Fundamentals of the Christian Faith

- The importance of doctrine in faith and practice
- The Bible
- The Godhead – Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Creation
- Salvation
  - Pelagianism – heresy
  - Arminianism
  - Calvinism
- A need for Christian charity
Doctrine of Salvation

T  Total depravity – the sinner
U  Unconditional election – The Father
L  Limited atonement – The Son
I  Irresistible grace – The Holy Spirit
P  Perseverance of the saints – the saint
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Lesson 8: Irresistible Grace

- The impossibility of salvation
- The nature of salvation
- The process of salvation
- Objections
The Impossibility of Salvation

- Dead in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1)
- Under condemnation (John 3:36; Romans 5:18)
- Incapable of understanding (1 Corinthians 2:14)
- Unable to read (Isaiah 29:10-12)
- A valley of dry bones (Ezekiel 37:1-4)
- Unable to please God (Romans 8:6-8)
The Nature of Salvation

▷ Justification
  – Romans 4:24-25 – the redemptive work of Jesus Christ on the cross
  – Ephesians 1:7; Acts 10:43 – forgiveness of sins
  – Romans 3:21-22; 4:3; – righteousness
  – Habakkuk 2:4 (Rom 1:17; Gal 3:11; Heb 10:38) – the just shall live by faith

▷ Spiritual life
  – 1 Corinthians 15:45 – made spiritual in Christ
  – Galatians 2:20; Colossians 1:27 – Christ in me
  – 2 Peter 1:4 – partakers of the Divine nature

▷ A Divine work of the Triune God
  – Is it universal or particular (limited)?
The Work of Salvation

- The new birth by the Spirit of God - John 3:1-9; 1 Peter 1:22-23
- Quickening – Ephesian 2:1-8
- An act of creation - 2 Corinthians 4:6; Ephesians 2:10
- Make something from nothing – Romans 4:17
- Regeneration – Titus 3:5
- A new creature – 2 Corinthians 5:17
The Certainty of Salvation

- John 6:37, 44, 63-65 – the Father gives to the Son and they come
- Acts 16:14 – heart opened to receive the message of Paul
- Romans 8:28-30 – the called will be justified and glorified
- 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 – through sanctification by the Spirit
- Acts 9:1-2, 20 – the example of Paul
The Means of Salvation

- Ezekiel 37:5f – Ezekiel preaches and the Spirit brings life
- Romans 10:17 – faith comes by hearing
  - Ephesians 2:8-9 – a gift of God
  - Philippians 1:31 – given to us to believe
  - Hebrews 12:2 – Author and Finisher of our faith
- 2 Timothy 2:24-26; Acts 5:31; 11:18 - Repentance
- Romans 1:16 – the Gospel is the power of God for salvation
- Hebrews 4:12 – the Word is quick (living) and powerful
- 1 Peter 1:23, 25 – born again through the living Word of God
- John 3:3-9 – the agent of salvation is the Spirit of God
- Regeneration precedes faith
Objections

♦ The question of the freedom of the will
   – Free moral agency
   – An illustration – the freedom of God
   – The freedom of salvation (John 8:32)

♦ Does responsibility imply ability?
   – An illustration – the resurrection of Lazarus (John 11:38-44)

♦ Many resist the Gospel and never come to salvation
   – The general call and the special/effectual call
The Irresistible Grace of God

- The Divine work of salvation in those chosen by God (Ephesians 1:4)
- Efficacious Grace – Inevitable Salvation (John 1:13; 6:44)
- What difference does it make?
  - Exhortation to grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18)
  - To God be the glory (1 Corinthians 1:30-31; Jeremiah 9:24)
- Preach the Word