

(1) Take a few minutes and let each person share briefly about their personal beliefs concerning divine election and predestination. How did you come to believe this? Was it the perspective of your parents, a teacher, a pastor, a friend, or did you come to this belief by reading and studying the Bible on the issue?

(2) What do you think Paul meant in Ephesians 1:4-6 when he said that God “chose us in him [Christ] before the foundation of the world”? Take time also to read Acts 13:48 and 2 Timothy 1:8b-9.

(3) What is the first impossibility that Jesus mentions in John 6? What does he mean when he says that “no one can come” to him “unless the Father” draws him? Does he mean we don’t possess a mind with which to evaluate the truth claims of the gospel? Does he mean we don’t possess a true will by which we can make decisions concerning the gospel? If not, what is the nature of this impossibility? What is its cause?

(4) What is the second impossibility? Read again John 6:37. What are the implications of the phrase “will come to me”? If all whom the Father gives to the Son “will” come to the Son, what does this tell us about whether or not the Father has given all people or only some to the Son?

(5) The third impossibility is concerned with the doctrine of the perseverance of the saints or what has also been called “eternal security”. What does this mean? Where in the words of Jesus do we see this being taught? Read through John 10:28-29; Romans 5:9-10; 8:29-30; 8:31-32; 8:35-39; 1 Cor. 1:7-9; Phil. 1:6; 1 Thess. 5:23-24; 1 Peter 1:3-5; Jude 24-25. What do these texts tell us about this issue?