation.**

**His effectual calling** begins with the conviction of sin upon **the hearing of the Gospel, coupled with the work of the Holy Spirit.** This work of the Holy Spirit results in assurance in the heart that the message is true. It proceeds in creating in the heart a true repentance for sin and the generating of faith in Christ alone for salvation. Upon the exercise of faith in Christ, we were justified.

**Effectual Calling** includes not only your faith response, but includes spiritual hearing, understanding, accepting, repentance and faith.

**Justification - God declares the believing sinner to be righteous** in His sight on account of the imputed righteousness of Christ applied to the believer at the moment of faith.

**Glorification** - The completion of our salvation, when God delivers us from mortality and inherent corruption, **transforming us to the fullness of the image of Christ in body, soul and spirit at His appearing.**

## Arminian View of Salvation

An alternate view, (called **Arminianism** here for the sake of simplicity) is that **God chose everybody**, or,

- **God chose those He saw would choose Him first on the basis of their own free will**". The Holy Spirit works in everybody's heart to the same extent. He justifies everybody who believes. Repentance and faith are the result of human, unaided choice. If they believe, then God regenerates them. Their belief is not the result of regeneration, but regeneration is the result of belief. If you believe, then you will be born again. The sinner causes his own new birth! If they persevere to the end, and do not lose their salvation by reversing their decision at a later time, then they will be glorified.

**The Arminian believes this is absolutely essential for God to be fair!** In their view, it would be totally unfair for God to save some and not all. Thus, **the doctrine of "fairness" controls their doctrine of God, salvation, nature of man, etc..**

- **This concept of "fairness" is the foundation of Arminianism** and leads them to deny, reject, and totally re-interpret major teachings of scripture.
- ***In essence. If man chooses, then it's fair. If God chooses, it isn't fair!***
- ***Who does He think He is to do the choosing anyway.....GOD or something??!!***

**Arminians** would say that **election includes everybody, or those whom He saw would do something in the future to deserve His choice. (i.e. choose to believe)**

- **God's election is a response to man's foreseen election.**
- God's choice is a rubber stamp to man's primary and foreseen choice.** This choice of the sinner to believe at some point is apart from anything God actually accomplishes. God offers,

but ceases His work on the sinner at that point. From the point of the offer, it is all up to the sinner to respond. God brings every man to the point of understanding and offers salvation. But then the sinner has free will and chooses or rejects on the basis of a complete and total free will.

- **(Faith produces the New Birth)**

***A Calvinist believes scripture indicates the elect are a specific group of people God has chosen according to His good pleasure, from eternity past, to give to His Son as His own.*** The term "elect" is not all-inclusive to the entire human race. Nor does election include foreseen faith or foreseen works, since both are results of a necessary work of God before they could exist. (i.e. The New birth)

- **(The New Birth produces faith)**

**If one believes that God predestines everybody, then you logically have to either be a Universalist, or deny the sovereignty of God in His eternal purpose. (i.e. everyone must end up saved, or God ends up frustrated, having not accomplished His eternal purpose in saving the elect. His choice (election) is then both meaningless and powerless.)**

If election/foreknowledge in Romans 8:28-30 includes everyone, then one cannot escape the fact that everyone must eventually be glorified.

- **How many of those he chose end up glorified?**
- **How many that he predestined end up called?**
- **How many of those who are called end up justified?**
- **How many who are justified end up glorified?**

**Election does not include everybody.**

It is a specific group that are elected and ultimately glorified.  
See John 17:1-3, 6, 9-22

**How do we tell who this group is? By their fruits ye shall know them.**

- **They confess faith in Jesus Christ.**  
**"Any man who confesses not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God.**
- **They live lives of growing righteousness and truth**  
**"Let everyone that names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."**

**General and Effectual Calling**

**There is the "General call to all", and the "Effectual Call to the elect"**

Who does the General call? The Church

Who does the effectual call? The Holy Spirit and the Church

Rev. 22:17

John 10:25 "ye believe not because you are not of my sheep."  
"My sheep hear my voice.+"

***God effectually calls some to Himself. That is what Jesus meant when he said, "no man can come unto me except the father who hath sent me draw him." John 6:44***

**The Arminian believes God draws everyone to a certain point, then the sinner makes a free choice which all are capable of making.** They believe the sinner is not dead or blind or deaf or opposed to the gospel by nature. They believe that while he sinner cannot save himself, he does have the capacity to repent and believe in and of himself. They believe the sinner is sick, not dead; unable to save himself but able to believe and be saved by himself. They believe that that the New Birth is the result of our choice to believe in Christ; rather than repentance and faith in Christ being the result of the New Birth that was produced by the sovereign grace of God in the heart of a spiritually dead sinner by the Spirit and the Gospel.

