

TITLE: Satisfaction in the Sovereign Source of Our Salvation (Part 3)

PASSAGE: 1 Peter 1:2

THEME: Hope in The Doctrines of Election and Foreknowledge

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Read Passage

At the 1994 annual awards dinner given by the American Assoc. for Forensic Science, AAFS president Don Harper Mills astounded his audience with the legal complications of a bizarre but true death.

"On March 23, 1994, the medical examiner viewed the body of Ronald Opus and concluded that he died from a shotgun wound to the head. Mr. Opus had jumped from the top of a ten-story building intending to commit suicide (in fact, he left a note behind). As he fell past the ninth floor, his life was interrupted by a shotgun blast through a window, which killed him instantly. Neither the one who pulled the trigger nor Mr. Opus the jumper was aware that a safety net had been erected at the eighth floor level to protect some window washers and that Mr. Opus would not have been able to complete his suicide anyway because of this.

Ordinarily, a person who sets out to commit suicide ultimately succeeds, even though the mechanism might not be what he intended. That Opus was shot on the way to certain death nine stories below probably would not have changed his mode of death from suicide to homicide. But the fact that his suicidal intent would not have been successful caused the medical examiner to feel he had a homicide on his hands. The room on the ninth floor from which the shotgun blast came was occupied by an elderly man and his wife. They were arguing and he was threatening her with the shotgun. He was so upset that, when he pulled the trigger, he completely missed his wife and the blast went through the window killing Opus.

When one intends to kill subject A but kills subject B in the attempt, one is guilty of the murder of subject B. When confronted with the charge, the elderly man and his wife were both adamant that neither knew the shotgun was loaded. The man said it was his long standing habit to threaten his wife with the unloaded gun. He had no intention to murder her- therefor the killing of Opus was apparently an accident. That is, the gun had been accidentally loaded. However, the continuing investigation turned up a witness who saw the elderly couple's son loading the shotgun approximately six weeks prior to

the fatal incident. Later investigation uncovered the fact that the mother had cut off her son's financial support and the son, knowing the propensity of his father to threaten her with the shotgun, loaded the gun with the expectation that his father would shoot his mother. The case now becomes one of murder on the part of the son for the death of Ronald Opus, for he was the one who loaded the gun.

There was an exquisite twist. Further investigation revealed that the elderly couple's son had become increasingly despondent over his financial struggles, as well as his apparent failure to orchestrate his mother's murder. This led him to jump off the 10-story building, only to be killed by a shotgun blast through a ninth-story window—a gun that he, Ronald Opus, had loaded himself some six weeks before.. The medical examiner closed the case as a suicide.

More twists in that story than an English Myst. novel! May be lots of guess-work when it comes to forensics. But when it comes to our justification before God, it's a long settled matter. That's why we're secure // we have hope - t/found. upon which our lives rest is grounded in t/eternal purpose of t/Triune God.

Main idea ==>

Our Hope is Found in the Electing Grace of the Father, the Sanctifying Grace of the Spirit, and the Saving Grace of the Son. Father Elects; Spirit Sanctifies; Son Saves.

I. Hope in The Sovereign Source of Our Salvation

3 persons of the Trinity are actively involved in our salvation. It is t/Father who elects/or chooses us unto salvation. In keeping w/S=>

A. Selected by the Father (1:2a)

[chosen] according to the foreknowledge of God the Father

1. We have been (past-tense) chosen

(idea comes from v. 1 where t/word chosen actually is) according to the foreknowledge (foreordination) of God, the Father. Implication is that we have been chosen or elected to salvation.

Like I said 2 weeks ago (Seven Facts About Our Election) ==> That this doctrine, among other things, is given as a comfort & encouragement=> "The doctrine of election is neither a banner to be waved, nor a bomb to be dropped, but a balm for the soul of weary Christians." [Eric Alexander]

Swindoll, in commenting on this passage, says we were not thrown to earth like dice on a table, but we were chosen by God; sovereignly and lovingly placed here for a purpose. [Swindoll, Hope Again, 13]

MacArthur calls it "The most humbling truth in all of Scripture." [25]

Think about it, it's sobering to realize that we had nothing to do w/God's choice of us. It's not like we can pat ourselves on t/back & say, "Oh, I must have really been something special for God to choose me." God's electing grace is pre-temporal - As Romans 9 points out, it was by His good pleasure before we did anything good or bad.

