

# The Doctrines of Grace

## Ephesians 1:3-10

### Ephesians 1:3-10 (NASB)

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,  
<sup>4</sup> just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love  
<sup>5</sup> He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,  
<sup>6</sup> to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.  
<sup>7</sup> In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace  
<sup>8</sup> which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight  
<sup>9</sup> He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him  
<sup>10</sup> with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, *that is*, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him”

These are the so-called Five Points of Calvinism.

These are sometimes set forth in the form of an acrostic on the word “TULIP”, as follows:

**T** Total Depravity (i.e. Total Inability)

**U** Unconditional Election

**L** Limited Atonement (i.e. Particular Redemption)

**I** Irresistible Calling

**P** Perseverance of the Saints

### 3. LIMITED ATONEMENT

We do not overlook the fact that there are some Scriptures which refer to the “world”, and many have taken these as their starting point in the question of Redemption. However, when we compare scripture with scripture, we see that the use of the word “world” need not imply “every man and woman in the world.” “**Look, the world has gone after Him,**” they said of Jesus; every person, however, had not “gone after” Christ.

#### John 12:19 (NASB)

<sup>19</sup> “So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are not doing any good; look, the world has gone after Him.”

The expression means “every kind of person” — and normally Gentile as well as Jew. The over-riding question must always be the Divine intention; did God *intend* to save all men, or did He not? If He did not intend to save all men without exception but

only the elect, then, the work of Christ on the Cross is a glorious success, and we right well believe: “*All that the Father giveth me shall come to me . . .*” ([John 6:37](#)).

**John 6:37 (NASB)**

<sup>37</sup> “All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.

If, on the other hand, it was God’s intention to save the entire world, then the atonement of Christ has been a great failure, for vast numbers of mankind have not been saved. Christ paid our debt! *Whose* debt? **The worlds, or the elect’s?**

**John 1:29 (NASB) Large groups both Jews & Gentiles**

<sup>29</sup> The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world [*kosmos*]!”

sin of the world. See note on [v. 9](#); cf. [John 3:16](#); [John 6:33](#), [51](#).

**John 1:9 (NASB)**

<sup>9</sup> “There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.” [Or which enlightens every person coming into the world]

[John 1:9](#) the true Light...coming into the world. The marginal note is the preferred translation. The words “coming into the world” would be better grammatically if attached to “**light**” rather than “**every man**” and thus translated “the true Light coming into the world gives light to every man.”

This highlights the incarnation of Jesus Christ ([v. 14](#); [John 3:16](#)).

**John 1:14 (NASB)**

<sup>14</sup> “And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth”.

**John 3:16 (NASB)**

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life”.

**John 1:9 (NASB)**

<sup>9</sup> “There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.” [Or which enlightens every person coming into the world]

**which gives light to every man**. Through God’s sovereign power, every man has enough light to be responsible. God has planted His knowledge in man through general revelation in creation and conscience. The result of general revelation, however, does not produce salvation but either leads to the complete light of Jesus Christ or produces condemnation in those who reject such “**light**” (*see notes on [Romans 1:19-20](#); [Romans 2:12-16](#)*).

The coming of Jesus Christ was the fulfillment and embodiment of the light that God had placed inside the heart of man.

**John 1:9 (NASB)**

<sup>9</sup>“There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.” [Or which enlightens every person coming into the world]

the world. The basic sense of this Greek word meaning “an ornament” is illustrated by the word “cosmetic” (**1 Peter 3:3**).

**1 Peter 3:3 (NASB)**

<sup>3</sup>“Your adornment must not be *merely* external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses.”

While the NT uses it [the world] a total of **185 times**, John had a particular fondness for this term, using it **78 times** in his gospel of **John**, **24 times** in **1–3 John** and **3 times** in **Revelation**.

**John** gives it several shades of meaning:

- 1) the physical created universe (**v. 9**; cf. **v. 3**; **John 21:24-25**);

**John 1:9 (NASB)**

<sup>9</sup>“There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.” [Or which enlightens every person coming into the world]

**John 1:3 (NASB)**

<sup>3</sup>“All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.”

**John 21:24-25 (NASB)**

<sup>24</sup>This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and wrote these things, and we know that his testimony is true.

<sup>25</sup>And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written.

- 2) humanity in general (**John 3:16**; **6:32**, **51**; **12:19**); and

**John 3:16 (NASB)**

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life”.

**John 6:32 (NASB)**

<sup>32</sup>“Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven.”

**John 6:51 (NASB)**

<sup>51</sup>“I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.”

**John 12:19 (NASB) Large group of people**

<sup>19</sup>“So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are not doing any good; look, the world [*kosmos*] has gone after Him.”

3) the invisible spiritual system of evil dominated by Satan and all that it offers in opposition to God, His Word, and His people ([John 3:19](#); [4:42](#); [7:7](#); [14:17](#), [22](#), [27](#), [30](#); [15:18-19](#); [16:8](#), [20](#), [33](#); [17:6](#), [9](#), [14](#); cf. [1 Corinthians 1:21](#); [2 Corinthians 4:4](#); [2 Peter 1:4](#); [1 John 5:19](#)).

**John 3:19 (NASB)**

<sup>19</sup>“This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.”

**John 4:42 (NASB)**

<sup>42</sup>“And they were saying to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world.”

**John 7:7 (NASB)**

<sup>7</sup>“The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it, that its deeds are evil.”

**John 14:17 (NASB)**

<sup>17</sup>“*That is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.”

**John 14:22 (NASB)**

<sup>22</sup>“Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, “Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?”

**John 14:27 (NASB)**

<sup>27</sup>“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.”

**John 14:30 (NASB)**

<sup>30</sup>“I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me.”

**John 15:18-19 (NASB)**

<sup>18</sup> If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before *it hated* you.

<sup>19</sup> If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.

**John 16:8 (NASB)**

<sup>8</sup>“And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.”

**John 16:20 (NASB)**

<sup>20</sup>“Truly, truly, I say to you, that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; you will grieve, but your grief will be turned into joy.”

**John 16:33 (NASB)**

<sup>33</sup>“These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

**John 17:6 (NASB)**

<sup>6</sup>“I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.”

**John 17:9 (NASB)**

<sup>9</sup>“I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours.”

**John 17:14 (NASB)**

<sup>14</sup>“I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”

**1 Corinthians 1:21 (NASB)**

<sup>21</sup>“For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to* know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.”

**2 Corinthians 4:4 (NASB)**

<sup>4</sup>“In whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

**2 Peter 1:4 (NASB)**

<sup>4</sup>“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.”

**1 John 5:19 (NASB)**

<sup>19</sup>“We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in *the* power of the evil one.”