

# Salvation Theology

Red or Green or Inbetween?

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What is 'Salvation'?

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*“The deliverance, by the grace of God, from eternal punishment for sin which is granted to those who accept by faith God’s conditions of repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus.”*

# Red or Green or Inbetween?

What are some 'Salvation' verses?

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*For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.*

*[John 3:16 NLT]*

*If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

*[Romans 10:9 NLT]*

# Red or Green or Inbetween?

What are some 'Salvation' verses?

*Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.*

*[Ephesians 1:4-5 NLT]*

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Wait a minute...do we ask for salvation, or does God pick us for salvation?

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We are going to compare two different Christian ideas on how God has designed our salvation.

# Red or Green or Inbetween?

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*“For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth and chase after myths.”*

*[2 Timothy 4:2-4]*

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We study theology to understand better, to appreciate God more, and to protect against false ideas.

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Let's be careful to study this topic for the right reasons!

# Red or Green or Inbetween?

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Why use colours in discussing the viewpoints?

- I will be using the labels RED/GREEN for the two ideas of how 'salvation' works to avoid bias and preconceptions.
- If you know what the colors mean, please don't tell the class till the end.
- Try to mentally keep track of which 'colour' most closely agrees with your own views.
- Both sides are backed up with true believers and Bible verses so this isn't going to be easy.
- This will hopefully promote more study and thought!

# Red or Green or Inbetween?

## **WARNING!**

- This is a brief, simplistic, introductory discussion of the Theology of Salvation
- There are many more 'colour hues' than we can cover today
- This will raise many questions with no time for answers
- There are many Bible verses that we will not have time to mention that are relevant
- You should study this topic in more detail before drawing any conclusions

# Red or Green or Inbetween?

## The Sovereignty of God

Does it mean:

- He orders and directs everything in the Universe?
- Nothing can interfere or obstruct His will?



# Red or Green or Inbetween?

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**TOTALLY** Because of the Fall, we have inherited a corrupted, depraved nature. "Prevenient" (preceding) grace has removed the guilt and condemnation of Adam's sin.

# Red or Green or Inbetween?

## Our Human Sin Condition

Does it mean:

- We are born guilty of sin because of Adam? [imputed]
- We are born with a predisposition to sin? [inherited]



# Red or Green or Inbetween?

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**CONDITIONALLY** Election is based on God's foreknowledge of those who would believe in him through faith. God elected those who would choose him of their own free will. Conditional election is based on our future response.

Red or Green or Inbetween?

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**ALL** Christ died for everyone. The Savior's atoning death provided the means of salvation for the entire human race. Christ's atonement, however, is effective only for those of us (the elect) who believe.

# Red or Green or Inbetween?

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**YES** Through the preparatory (prevenient) grace given to all by the Holy Spirit, we are able to cooperate with God and respond in faith to salvation. Through prevenient grace, God removed the effects of Adam's sin. Because of "free will" we are also able to resist God's grace.

Red or Green or Inbetween?

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**NO** By the exercise of free will, we can turn away or fall away from grace and lose our salvation.

# Red or Green or Inbetween?

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**GOD ONLY** Salvation is accomplished by the almighty power of the Triune God. The Father chose a people, the Son died for them, the Holy Spirit makes Christ's death effective by bringing the elect to faith and repentance, thereby causing them to willingly obey the gospel. The entire process (election, redemption, regeneration) is the work of God and is by grace alone. Thus God, not us, determines who will be the recipients of the gift of salvation.

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**GOD & US** Salvation is accomplished through the combined efforts of God (who takes the initiative) and us (who must respond) - our response being the determining factor. God has provided salvation for everyone, but His provision becomes effective only for those who, of their own free will, "choose" to cooperate with Him and accept His offer of grace. At the crucial point, our will plays a decisive role; thus we, not God, determines who will be recipients of the gift of salvation.

# Red or Green or Inbetween?

## *Summary: Easy Acronyms for RED and GREEN*

T	Total Depravity
U	Unconditional Election
L	Limited Atonement
I	Irresistible Grace
P	Perseverance of the Saints
F	Freed by Grace (to Believe)
A	Atonement for All
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*Analogy: Drowning Victims*

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## *Analogy: Drowning Victims*

All people are floating in the water dead in their natural condition (total depravity). They are born dead because that has been the condition of humanity since the first man and woman jumped into the water and died (original sin). There must be intervention if they are to be saved.