God loved us w/an eternal love, not because of ourselves, but in spite of ourselves. He knew how rotten you and I could be & yet chose to redeem us to himself, to endure w/us, to be patient w/ us, always working to perfect JC in us. That's humbling.

2. Should also draw us to our knees in worship

God gets all t/glory. Like I said B4 - it's not like God 90% of t/work & we did 10%. If you think that's true, for every 9x you thank God for your salvation, pat yourself on t/back once! Our awesome God gets 100% of t/praise to t/glory of His grace!

Jesus died EVEN for your unbelief - your unbelief was among t/greatest of sins for which X could atone. He died to purchase your faith.

John Piper frames it this way when he says==>

"You did not make the Cross of Christ effective in your life in the atoning of your sins. The cross of Christ has sovereignly become effective in your life by purchasing your faith. You owe your faith to the Cross! Your unbelief is a great sin--was it covered by the Cross, believer, or wasn't it? If you say it

wasn't, you atoned for your own sin and you get to heaven on your own strength. If your faith was covered by the blood of Jesus (that is, your unbelief), then everything you are is owed to Christ. And His Cross purchased for you not only the forgiveness for all of your many sins but (also) your unbelief so that you would be a believer. . . . Christ tasted death for everyone who believes because the faith of everyone who believes was purchased by Christ." ["For Whom Did Jesus Taste Death," Cassette Message in Hebrews 2:9 dated May. 26, 1996, © Desiring God Ministries, 720 13th Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN 55415]

I don't see how anyone, in understanding this, how much they have been forgiven, how gracious God has been in drawing you out of t/mire of your sin & darkness, cleaning you off & guaranteeing you eternal bliss in t/joy of knowing Him - I don't see how anyone can realize this & be a worship dud. (What's a W.D.? - let me demonstrate . . .).

We should have t/most vibrant, passionate worship of any people on earth! Don't ever say in this CH - *"Oh, I don't like it when people raise their hands & get all emotional & say "Amen" during t/service."* Meanwhile you sit in CH like you've been pickled in Aunt Sarah's basement since 1970. If you feel like raising your hands to t/Lord as an expression of your gratitude, do it! If you don't, that's fine, so long as you are giving Him t/credit He deserves & not looking at your watch wondering if you will get out in time to see t/Bill's game. Worship is not centered around us - our conveniences; our preferences.

A gal back in AZ had to work one Sunday immediately after the morning worship service. She was feeling particularly encouraged about the day and stopped for a potty break before she was to check in for her shift. As she was sitting there she heard two women enter the restroom. From what she could tell they were sisters. From the time they entered they did nothing but complain (about family members and other issues). Apparently they didn't know she was there and they made their way into two adjacent stalls and continued their griping and complaining. And then the conversation changed subjects. Apparently they were at church that morning and it wasn't good enough either. One of the sisters declared: "And that worship service! Was that lame or what! The songs were difficult to sing and I just didn't get anything out of it." By that time my friend had exited her seat, probably surprising her guests in the process. And having heard enough she stood in front of both stalls and said: "Ladies, worship comes from the heart and isn't

about being personally entertained in some way." With that she washed her hands and left to dead silence. [Tony Bartolucci]

Something else that comes to mind==>

3. Knowing that we have been chosen by the Father should pour hope into our hearts

There would be no hope for us apart from God's electing grace. We would never have been able to find t/way apart from His taking us by t/hand to lead us==>

"Men will never believe with a saving and real faith, unless God inclines the heart; and they will believe as soon as He inclines it." [Blaise Pascal, 1623-1662]

a. We have been 'foreknown' by Him

That means He knew us in an intimate sort of way before we were ever born. He "foreloved" us. Rem. Jesus said in John 17 that eternal life is knowing t/True God & Jesus Christ whom He has sent. But we only know Him because He first knew us. Just like t/multitudes of people in t/world don't know Him, ISW God did not "know" them like He "knew" us. That's whole issue w/this word foreknowledge. Do you see how if you strip t/word of its biblical thrust you turn it into a sterile, lifeless concept. "God looking ahead in corridors of time like a genie w/a crystal ball & he sees us choose him & then he chooses us." Good grief, it sounds like a presidential candidate I know who said "I voted against the war after I voted for it." C'mon man, that's nonsense!

