

Calvary Church, Brighton, UK



*An independent Bible-teaching baptist church
congregation of 40-50 people based on the south coast of England*

Today 21st November the service is led by Mark Rayfield
Speaker - Philip Wells pastor/elder
Subject – What is a gospel church? part 3– “Reformed”

*The local virus infection rate is high (1 in 60) so we ask you to respect the **space in the back hall** as Covid-secure by kindly retaining face-coverings while moving and while singing in Back Hall.*

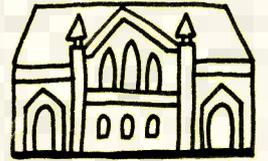
Children have activity in Gates Room - Megan

This evening – 18:30 at church – discussion on the morning’s teaching +
zoom “overspill”

24th November 19:45 Church Members’ meeting – in person

*26th November – Preachers’ training meeting
John Woods 20:00 in person in Gates Room*

Calvary Church Brighton



(Children have their own group today)

Welcome

Song: 174 Give thanks with a grateful heart

Song: 1293 Salvation belongs to our God

Prayer – with Lord's prayer

Bible reading: John 6:25-59

Prayer of intercession

Song: We approach the throne of glory

Talk – What is a reformed gospel church (part 3)?

Song: 772 Amazing grace! How sweet the sound ..

Closing prayer

***Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given
Jesus Christ, his Son.***

***Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given
Jesus Christ, his Son.***

***And now let the weak say, 'I am strong',
let the poor say, 'I am rich',
because of what the Lord has done for us.***

***And now let the weak say, 'I am strong',
let the poor say, 'I am rich',
because of what the Lord has done for us.***

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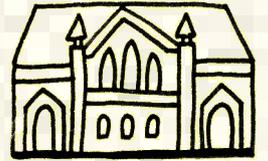
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***Henry Smith © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music
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Closing prayer

***Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb.***

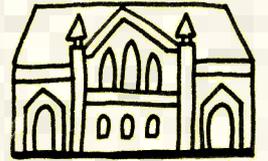
***Praise and glory, wisdom and thanks,
honour and power and strength***

***Be to our God for ever and ever,
be to our God for ever and ever,
be to our God for ever and ever.
Amen.***

***And we, the redeemed, shall be strong
in purpose and unity,
declaring aloud:
'Praise and glory, wisdom and thanks,
honour and power and strength***

***Be to our God for ever and ever,
be to our God for ever and ever,
be to our God for ever and ever.
Amen'.***

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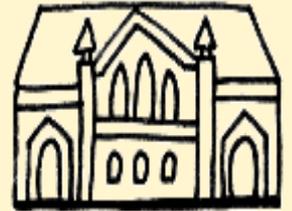
Song: We approach the throne of glory

Talk – What is a reformed gospel church (part 3)?

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Closing prayer

The Lord's prayer



Our Father in heaven

- hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come,

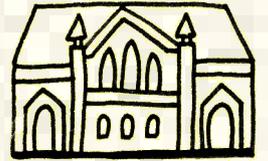
your will be done on earth as it is in heaven

Give us today our daily bread,

and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin
against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil
for yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for
ever and ever. Amen.

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Closing prayer

***I approach the throne of glory,
nothing in my hands I bring
but the promise of acceptance
from a good and gracious King.***

***2. I will give to you my burden
as you give to me your strength,
come and fill me with your Spirit,
as I sing to you this praise.***

***You deserve the greater glory,
overcome, I lift my voice
to the King in need of nothing,
empty handed I rejoice.
You deserve the greater glory,
overcome with joy I sing,
by your love I am accepted,
you're a good and gracious King.***

***3. O what grace that you would see me,
as your child and as your friend
safe, secure in you forever
I pour out my praise again***

***You deserve the greater glory,
overcome, I lift my voice,
to the King in need of nothing,
empty handed I rejoice.***

***You deserve the greater glory
overcome with joy I sing,
by your love I am accepted,
you're a good and gracious King.***

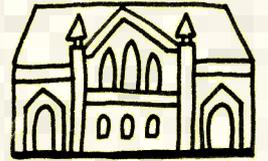
***Holy, holy, Lord Almighty
good and gracious
good and gracious.***

***Holy, holy, Lord Almighty,
good and gracious King.***

***You deserve the greater glory,
overcome, I lift my voice,
to the King in need of nothing,
empty handed I rejoice,
You deserve the greater glory,
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***Jonny Robinson, James Ferguson, Michael Farren © 2019 City Alight Music
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Closing prayer

Q; different churches?

