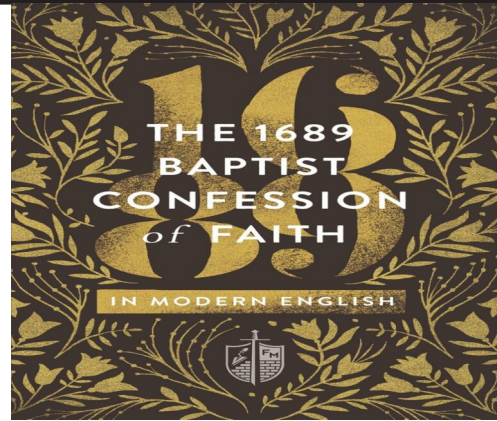


Chapter 3 – God’s Decree



1. From all eternity God decreed everything that occurs, without reference to anything outside himself.¹ He did this by the perfectly wise and holy counsel of His own will, freely and unchangeably. Yet God did this in such a way that He is neither the author of sin nor has fellowship with any in their sin.² This decree does not violate the will of the creature or take away the free working or contingency of second causes. On the contrary, these are established by God’s decree.³ In this decree God’s wisdom is displayed in directing all things, and His power and faithfulness are demonstrated in accomplishing His decree.⁴

¹Isaiah 46:10; Ephesians 1:11; Hebrews 6:17; Romans 9:15, 18. ²James 1:13; 1 John 1:5. ³Acts 4:27, 28; John 19:11. ⁴Numbers 23:19; Ephesians 1:3–5.

2. God knows everything that could happen under any given conditions.⁵ However, His decree of anything is not based on foreseeing it in the future or foreseeing that it would occur under such conditions.⁶

⁵Acts 15:18. ⁶Romans 9:11, 13, 16, 18.

3. By God’s decree, and for the demonstration of his glory, some men and angels are predestined (or foreordained) to eternal life through Jesus Christ,⁷ to the praise of His glorious grace.⁸ Others are left to live in their sin,

leading to their just condemnation, to the praise of His glorious justice.⁹

⁷1 Timothy 5:21; Matthew 25:34. ⁸Ephesians 1:5, 6. ⁹Romans 9:22, 23; Jude 4

4. These predestined and foreordained angels and men are individually and unchangeably designated, and their number is so certain and definite that it cannot be either increased or decreased.¹⁰

¹⁰2 Timothy 2:19; John 13:18.

5. Those men who are predestined to life were chosen by God before the foundation of the world, according to his eternal and unchangeable purpose and the secret counsel and good pleasure of his will. He chose them in Christ for eternal glory, purely as a result of his free grace and love,¹¹ without anything else about them serving as a condition or cause moving him to do so.¹²

¹¹Ephesians 1:4, 9, 11; Romans 8:30; 2 Timothy 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:9. ¹²Romans 9:13, 16; Ephesians 2:5, 12.