No, God knows His Sheep whom He has called to be t/people of His pasture. He knows us // knew us // always know us & we Him. That's a blessing laced w/hope==>

Psalm 65:4 **How blessed is the one whom you choose, and bring near to you to dwell in your courts . . .**

To know that t/Father has chosen to set his unique love upon you from all eternity should be your supreme joy

[I. "Satisfaction in the Sovereign Source of Our Salvation"]

But that source is actually three-fold. We have been==>

[A. Selected by the Father]

Also been ==>

B. Sanctified by the Spirit (1:2b)

Remember==>

Our Hope is Found in the Electing Grace of the Father, the Sanctifying Grace of the Spirit . . . Father Elects; Spirit Sanctifies . . .

[chosen] according to the foreknowledge of God the Father WITH THE SANCTIFICATION OF THE SPIRIT . . .

1. You say, "What's that mean? What's Sanctification?"

One of those words that can have 3 different nuances.

a. Word is *ἁγιασμος* - basically means to be set apart as holy

In that sense, we have been set apart by God, in his eternal plan, to be holy unto Him. That's past-tense, done deal sort of thing. Positional.

HEB 10:10 *By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

1CO 1:2 *to the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling . . .*

Little later, in chapter 6 ==> . . . *do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.*

Then there's sanct. in t/present tense; that is, our Xn growth. Practical.

It's a process, it's progressive (like 2 Corinthians 3:18)

But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from

the Lord, the Spirit.

Future aspect that would parallel our glorification==>

1TH 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

b. Here in 1 Peter

[chosen] according to the foreknowledge of God the Father WITH THE SANCTIFICATION OF THE SPIRIT . . .

(1) So which is it?

I think t/shadow here falls on our positional sanctification. In fact, there may be a parallel here to what we call "Effectual Calling." Follow me here: The entirety of our salvation consists of several parts. Kind of like a car - a car is more than a motor, but you need t/motor. Same w/our salvation. It started in t/mind & purpose of God as he chose us in t/annals of eternity past. But, election doesn't make us saved, it secures our salvation. While I was elect as a rebellious 17 y/o teenager, I wasn't justified before I came to faith in JC. So you have election, then you have Effectual Calling. IOW - it's when you heard t/Gospel & you responded in faith. God called you & that calling is irresistible (irresistible grace). You were like Lazarus & God called you forth. That is specifically a work of t/Holy Spirit (as here).

It's like what Paul wrote in 1 Thess 1:4-5

He speaks of their election in v. 4 ==>

knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you;

Then he refers to how they were saved in v. 5 ==>

for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction . . . IOW . . .

John 6:44 and Acts 16:14 [=>] That's t/work of t/HS.

Holy Spirit works in us faith (Eph. 2:8), repentance (Acts 11:15-18), regeneration (Titus 3:5), adoption (Rom. 8:16-17).

As one NT scholar writes==>

"God the Father chose the sinner out from among mankind to be the recipient of the setting-apart work of the Spirit, in which work the Holy Spirit sets the sinner apart from his unbelief to the act of faith in the Lord Jesus." [Wuest, 16]

[I. "Satisfaction in the Sovereign Source of Our Salvation"]

We said that the "Source" is three-fold. We have been==>

[A. Selected by the Father]

[B. Sanctified by the Spirit (1:2b)]

Thirdly==>

C. Saved for Service by the Son (1:2c)

[chosen] according to the foreknowledge of God the Father with the sanctification of the Spirit FOR OBEDIENCE TO JESUS CHRIST AND SPRINKLING WITH HIS BLOOD.

Our Hope is Found in the Electing Grace of the Father, the Sanctifying Grace of the Spirit, and the Saving Grace of the Son.