Last time: churches,

Catholic, Protestant, Pentecostal, Baptist

Anglican, Methodist ...

... all different sort of churches

... does it matter? Are they all the same?

Answer: the main thing is "if you listened openly to their message would you hear the gospel"

(=> implications about what actually a Christian is)

What is Gospel?

Gospel = good news

Old English: good+spel ...

Original Greek: Ev-angel ...

(hence *evangelical* church, *gospel* church)



What is the gospel?

What the apostle Paul tells us

"By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly ...Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures that he was buried that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures" 1 Corinthians 15:3,4

- message (words), to be believed ("held firmly")
- about Jesus Christ
- about his death and resurrection
- the Scriptures are where it is found (OT+NT)
- it deals with sin ... sp. Forgiveness, removal of guilt and shame
- it is the only way to be saved v.2

How does someone become a Christian?
How does someone come to have this faith that saves?

- faith, not formality (e.g. baptised as a baby)
- needed faith: not everyone has it
- how do some have faith?
 - Clever?
 - Spiritual?
 - ... or is it a gift?
 - ... do we look for the answer deep within God, rather than within the believer?
 - *"I was such a blind, self-centred, lost sinner, I would never have believed in God unless I he had opened my eyes and my heart ... not my choice, but yours"*

How does someone become a Christian

Drill down about becoming a Christian ...

- sin - how bad?
 - Is there a bit of goodness left, or is the human heart so anti-God that the person is incapable of choosing God
- God's choice to open my heart
 - 50% ... 75% ... 100%
- Christ's death for sin:
 - potentially die for my sin? or so definitely paid for that there was zero chance that I would pay for my own sins
- the effect of God's choice
 - Potentially successful, or once chosen **WILL** be saved
- the future
 - If God chooses to save me, and Christ died for my sin - in the final purposes of God ... is there a chance that I will not make it to heaven

How does someone become a Christian

Drill again - precise words about becoming a christian ...

- TULIP (1905, 1932, 1963??) -
 - = a slogan version of "Reformed" understanding of salvation
 - Total depravity - sin makes people incapable
 - Unconditional election - God chooses people
 - L : Particular Redemption - Christ actually died for his people
 - I irresistible grace : various forms of grace ("God's mercy and undeserved kindness in action") ... but there is one form that guarantees that it will accomplish what it set out to do
 - P: preservation of the saints: God can keep his people and bring them through right to the end
- ==> these are the ideas, but are they true?

How does someone become a Christian

About becoming a christian ...

- TULIP ... = "God chooses"

- Objection:

If God chooses people then (logically) there is no point in trying to persuade them... they will come if he has chosen them

A. God has also chosen the method by which they will come. Method = human beings speaking to fellow human beings

How does someone become a Christian

About becoming a christian ...

God chooses

God ordains preaching to the lost

... is it true?

... is it right?

... is it what Paul said (or just human thinkers ...
Augustine, Calvin, Puritans, John Piper ...)

... **is it what Jesus said ???**

- look at what Jesus said on this subject
- Implications
- Follow up this evening

What did Jesus say?

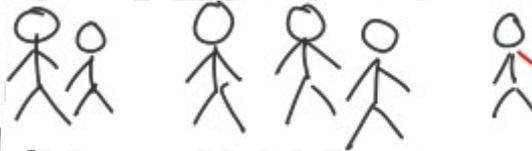
John 6:37,38,39,40 + 60-65

N.B. Father's will is stated twice

Will:v.40

Father

Son



What is the Father's will:

To whom can you offer this?

What must they do?

What is the end result? Who does it?

How many of those will be raised on the last day?

How many will be raised on the last day who have NOT done this?

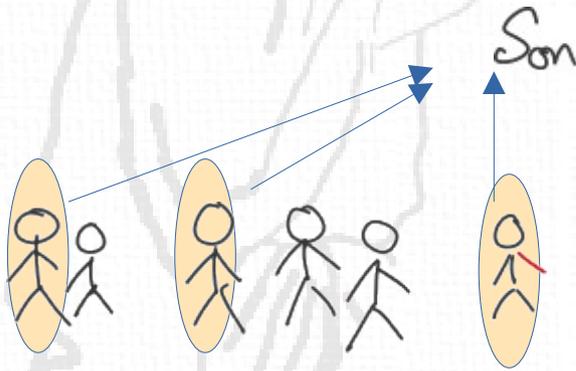
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John 6:37,38,39,40

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Father



What is the Father's will? look/believe= raised on last day

To whom can you offer this? Everyone

What must they do? look/believe

What is the end result, who does it? Jesus will raise on last day

How many of those will be raised on the last day? All

How many will be raised on the last day who have NOT done this?