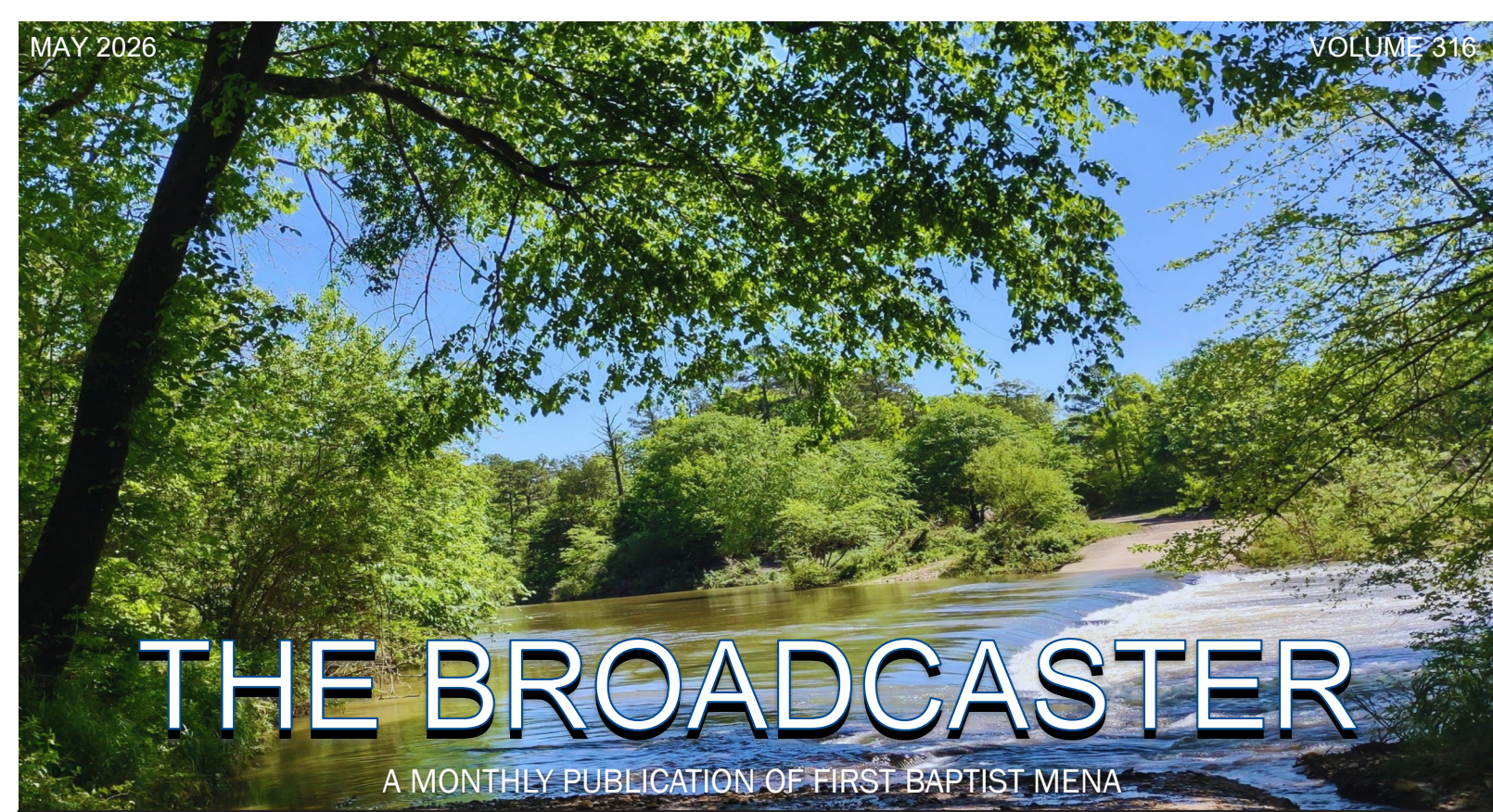
6. Just as God has appointed the elect to glory, so he has by the eternal and completely free purpose of his will foreordained all the means.¹³ Therefore, those who are elected, being fallen in Adam, are redeemed by Christ¹⁴ and effectually called to faith in Christ by his Spirit working at the appropriate time. They are justified, adopted, sanctified,¹⁵ and kept by his power through faith to salvation.¹⁶ No one but the elect are redeemed by Christ, or effectually called, justified, adopted, sanctified, and saved.¹⁷

¹³1 Peter 1:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:13. ¹⁴1 Thessalonians 5:9, 10. ¹⁵Romans 8:30; 2 Thessalonians 2:13. ¹⁶1 Peter 1:5. ¹⁷John 10:26; 17:9; 6:64.

7. The doctrine of the high mystery of predestination is to be handled with special prudence and care so that those heeding the will of God revealed in his Word and obeying him may be assured of their eternal election by the certainty of their effectual calling.¹⁸ In this way this doctrine will give reasons for praise,¹⁹ reverence, and admiration of God, as well as humility,²⁰ diligence, and rich comfort to all who sincerely obey the gospel.²¹

¹⁸1 Thessalonians 1:4, 5; 2 Peter 1:10. ¹⁹Ephesians 1:6; Romans 11:33. ²⁰Romans 11:5, 6, 20. ²¹Luke 10:20.

[This may be found in it's entirety @founders.org](http://founders.org)



THE BROADCASTER

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF FIRST BAPTIST MENA

From The Pastor’s Desk

Ordo Salutis is Latin for “Order of Salvation.” It is the order in which a believer is saved. It is an interesting theological conversation that is worth having. Not all agree on the exact details related to steps of salvation, but I would like to take the next few months to discuss from a Baptist perspective what we are convinced Scripture says, not just how we are saved but in what sequence that salvation takes place, starting just after the cross of Christ. We will begin with the Gospel Call as our subject for this month as it begins the journey to our right relationship with God through His reconciliation. The Gospel Call, otherwise known as the Effectual Call, is known as God, by His sovereign will, drawing a sinner to salvation. In fact, it is defined in the 1689 as an event in which “God converts a sinner, and translates him into the state of grace.” This calling involves a direct and personal summons on a person’s life accompanied by an awareness of God’s calling. It is termed “effectual” because it always accomplishes the purpose which God intends - salvation. In other words, God’s call on a person’s life will bring about the change that He desires, to bring that person into a relationship with Jesus as Lord and Savior. For all believers, this call is a reality that we have experienced.

