

Brandon Baptist Church

Statement of Faith

Article 9 – OF GOD’S PURPOSE AND GRACE

Statement of Faith Topics

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OF GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE

- We believe that Election is the gracious purpose of God according to which He regenerates sanctifies and saves sinners;
- that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man it comprehends all the means in connection with the end;
- that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness being infinitely wise holy and unchangeable;
- that it utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility prayer praise trust in God and active imitation of His free mercy;
- that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree;
- that it is ascertained by its effects in all who believe the gospel;
- is the foundation of Christian assurance;
- and that to discover it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves our utmost diligence.

We believe that Election is the gracious purpose of God according to which He regenerates sanctifies and saves sinners;

- 2 Timothy 1:8-9 => Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, who has **saved us and called us** with a holy calling, not according to our works, **but according to His own purpose and grace** which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,
- 1 Peter 1:1-2 => Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, **to obey Jesus Christ** and be **sprinkled with His blood**: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.
- Romans 11:5-6 => In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious choice. But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.
- John 15:16 => "You did not choose Me but I chose you, and **appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain**, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.
- 1 John 4:19 => We love, because He first loved us.

that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man it comprehends all the means in connection with the end;

- 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 => But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation **through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. It was for this** He called you through our gospel, **that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- Acts 13:48 => When the Gentiles heard this, **they began** rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many **as had been appointed** to eternal life believed.
- Acts 15:14 => "Simeon has related how **God first concerned Himself** about taking from among the Gentiles a people for His name.
- John 10:16 => "I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd.
- Matthew 20:16 => "So the last shall be first, and the first last."

Deeper Look: Election and Free Will



- Deuteronomy 10:12-22 => Now, Israel, **what does the LORD your God require from you**, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹³ and to keep the LORD'S commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good? ¹⁴ **Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the highest heavens, the earth and all that is in it.** ¹⁵ **Yet on your fathers did the LORD set His affection to love them, and He chose their descendants after them, even you above all peoples, as it is this day.** ¹⁶ **So circumcise your heart, and stiffen your neck no longer.** ¹⁷ For the LORD your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality nor take a bribe. ¹⁸ He executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and shows His love for the alien by giving him food and clothing. ¹⁹ So show your love for the alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt. ²⁰ You shall fear the LORD your God; you shall serve Him and cling to Him, and you shall swear by His name. ²¹ He is your praise and He is your God, who has done these great and awesome things for you which your eyes have seen. ²² Your fathers went down to Egypt seventy persons in all, and now the LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars of heaven.

God never asserts that Man has Free Will.
He simply decrees that we are accountable to Him.

that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness being infinitely wise holy and unchangeable;

- Romans 11:32-36 => **For God has shut up all in disobedience so that He may show mercy to all.** Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR? Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.
- Exodus 33:18-19 => Then Moses said, "I pray You, show me Your glory!" And He said, "I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the LORD before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion."
- James 1:17-18 => Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.
- Ephesians 1:11 => also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,
- Romans 9:23-24 => And He did so to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory, even us, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles.
- Romans 11:28-29 => From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of God's choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers; for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.
- Jeremiah 31:3 => The LORD appeared to him from afar, saying, "I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness."

that it utterly excludes boasting and promotes
humility prayer praise trust in God and active
imitation of His free mercy;

- 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 => For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, so that no man may boast before God. But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."
- Romans 3:27 => Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith.
- Romans 4:16 => For this reason it is by faith, in order that it may be in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all,
- 1 Thessalonians 2:12-13 => so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory. For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.
- 1 Peter 2:9 => But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
- John 15:16 => "You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.
- Ephesians 1:16 => do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers;

that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree;

- 2 Timothy 2:10 => For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.
- 1 Corinthians 9:22 => To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some.
- John 6:37-40 => "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. "This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."
- 2 Peter 1:10 => Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;

Deeper Look: 2 Peter 1 Means of Grace

- For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. ⁵ Now for this very reason also, applying all **diligence**, ***in your faith supply moral excellence***, and in your moral excellence, **knowledge**, ⁶ and in your knowledge, **self-control**, and in your self-control, **perseverance**, and in your perseverance, **godliness**, ⁷ and in your godliness, **brotherly kindness**, and in your brotherly kindness, **love**.
- ⁸ For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ⁹ For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.
- ¹⁰ Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; ¹¹ for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.
- 2 Peter 1:4-11

that it is ascertained by its effects in all who believe the gospel;

- 1 Thessalonians 1:4-10 => knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you; for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in **power** and in **the Holy Spirit** and with **full conviction**; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. You also became **imitators of us and of the Lord**, having received the word in much tribulation with the **joy** of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an **example to all the believers** in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the **word of the Lord has sounded forth from you**, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything. For they themselves report about us **what kind of a reception we had with you**, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

is the foundation of Christian assurance;

- Romans 8:28-39 =>
 - And we know that **God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God**, to those who are called according to His purpose.
 - If God is for us, who is against us?
 - He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?
 - Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns?
 - Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.
 - Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
 - ... neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- Romans 11:29 => for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.
- Isaiah 44*

is the foundation of Christian assurance;

Isaiah 44

But now listen, O Jacob, My servant,
And Israel, whom I have chosen:
Thus says the LORD who made you
And **formed you from the womb, who will help you,**
‘Do not fear, O Jacob My servant;
And you Jeshurun whom I have chosen.
‘For I will pour out water on the thirsty land
And streams on the dry ground;
I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring
And My blessing on your descendants;
And they will spring up among the grass
Like poplars by streams of water.’
“This one will say, **‘I am the LORD’S’;**
And that one will call on the name of Jacob;
And another will write on his hand, **‘Belonging to the LORD,’**
And will name Israel’s name with honor.

is the foundation of Christian assurance;

Isaiah 44 (cont.)

“Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

‘I am the first and I am the last,

And **there is no God besides Me.**

‘Who is like Me? Let him proclaim and declare it;

Yes, let him recount it to Me in order,

From the time that I established the ancient nation.

And let them declare to them the things that are coming

And the events that are going to take place.

‘**Do not tremble and do not be afraid;**

Have I not long since announced it to you and declared it?

And you are My witnesses.

Is there any God besides Me,

Or is there any other Rock?

I know of none.’”

and that to discover it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves our utmost diligence.

- 2 Peter 1:10 => Therefore, brethren, be all the more **diligent to make certain** about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;
- Philippians 3:12 => Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, **but I press on** so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.
- Hebrews 6:11 => And we desire that each one of you show the same **diligence so as to realize** the full assurance of hope until the end

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