

chosen & choosing

How God's life becomes ours

Week 1: Embracing Grace

No one, except God, is able to bestow salvation;
and nothing, except Free Will, is capable of receiving it.
~ Jacob Arminius

INTRODUCTION – You Asked For It

Of all kinds of knowledge that we can ever obtain, the knowledge of God,
and the knowledge of ourselves, are the most important.
~ Jonathan Edwards, *Freedom of the Will*

LOOK TO THE BOOK – What Must We Do To Be Saved?

Acts 16:31; Romans 10:9; John 3:16

DINE IN – Moving From “TULIP” to “GRACE”

AUGUSTINIAN (CALVINIST):

We will not choose God unless he chooses to make us choose him.

Without me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)

PALAGIAN (FUNCTIONAL):

We are free to choose God or not.

Choose life. (Deuteronomy 30:19)

SEMI-PALAGIAN (ARMINIAN):

God frees everyone to choose.

When I am lifted up, I will draw everyone to myself. (John 12:32)

ANABAPTIST (BRETHREN IN CHRIST):

God works with our infirmed will to help us ask, seek, and knock.

I believe; help my unbelief. (Mark 9:24)

“TULIP”...

- Total Depravity.
- Unconditional Election.
- Limited Atonement.
- Irresistible Grace.
- Perseverance of the Saints.

“GRACE”...

- God's Broken Image.
- Reborn through Faith.
- Atonement for All.
- Chosen and Choosing.
- Empowered to Grow.

TAKE OUT – I'll Have That to Go Please

- The Gospel is Jesus.
- The Gospel unites us.
- Hence, rejection of the Gospel of Jesus divides us.

CONCLUSION – Lord I believe; help my unbelief

Mark 9:24

Q & Eh? Text 647.330.2789 or email ask@themeetinghouse.ca.

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

Warming Up...

1. WAIT! Before you get talking, see how long you can go this evening trying to play the role of someone who holds the theological point of view that you do NOT. It's okay – you're not lying if we all agree to do it, right?
2. On a scale of 1 to 10, how much are you looking forward to this series? Why?
3. What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages to the Body of Christ of each of the four schools of thought listed in your notes?

Look to the Book...

4. Read **John 3:14-21**. A) What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why? B) Brainstorm: In what ways is the cross of Christ like the bronze serpent of Numbers 21? List as many parallels as you can. How do these parallels inform our current topic, if at all? C) How would Calvinists employ verses 19-20 in their theology? D) How would Arminians employ verse 21 in their theology? E) Skeptics accuse the message of John 3:16 as being exclusive. Why would that be? F) In what ways is the message of John 3:16 radically inclusive? G) How might being a Calvinist or an Arminian effect someone's motivation and approach to evangelism?

So What?...

5. OK. If you've been in character during this discussion as someone who subscribes to the alternate theological system than your own, it's time to come clean. Take a moment to talk about a) what you really believe (see the four schools of thought listed in your notes as a guideline), and b) what your experience was so far this evening living within an alternate point of view. Did you learn or perceive or understand anything new?
6. What is the Gospel? How is it distinct-from-yet-related-to Calvinism and Arminianism?
7. In what area of your life do you lack faith? (e.g., Assurance of God's love? Assurance of your value? Assurance of forgiveness? Assurance of salvation? Assurance of God's reality? Assurance of the Bible's reliability? Assurance of Jesus' centrality? Something else?) After talking about your area of faith need, pray for each other using variations of the prayer from Mark 9:24 – I have faith; help me overcome my lack of faith.

The Meeting House | Sunday, October 2/9, 2011 | Bruxy Cavey

Notes are available online at themeetinghouse.ca/teaching