

# WHAT DO BAPTIST BELIEVE?

## A Study of the *Baptist Faith and Message*

### GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE (8)

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

*Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-8; 1 Samuel 8:4-7,19-22; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31ff.; Matthew 16:18-19; 21:28-45; 24:22,31; 25:34; Luke 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48; John 1:12-14; 3:16; 5:24; 6:44-45,65; 10:27-29; 15:16; 17:6,12,17-18; Acts 20:32; Romans 5:9-10; 8:28-39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7,26-36; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; Colossians 1:12-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:12; 2:10,19; Hebrews 11:39-12:2; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:2-5,13; 2:4-10; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:19; 3:2.*

- 1. God's purpose of grace teaches that "salvation begins in the eternal purpose of God—His determination to save sinners through the atonement accomplished by Jesus Christ, His Son" (BFM Commentary, 78) (Matt. 25:34; Acts. 2:23; 4:27-28; Rev. 13:8; 17:8).**
- 2. God's purpose of grace teaches that "election is a central doctrine of the Bible, affirming that God saves sinners" (Ibid.). Does the New Testament teach predestination/election? Yes. (Acts 13:48; Rm. 8:28-30; 9:11-13; 11:7; Eph. 1:4-6, 12; 1 Thess. 1:4-5; 2 Thess. 2:13; 2 Timothy 1:9; 1 Pet. 1:1-3; 2:9; Rev. 13:7-8; 17:8). Election is "God's gracious action in choosing people to follow Him and obey His commands" (Ibid.).**
- 3. God's purpose of grace teaches that "election affirms that God took the initiative in our salvation" (Ibid.) (John 6:37, 44; Eph. 1:3-12).**
- 4. God's purpose of grace teaches election (1) as a comfort to believers (Rm. 8:28-30), as a reason to praise God (Eph. 1:5-6, 12; 1 Thess. 1:2, 4; 2 Thess. 2:13), and as an encouragement to evangelism (Acts 13:48; 2 Tim. 2:10) (Bible Doctrine by Wayne Grudem, 284-285).**
- 5. God's purpose of grace teaches the Sovereignty of God (John 15:16, 19; Acts 13:48; Rm. 8:29-30; 1 Thess. 5:9; 2 Thess. 2:13-14).**
- 6. God's purpose of grace teaches human freedom and responsibility ("the free agency of man" or human's free will) (John 3:15-16; 5:24; Rm. 10:9-13; Rev. 22:17).**
- 7. God purpose of grace teaches the perseverance and/or eternal security of believers (Once saved always saved) (Jn. 5:24; 10:28-29; Rm. 8:35, 38-39; Phil. 1:6; 2 Tim. 1:12; 1 Pet. 1:3-5; 2 Pet. 1:10; 1 Jn. 5:13).**