# Red or Green or Inbetween?

**RED** While God calls out to all of them (general call), due to his mysterious choice, he brings back to life (regeneration) only certain people (election) while passing by the rest (reprobation). He does not use a life preserver, but grabs a hold of the elect individually and immediately pulls them onto the boat (monergism). They naturally grab a hold of God as a consequence of their regeneration (irresistible grace; sola fide). They forever stay on the boat due to their perpetual ability to recognize God's beauty (perseverance of the saints).

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**GREEN** God uses his power to bring every one of them back to life (prevenient grace), but they are still in the water and in danger of drowning. With the regenerated ability to respond to God, now God throws the life preserver to them and calls on them all to grab hold of it. They then make the free-will decision on their own to grab a hold of the life preserver (faith) or to swim away. If they grab a hold, they must continue to hold as God pulls them in (synergism). They don't need to do anything but hold on. Any effort to swim and aid God is superfluous (sola fide). They can let go of the preserver at any time and, as a consequence, lose their salvation.

# Red or Green or Inbetween?

RED = ?

GREEN = ?

# Red or Green or Inbetween?

## RED = Calvinism

- Based on the theological beliefs and teaching of John Calvin (1509-1564), a leader in the Reformation
- Augustine originated the ideas

## GREEN = Arminianism (Wesleyanism?)

- Based on the views of Dutch theologian Jacobus Arminius (1560-1609)
- Was in reaction to the growth of Calvinism

Red or Green or Inbetween?

BONUS TOPICS!

# Red or Green or Inbetween?

## *GREEN Alternative to FACTS: DAISY*

D	Deliberate sin	Diminished depravity
A	All-encompassing call	Abrogated election
I	Infinite love	Impersonal atonement
S	Spontaneous faith	Sedentary grace
Y	Yieldedness of the Saints	Yieldable justification

Red or Green or Inbetween?

Beyond RED and GREEN

*Extreme/Heretical Views*

# Red or Green or Inbetween?

Fatalism	Supralapsarianism	Infralapsarianism	Molinism	Arminianism	Wesleyanism	Open View	Free Will	Process View	
John Gill	John Calvin	Augustine	Luis de Molina	Jacob Arminius	John Wesley	Greg Boyd	Pelagius	A. Whitehead	
Muhammed	Jonathan Edwards	Charles Spurgeon	William Lane Craig		H Orton Wiley	Clark Pinnock	Charles Finney		
God ultimately causes everything that happens									
God decreed the fall		God allowed the fall					God could not prevent the fall		
		Some things happen that God does not prefer							
God has two wills									
God has exhaustive and certain knowledge of the future						The future can't be known			
Emphasis on Forensic righteousness before God						Emphasis on restored relationship with God			
God is all powerful			God limits his power in the interest of relationship				God is not all powerful		
God is coercive whenever it suits His purposes				God can be coercive as a last resort				God isn't coercive	
Humanity is Totally Depraved		God's grace is necessary to be saved							
God's grace is irresistible / effectual		God's grace is prevenient / drawing				Jesus died for everyone			
Jesus died for the elect		Salvation cannot be forfeited				Salvation can be forfeited			
The gospel should be shared with everyone									
God created the world from nothing (creatio ex nihilo)									
Calvinists									
Particular Baptists									
Presbyterians									
		Lutherans							
		Southern Baptists							
				Classical Arminians					
				Assemblies of God					
						Methodists			
				General Baptists					
				Catholics					

# Red or Green or Inbetween?

**Hyper-Calvinistic:** The belief that it is not the duty of every unregenerate person without exception to repent and believe the gospel. Thus, according to this scheme, those who preach and witness are not to tell unregenerate people that God commands them to repent and believe the gospel.

- *No one can believe unless they are first regenerate*
- *God cannot require from us what we are unable to do*
- *Therefore God does not require the unregenerate to believe*
- *Therefore we should not tell people who might be unregenerate to believe*

# Red or Green or Inbetween?

**Pelagianism:** The belief that humanity are basically good and morally unaffected by the Fall. It views us as fundamentally good and in possession of libertarian free will. With regards to salvation, it teaches that we have the ability in and of ourselves (apart from divine aid) to obey God and earn eternal salvation.