Note progression: Father Elects; Spirit Sanctifies; Son Saves. Entirety of the Trinity was at work w/express purpose of securing your salvation. Here comes that big theological word again, "WOW!"

1. Remember, I said that the entirety of our salvation consists of several parts

It started w/God's choosing us (past). Then in t/present it takes t/HS to draw (Effectual Calling). But t/H.S. has to draw us to something (specifically someone) ==> Brings us to t/Third part - t/Son of God played in dying for us.

We have been ==>

... [sprinkled] with His blood.

a. Figure of speech here

"Sprinkled with His blood" = a double metonymy or a metalepsis where both words stand for something else (blood = Christ's death and sprinkled = the application of that death to our lives).

2. This is clearly an OT sort of concept [^]

In t/OT economy, were 3 three occasions when a person would be sprinkled with blood.

a. When a leper had been healed (Lev. 14:1-7)

In this case t/person cured from leprosy was to be brot to t/priest who would then take him o/s of t/camp of Israel. Priest then checks to be sure t/man had been healed. If he was they took 2 live birds, first of which was killed in an earthenware vessel over running water. Priest would sprinkle t/man who had been cleansed 7 times w/blood of t/slain bird, whereupon t/man was pronounced cleansed from leprosy. 2nd bird was kept alive. It was dipped in blood of t/dead bird let go free over an the open field.

In this sense, sprinkling w/blood is symbolic of cleansing. That's certainly true for us. When we were sprinkled w/blood of JC we were cleansed from all of our sin. Hebrews chapt. 9, 12:24 [=>]

Isaiah 52:15 **Thus He will sprinkle many nations . . .**

b. When priests were consecrated (Exodus 29:20-21)

1st instance of this was when Aaron & his 4 sons were consecrated as priests. Part of t/ceremony involved Aaron & his sons laying their hands on a ram which was killed. Moses then took some of t/blood & smeared it on each of their t/right ears (hearing) // thumbs (work) // big toes (walk).

In this case, sprinkling was a sign of being set apart for service. Note 1 Peter 2:9 [=>] . Parallel is sanctification which we saw in v. 2).

c. Obedience to the Covenant (Exo. 24:3-8)

Have t/people of Israel being delivered from Egypt (Exodus). Moses receives t/covenant from God on Sinai, he presents it to the people &

t/people reply, “All the words which the Lord has spoken we will do!” Moses builds an altar, they sacrifice several young bulls. Moses puts ½ t/blood in a basin, he pours ½ on t/altar. He takes t/book of t/covenant, he reads it to t/people, they reply again “All the words which the Lord has spoken we will do and we will be obedient.” With that Moses takes t/blood from t/basin & sprinkles it on t/people. (Heb. 9:19). Sprinkling was confirmation of t/people’s obedience to t/covenant.

Would certainly parallel our passage in verse 2==>

[chosen] according to the foreknowledge of God the Father with the sanctification of the Spirit FOR OBEDIENCE to Jesus Christ and SPRINKLING WITH HIS BLOOD.

3. It may be that the obedience Peter has in mind is our belief in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior

IOW - there are times in t/NT when t/initial belief of sinners in t/Gospel is called “obedience.” In that sense it’s synonymous w/belief.

Sometimes in NT this is called, “The obedience of faith”. IOW - when you believe t/gospel for 1st time & are saved, it is for you an act of obedience to t/faith. Very 1st act of full-fledged, obedience that any person can render to God - to believe in t/Gospel.

See that in Romans 1:5 (the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles)

See that in Romans 16:26 talks about t/gospel being “made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith.”

ACT 6:7 And the word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

Sometimes it’s put in negative terms==>

John 3:36 “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

Fig. of speech called Hendiadys (2 diff. words used to say same thing).

We see t/same thing in 2 Thess. 1:8==>

(where it says that at His second coming, Jesus will deal out) **retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.**

I tend to think that's t/focus of what is meant here. Just a few vv. later in chapter 1 Peter uses same word ὑπακοή (obedience) & there he seems to use it as a synonym for saving faith (vv. 22-23 [=>])

Obedience to JC = belief in Him.