**Both Arminian and Calvinist agree....**

- **Everyone deserves to hear the gospel.**
- **Everyone is confronted in the gospel with the command to repent and believe in Christ.**

Everyone is faced with the command to repent and believe, and everyone will be held accountable for his or her response.

- **But, the Calvinist also believes....**

***If a sinner decides to receive Christ, it is because a miracle has taken place in their hearts. (A New Birth) It is not that sinners had the desire or will to make that decision in themselves before regeneration, because they were at that time dead in sins and spiritually blind.***

**Please observe the connection between God's primary work and man's faith response.**

**Ephesians 2:1-5**

**Ephesians 1:3-11**

**1 Cor. 2:14**

**Romans 3:9-18**

**Romans 8:7-8**

**Acts 13:48**

- ***The faith with which one believes is the gift of God. Eph. 2:8,9***

**Predestination always is in relation to grace.**

*People go to hell because they are sinners, not because they were predestined to hell.*

*Everyone deserves to be in hell. This is simply the justice of God. We are saved by his grace alone, according to His good pleasure in Christ. Let us worship Him.*

## Questions to ponder:

- Whom did God elect to save? Sinners who deserve hell!
- Was God obligated to save sinful beings? Consider the angels that sinned
- Does anyone deserve to be saved? No
- Would it be fair to send everyone to hell? Yes . that's just what is fair & just!
- Was it fair for Christ to die for our sins when he was innocent & holy? No . it was grace
- How many of those in hell will deserve to be there? all
- How many of those in heaven will deserve to be there? None
- What is the basis of God's electing choice? Grace Rom. 11:5-6
- What is the result of God's electing grace? Eph. 1:3-6 Praise for His glorious grace.

## Points to Recall and Remember regarding Predestination and Election

1. **Man originally, freely and willingly chose sin when he had the ability to choose or refuse the sin.** Genesis 3
2. **Adam's sin radically changed his nature.** He became spiritually dead in trespasses and sins: lost, blind, and deaf spiritually.
3. **All of Adam's offspring inherited his nature.** They continue have it to this present age and until the end of this present world. As sinners we are all by nature rebels and sinners, guilty, by nature and by deeds, of eternal judgment.
4. **All** are worthy of eternal death. **None** are worthy of eternal life. Hell is perfectly fair and just for all who go there.
5. **God chose "sinners";** guilty, condemned, hell deserving, dead, lost sinners to receive eternal life. His choice was that of choosing sinners to be saved, though none were worthy or interested in salvation of themselves. God did not pass by any innocent people. God will not send any innocent people to hell. He will send sinners to hell who deserve to be there.
6. **God was not obligated to save anyone.** It is all of grace that He chose to save whom He willed. Heaven is a result of grace. Hell is a result of justice, not injustice. The opposite of justice is injustice, not grace. God is never unjust.
7. **Though the natural man can do nothing else, yet he exercises his sinful will each time he sins.** He freely chooses to sin whenever he does so. His freedom to sin, though freedom to do righteousness is absent, is still his responsibility. Our choices are the result of our desires. The natural man desires sin, not righteousness.
8. **God holds all men responsible for their sin. He always is just.** So to hold men responsible for sin is just!
9. **It is not our place to judge God, but to receive His judgments.** To recoil and argue against the Sovereignty of God is an evidence of man's sinful nature. Just as Adam and Eve rebelled against the clearly revealed will of God, so that same desire must be overcome in us by the Holy Spirit daily.
10. **All are invited to come to Christ.** None may argue that they want to come but are not elect and therefore cannot come and be saved. Any who want to come will come and be saved! **The very "desire" to come to Christ is part of the working of God. Those who are not willing to come do so because they are not willing! God does not hinder their coming.** By nature they hate God, as we did before God quickened us by His Spirit and the Word, and so they freely and willingly reject His offer of eternal life because they desire and choose to do so. There is no coercion exercised that keeps them from coming to Christ.

11. **To say “whosoever will” may come is absolutely true!** But this does not mean that all will come, or are able to will to come. Men naturally will to sin! It is God's work which causes men to desire to do His will. Phil. 2:13
12. **Election is known by God. It becomes known to men when evidenced by faith and life. It is not our responsibility or in our power to determine who is elect!** We are to preach the gospel to every creature, and depend on God to make the dead alive. Let us be faithful, zealous and dependant evangelists knowing that God gives the increase as we plant and water the soil of men's hearts.