- *God cannot require from us what we are unable to do*
- *God requires that we should be perfect*
- *Therefore we must be able to be perfect*

# Red or Green or Inbetween?

**Open Theism:** The belief that that God has granted to humanity free will and that in order for the free will to be truly free, the future free-will choices of individuals cannot be known ahead of time by God.

- *God's greatest attribute is love*
- *Man's free will is truly free*
- *God does not know the future*
- *God takes risks/learns/makes mistakes/changes his mind*

# Red or Green or Inbetween?

**Process Theism:** The belief that God is engaged in the time sequence. He doesn't know the future. He has ideals for the future, and he tries to lure us to actualize those ideals, but he does not control each individual or occasion on the atomic scale. God needs us because without us he's not concrete. He sets the ideals, but then we create the content and God expands his actuality through us. We add to him.

# Red or Green or Inbetween?

The knowledge of God

*What does God know?*

# Red or Green or Inbetween?

## The knowledge of God

Free

Actual World

*Was, is, will be*

# Red or Green or Inbetween?

## The knowledge of God

Natural	Free
Possible Worlds	Actual World
<i>Could, can be</i>	<i>Was, is, will be</i>

# Red or Green or Inbetween?

## The knowledge of God

Natural	Middle	Free
Possible Worlds	Feasible Worlds	Actual World
<i>Could, can be</i>	<i>Would be</i>	<i>Was, is, will be</i>

# Red or Green or Inbetween?

**Molinism**: Named after 16th Century Jesuit theologian *Luis de Molina*, is a religious doctrine which attempts to reconcile the providence of God with human free will. *William Lane Craig* and *Alvin Plantinga* are some of its best known advocates today

# Red or Green or Inbetween?

*Then David prayed, “O Lord, God of Israel, I have heard that Saul is planning to come and destroy Keilah because I am here. Will the leaders of Keilah betray me to him? And will Saul actually come as I have heard? O Lord, God of Israel, please tell me.”*

*And the Lord said, “He will come.” Again David asked, “Will the leaders of Keilah betray me and my men to Saul?” And the Lord replied, “Yes, they will betray you.”*

*[1 Samuel 23:10-12 NLT]*

# Red or Green or Inbetween?

*Then Jesus began to denounce the towns where he had done so many of his miracles, because they hadn't repented of their sins and turned to God. "What sorrow awaits you, Korazin and Bethsaida! For if the miracles I did in you had been done in wicked Tyre and Sidon, their people would have repented of their sins long ago, clothing themselves in burlap and throwing ashes on their heads to show their remorse. I tell you, Tyre and Sidon will be better off on judgment day than you. "And you people of Capernaum, will you be honored in heaven? No, you will go down to the place of the dead. For if the miracles I did for you had been done in wicked Sodom, it would still be here today. I tell you, even Sodom will be better off on judgment day than you."*

*[Matthew 11:20-24 NLT]*

# Red or Green or Inbetween?

## The knowledge of God

Natural	Middle	Free
Possible Worlds	Feasible Worlds	Actual World
<i>Could, can be</i>	<i>Would be</i>	<i>Was, is, will be</i>

*“God not only knows what could happen, He knows what will happen in any given circumstance, and He chooses to create the world in which all circumstances and choices bring the most glory to His name” [“the most saved”? “best balance of saved/unsaved”?]*

# Red or Green or Inbetween?

*Somewhere Inbetween?*

R	Radical Depravity
O	Overcoming Grace
S	Sovereign Election
E	Eternal Life
S	Singular Redemption

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S	Sovereign Election	U	Unconditional Election (?)
E	Eternal Life	P	Perseverance of the Saints
S	Singular Redemption	A	Atonement for All

# Red or Green or Inbetween?

## Order of Salvation ('Ordo Salutis')

Irresistable Grace	Regeneration	Faith in Christ	Justification
Pre-event Grace	Conviction/Repentance	Faith in Christ	Regeneration/Justification

# Red or Green or Inbetween?

## The Sovereignty of God

- **Meticulous sovereignty:** God is the instrumental cause behind every action and reaction there has ever been.
- **Providential sovereignty:** While God is bringing about his will in everything, his will is not the instrumental cause of all that happens.
- **Providential oversight:** Here God's sovereignty is more of an oversight. He has a general plan, but is not married to the details.
- **Influential oversight:** Here God's sovereignty is self-limited.

Red or Green or Inbetween?



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