- none!

What did Jesus say?

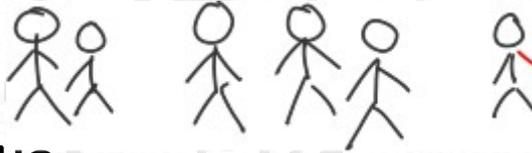
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Son



What is the Father's will?

To whom does it apply? Who does this? (v.37.v.39)

How many people does the Father give who do not come? v.45,

How many people come whom the Father does not give v.44, v.65

How many are given, but not raised up on the last day (=how many does Jesus fail to keep?) v.39

What did Jesus say?

John 6:37,38,39,40

N.B. Father's will is stated twice

Will:v.39

What is the Father's will?

To whom does it apply? Who does the Father give (v.37, v.39) given

How many people does the Father give who do not come? v.45,

- None - all the Father gives will come

How many people come whom the Father does not give v.44, v.65

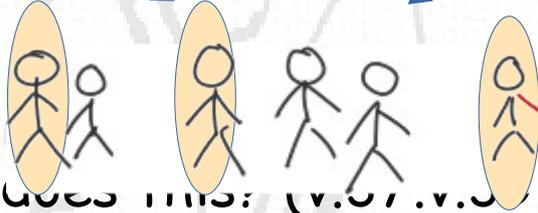
- No one can come

How many are given, but not raised up on the last day (=how many does Jesus fail to keep?) v.39

- Jesus is tasked with raising up all the given on the last day

Father

Son



What did Jesus say?

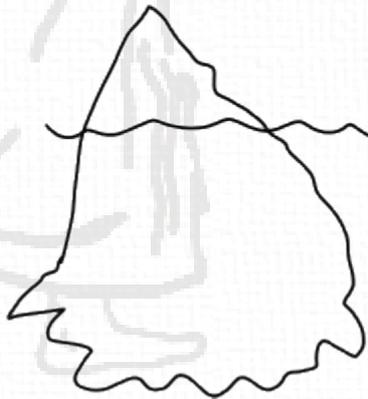
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Deuteronomy 29:29

"the **secret-eds** belong to the LORD our God, but the **openeds** belong to us and to our children for ever, that we may **do** all the words of this law"

