

John 6:37-40

Verses 37-40 are of great theological significance in regards what reformed theology holds to and believes. These verses confirm and teach the doctrines of grace, affirm the golden chain of redemption, and attest to the sovereignty of God in salvation.

Verse 37

In verse 36, Jesus had stated that those there had seen Him, and yet had no believed. Verse 37 is the beginning of Jesus explaining why certain people do believe and why others will never believe.

Sovereignty of God is salvation

- This verse speaks of the sovereignty of God in salvation.
- Salvation begins with the Father in election and gives the elect to the Son.
 - **1 Peter 1:1-3** Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen ²according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, ^[a]to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace ^[b]be yours in the fullest measure.³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
 - **Ephesians 1:4-6** just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before ^[d]Him. In love ⁵^[e]He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the ^[f]kind intention of His will, ⁶to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.
 - **Romans 8:29** For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; ³⁰and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.
 - **John 17:1-3** Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, ²even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to ^[a]all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. ³This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.
 - **John 17:22-24** The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; ²³I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected ^[a]in unity, so that the world may ^[b]know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. ²⁴Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

God is triune and therefore God is triune in our salvation.

- The Father chooses, elects, gives to elect to the Son, and draws
- The Son fulfills all righteousness, dies for and redeems those who have been given to Him (sheep/elect)
- The Holy Spirit regenerates, seals, and guides us.

Giving prior to coming

- The giving precedes the coming. This destroys the prescient view which states God looked ahead and saw who would come to Jesus and then He chose those specific people.
- Only those who are given(the elect) by the Father to the Son will come to Him.

The coming of the elect are a result of the monergistic work of God

- **1 Peter 1:24-25** and He Himself ^[a]bore our sins in His body on the ^[b]cross, so that we might die to ^[c]sin and live to righteousness; for by His ^[d]wounds you were healed. ²⁵ For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and ^[e]Guardian of your souls.
 - The word “returned” is the Greek word ἐπεστράφητε epestraphēte. The definition of this word is: returned: to turn towards; to turn round; to bring back, convert, to turn one's self upon or towards, to turn about,
 - This word is in the Aorist indicative passive, 2nd person plural.
 - Aorist means expressing a past action. Indicative means being presented as fact. The word is used in 2nd person and being plural applies to more than one. The passive voice is used to show that the subject of the verb is acted on by an outside force. The subject receives the consequences of the action.
 - This is showing the sovereign unilateral work of God in our regeneration and being born again. God the Holy Spirit seeks us and invades our souls to change the disposition of our hearts, minds, and wills. He takes out our heart of stone and puts in us a heart of flesh (**Ezekiel 36:26**) and changes our minds which are hostile to see the need for the Savior. He grants us repentance (**John 6:65**), (**2 Timothy 2:24-26**), (**Phil 1:29**) which is the Greek word metanoia which means a change of mind. Our minds are changed, we repent, place faith in Christ, and come to the shepherd! This is from God and God alone. We are acted upon by God as the passive tense of this word shows.

God does not reject those who truly, honestly, and in repentance come to Him and believe.

- The elect are the only ones who come to Christ in true repentance and faith.
- There has never been nor will there ever be someone who honestly comes to Christ in repentance and puts true faith in Christ who will be rejected by Jesus. This is a misunderstanding of reformed theology. No one in their unregenerate heart will ever come to Him or ever want to come to Him. Only those who have been born again will come to Him and those who have been born again are the elect.
- All that come to Him (the elect) He will certainly not cast out as those who are foreknown (chosen) by the Father will be glorified.
- The coming of those who are given is absolute. God does not fail.

Verse 38

Coming down from Heaven

- Jesus states He came down from Heaven which is a point that is labored in Chapter 6.
- His coming down from Heaven speaks to pre-existence, His deity, and the incarnation.
- His coming down speaks to Him being the Son of Man (**Daniel 7:13-14**)(**John 3:13**)

To do the will of Him who sent Me

- Jesus, the Son of Man, was sent down to earth by the Father, God as He had set His seal on His Son.
- Jesus did not come to do His own will, but the will of the Father.
 - **John 4:34** Jesus *said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.
 - **John 5:30** “I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.
 - **John 17:4** I glorified You on the earth, ^[a]having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.
 - **Matthew 26:39** And He went a little beyond *them*, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.”

Verse 39

The will of the Father. What is the will of the Father and has Christ Failed?

- The will of the Father is that Jesus loses no one that He has given Him and raises them all up on the Last Day to live with God forever and be glorified.
- This speaks to the golden chain of redemption (**Romans 8:29-30**). What starts with election ends with glorification.
- This also speaks to the perseverance of the saints. There are no dropouts of the elect. All the elect will be saved and be raised up on the Last Day. Christ loses nothing!
- To believe that one can truly be saved and then lose their salvation is to say that Jesus has failed and has not done the will of the Father.

Verse 40

The will of the Father, human responsibility, eternal life, and resurrection on the Last Day

- The will of the Father is that all who behold the Son and believe in Him will have eternal life and be raised on the Last Day to forever be with God! God does not fail.
- This speaks to the human responsibility of believe in Christ. We are to place faith in Christ, believe in Him and confess Him with our mouths which are actions that we are required to do. However, no one wants or can do those things without our souls being born again first in regeneration.
- Who is raised up on the Last Day? Those who are given by the Father to the Son before the world was!

So often we think of our salvation as the moment in time and space where we believe and place faith in Christ. That is a part of our salvation, but that is a cheap and shallow view on salvation. The words “to save” are in every tense of the Greek. We were in a sense saved from the foundation of the world through God foreknowing us, we were saved at the time of our regeneration and justification, we are saved and being saved throughout our Christian life, but ultimately the total fulfillment of our salvation will be with God in Heaven when we see Him as He is. The depth and magnitude of our salvation is amazing and can never be truly comprehended. However, let us know that our salvation started and was guaranteed before the world was when the Father chose His elect, wrote their names in the Lamb’s Book of Life, and gave them to the Son. The Son would then die for the those whom the Father had given Him, and the Holy Spirit would regenerate and seal the same people, guaranteeing their inheritance. The chief of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever which is the end result of those who come to Christ. If you have come to Christ, it is because before the world was, the Father loved you with same love in which He loved His Son (**John 17:24**) and gave you to His only begotten Son! Jesus who came to do the will of the Father would complete His work on the cross as He cried out on behalf of those who had been given to Him as He laid His life down for them and cried “It is finished!”