That fits the order of things==>

[chosen] according to the foreknowledge of God the Father . . .

That's election, or predestination where God chooses us in eternity past.

But, remember that guarantees our salvation, but doesn't complete it.

We also need==>

...the sanctification of the Spirit...

Work of t/HS in convicting us of our sin, convincing us of t/truth of t/gospel, & drawing us to t/point of saving faith. But even that's not enough, also has to be ==>

. . . obedience to Jesus Christ . . .

Our actual point of belief where we believe in X (He is God // died for us // rose again on our behalf // our only Sav. & Lord). Then, in t/moment we believe, we are, as it were==>

. . . [sprinkled] with His blood...

That's t/application of X's death to our lives.

God elects in t/past, HS draws us to X, We believe, t/blood is applied.

Scripture interprets Scripture (analogy of t/faith) & we see t/exact same thing in 2 Thess. 2:13==>

. . . God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

. . . God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation (election)

through sanctification by the Spirit (HS calling us to believe)
and faith in the truth. (our belief in t/truth which is then applied)

So, as Greek scholar Kenneth Wuest observed==>

"We have therefore the three steps taken by the three persons of the Triune God. God the Father chooses the sinner to salvation. God the Spirit brings the sinner thus chosen to the act of faith. God the Son cleanses him in His precious blood." [Wuest, 17]

II. Opening Benediction (2c)

May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

A. Really is a wonderful way to put a cap on such rich truth

1. As if Peter were saying==>

"I know you're suffering, I know that there's lots of hostility against you because of your faith. As citizens of heaven you're strangers in a foreign land. But know this, know that God has chosen you, you're in t/center of His will, He has ordained your suffering & will provide t/grace necessary to endure whatever trials you may encounter.

Not only has He ordained your suffering, but He has ordained your very salvation, it's part of His eternal plan—a plan that t/Triune God of t/univ. has ordained out of His great love for you.

The Father has known you from t/beginning, He chose you to be His child, The Spirit has drawn you to His side, The Son died for you, sprinkling you w/His blood. The bond of love that covers you is as eternal as the bond that exists between the Father, Son, HS. With all of that in mind ==>

May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

In as much as your trials and suffering grow, may grace & peace be yours in even greater abundance."

That's true for you as well

Where does grace and peace come from?

Romans 5:1-2 . . . having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. There's peace, there's grace, there's hope.

Behind it all is a God who has had us in His sites all along.

Several years ago, on a hot summer day in south Florida, a little boy decided to go for a swim in the old swimming hole that was behind his house. In a hurry to dive into the water, he ran out the back door, leaving behind shoes, socks, and shirt. He flew into the water, not realizing that as he swam toward the middle of the lake, an alligator was swimming toward the shore.

In the house, his mother was looking out the window. She saw the two as they got closer and closer together. In utter fear, she ran toward the water, yelling to her son as loudly as she could. Hearing her voice, the little boy became alarmed, and made a U-turn to swim to his mother. It was too late. Just as he reached her, the alligator reached him.

From the dock, the mother grabbed her little boy by the arms, just as the alligator latched onto his legs. That began a tug-of-war between mother and predator.

The alligator was more powerful than the mother, but the mother was much too passionate to let go. A farmer driving by heard her screams. He raced from his truck, rifle in tow; taking aim, he shot the gator.

After weeks and weeks in the hospital, the little boy survived. His legs were extremely scarred. On his arms, there were deep scratches where his mother's fingernails dug deep into his skin—all in her effort to hang on to the son she loved.

The newspaper reporter, who interviewed the boy after the trauma, asked him if he would show him his scars. The boy lifted his pant legs. Then, with obvious pride, he said to the reporter, "But look at my arms. I have great scars on my arms, too. I have them because my Mom wouldn't let go."

We have scars also

Scars from a painful past, scars from pain and suffering. Some of those scars may be ugly, some may bring reminders of deep regret. We carry scars from our encounter w/the enemy of our souls.

But some scars are a reminder of the fact that God has us in His grip. He will never let us go. *Satisfaction in Sovereign Source of Our Salvation.*