Deut 29 = 29



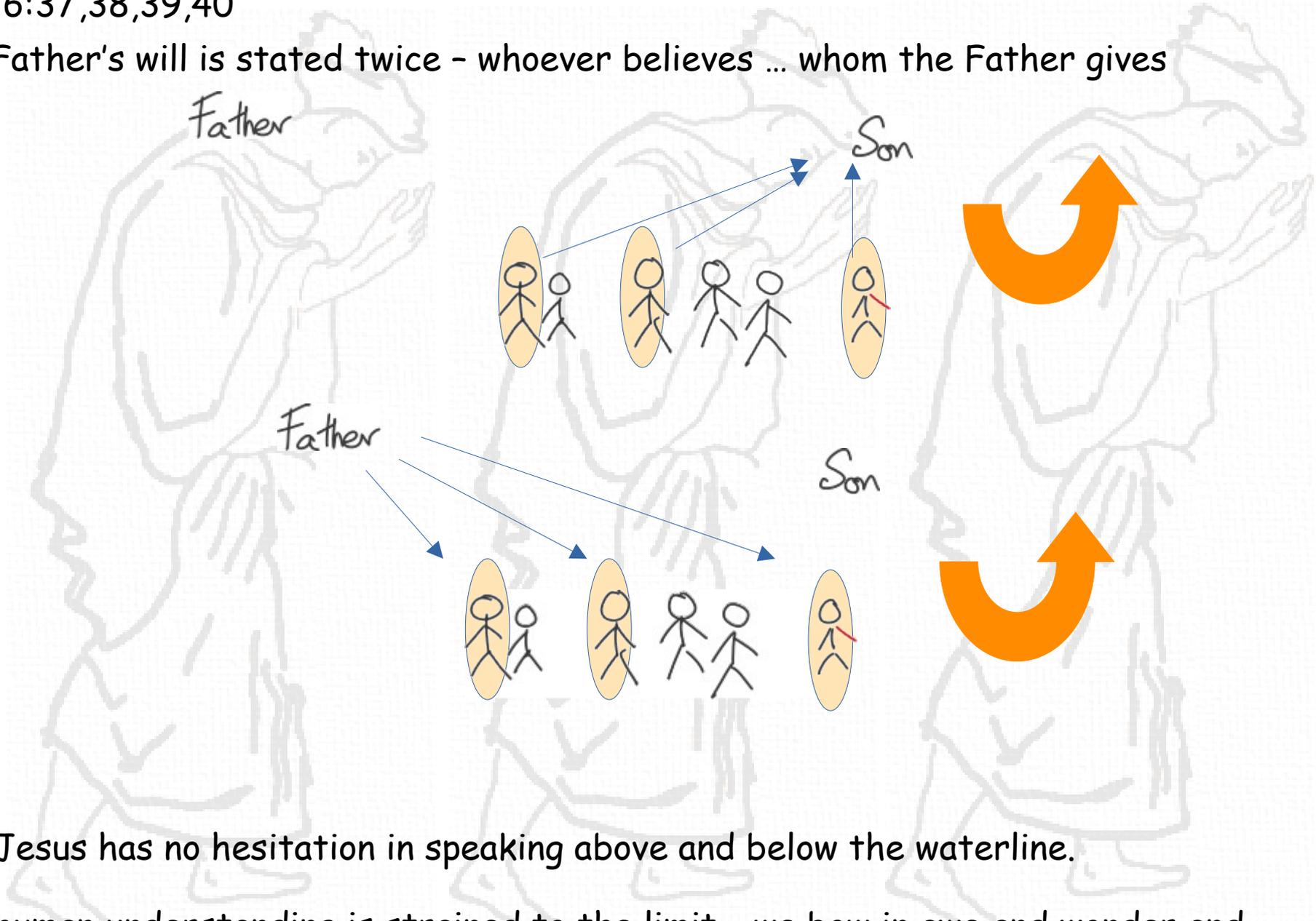
above

below

What did Jesus say?

John 6:37,38,39,40

N.B. Father's will is stated twice - whoever believes ... whom the Father gives



Jesus has no hesitation in speaking above and below the waterline.

human understanding is strained to the limit - we bow in awe and wonder and accept what he said

What did Jesus say?

He actually answers all these questions:

- T - how bad is sin? Are people capable of coming to Jesus without God drawing them
- U- bottom line: whose choice guarantees?
- F - can we promise anything to everyone
- L - does Christ (in his death) envisage his task is to save everyone without exception?
- I - is there anything in God's work that guarantees to succeed?
- P - can we be sure of anything for the future?

Conclusions - implications

1. how humble we ought to be ("chief of sinners")

- Who am I? A sinner saved by grace!
- What do I deserve? The just and fair holy displeasure of God

2. How grateful we ought to be ("to the praise of his glorious grace")

- I am saved not by anything in me, but as a free gift that I just cannot account for!
- "Oh the depths of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God..." Romans 11:33

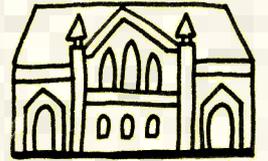
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Conclusions - implications

1. how humble we ought to be ("chief of sinners")
2. How grateful we ought to be ("to the praise of his glorious grace")
3. How confident we ought to be ("for I am convinced ..." Rom 8:38)
 - What was God doing before the foundation of the world ... planning salvation for me!
 - Will my sin make him let me go?
 - Will he forget? Is Jesus incompetent in this task to raise me up?
4. How compassionate we ought to be ("not will or effort ... mercy" Rom 9:16)
 - If God could save me, he can save anyone ...
 - Let me pray, let me seek to invite others ... let me look at other people via the grace of Christ who showed me mercy.

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Talk – What is a reformed gospel church (part 3)?

Song: 772 Amazing grace! How sweet the sound ..

Closing prayer

Praise! 772

***Amazing grace-how sweet the sound-
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.***

***2. God's grace first taught my heart to fear,
his grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!***

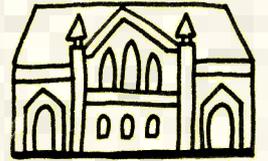
***3. Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
his grace has brought me safe this far
and grace will lead me home.***

***4. The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
my shield and great reward is he
as long as life endures.***

***5. And when this mortal life is past
and earthly days shall cease,
I shall possess with Christ at last
eternal joy and peace.***

***6. The earth will soon dissolve like snow,
the sun no longer shine;
but God, who called me here below,
will be for ever mine.***

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