

Living Word
October 14, 2007
Heaven or Hell - Predestination

Let's first of all start off today recognizing that this is obviously a touchy subject. It is a subject of huge debate in most churches throughout the world. It is touchy on a personal level because we are talking about the *eternal* ramifications of God's choosing some and passing over others. So in talking about this, let's just take what is taught with a grain of salt and try to let it seep in before anyone starts assuming that we are a judging group who just wants to tell others they aren't going to Heaven.

Read Romans 8:28-30

God foreordained before the creation of the earth who would be saved. Not by any foreknowledge of us choosing Christ. Or by any foreknowledge of our actions here on earth (works-based or merit-based). The Presbyterian Church believes in a theology that is known as *Reformed Theology*. Classically in *Reformed Theology* we believe that there are five points to accept as a basis of our theology, often known as the five points of Calvinism. There's an acrostic or acronym for the five points and it is TULIP. T stands for Total Depravity. U stands for Unconditional Election. L stands for Limited Atonement. I stands for Irresistible Grace. And P stands for Perseverance of the Saints. Today we are essentially hitting on four of those five points. Total Depravity means that we are sinful. Therefore we are unspiritual. As it is, we as sinners and unspiritual people cannot, can not, choose to know spiritual things. The second being Unconditional Election. There is nothing that *we do* that makes God choose or *elect* us. There are no strings attached. Limited Atonement is the third. Meaning that Christ died not to save the sins of everyone. He died to save the sins of those whom God predestined. It is not as though Jesus' death could not cover the sins of the entire world, but that if it did, then God would not have to enact His wrath upon the reprobate or those who God didn't choose.

We can't accept that God chooses people to go to Heaven without acknowledging that God also let's people go to Hell. God not only chooses those whom will go to heaven, the elect, but also those who will go to hell, the reprobate.

Next week we'll talk about Free Will and God's Sovereign Grace.

Romans 3:23 and 1 Corinthians 2:14 - Total Depravity

Who has sinned? (Romans)

How many times a day would you say you sin?

What are the consequences of sin?

Can unspiritual people understand the things of God? (Corinthians)

Romans 9:10-13 - Unconditional Election

Do you know the story of Rebecca and Isaac?

Who did God choose?

Why did He choose Him?

So does it matter what we do in life as to who God chooses?

Then why even follow His will here on earth?

John 17:6-12 - Limited Atonement

Who is Jesus talking about?

What is Jesus doing in this chapter of John? (praying)

Who does Jesus say He's praying for?

Who is Jesus glorified in?