To bring new life and ultimate restoration. Who exactly is responsible for the effectual call in a believer’s life? It is correct to say that all three persons of the Trinity are involved in this call. However, The New Testament largely points to the Father’s role in this endeavor. Recorded in John 6:44, Jesus states, “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him.” Paul in Romans 8:30, 1 Corinthians 1:9 and 1 Thessalonians 2:12 along with Peter in 1 Peter 2:9 focus on the Father’s calling unto salvation. This call, however, is made through the Holy Spirit who conquers the sinner’s heart to apply the saving grace of Jesus and His work on the cross. So, we can say that Jesus paid the price for the call that the Father makes through the power of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, the call is a surrender to our Creator through a God-given faith and a Spirit-empowered repentance. We understand that God initiates and carries out the work of salvation apart from any work on our behalf or earned merit. We better comprehend this when we read Paul’s words, “for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:13) The “Effectual Call” can be contrasted with what is described as the “General Call.” The former, when given, effects salvation as God intends. This does not negate man’s responsibility in salvation as all men are

universally called to repent and believe by our Savior in a general call. We can see the general call clearly in John 3:16 for example. God’s desire is obviously for all to come to salvation and be made right but sadly the lost defiantly refuse God’s merciful call. The effectual call on a person’s life is an absolute unequivocal miracle. It takes the dead, cold heart of an unregenerated person and breathes life into it. It takes the enemy of God who willfully stands in unwavering defiance and makes him into a child of God. It takes the lost soul wandering blindly in darkness and brings him home. It works in way that we can tangibly see in a person’s life without us fully understanding how God does it, hence the miracle. We are blessed beyond comprehension to have a God who shows such tremendous patience with us in our lostness and depravity. All the while, He granted us an overwhelming grace, that sent Jesus into the world, who by His sinless life, death and resurrection became a propitiation for our sins that we might benefit from God’s effectual calling in our lives and gain by His sacrifice. May we always relish the fact that God condescended to us and brought us life eternal realizing what we deserve and the reality of His effectual call.

May God bless you all,

Bro. Jim Tenney

FBC Family,
As we're finishing up the school year and gearing up for summer, most of our focus is not on learning, but I want to encourage you to think on who is teaching you and your family. We are always learning and something is always grabbing for our attention.

We as a church and in our families must be intentional on teaching each other sound doctrine. It is important to the spiritual health of our church and families that we teach what God has given us to know Him.

Last month, I defined doctrine. Doctrine simply means teaching or instruction, and sound doctrine literally means healthy teaching. That all doctrine is God given, found in Scripture alone, and always in agreement with the Gospel. The purpose of doctrine is that we would teach and learn how to properly follow God, find freedom in the Gospel, and promote good works in our Christian life. What are the basic doctrines of our faith? Our teaching should always begin with God.

Who is the God we seek to serve, seek to worship, and what is He like? If we have a misunderstanding of who God is, we will be misguided on who we are. When we have a correct view of who God is, we will begin to see the seriousness of our sin and our need for Christ Jesus.

**Who is God?
If He created me,
where is He at in my life?**

That is a question that so many have on a day-to-day basis. Yet, we must know who God is and what is separating mankind from God. That God is holy, and mankind in our sin, is not. God's holiness is His defining attribute. It is who God is and in everything He does, He is holy. In Isaiah 6:1-6, Isaiah catches just a glimpse of who God is and everything changes. Isaiah is a prophet of God, he is very prominent, he is well educated, and is near to king Uzziah. King Uzziah had been a good king for five decades, but now he has died. Who is going to be the next king and is he going to rule well? God brings Isaiah into His presence, and what does Isaiah see.

"In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above Him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of host; the whole earth is full of His glory!" - Isaiah 6:1-3

When Isaiah catches a small glimpse of God and who He is, everything changes. The focus is no longer on Uzziah. It is not on Isaiah, and it is not even on the majestic seraphim. The focus is all on the rightful King, the LORD of hosts. These angels who are mighty in power and have never sinned, cry out who God is. He is Holy, Holy, Holy. Notice the repetition. God is not just a little holy, but He is holy, holy, holy. It's as if these seraphim are saying God is Holy, He is holier, and He is holiest. He is holier than any person. He is holier than any created being and He is holiest. Nothing comes close to God's holiness. That may not seem like a big deal, but when we understand what it means to be holy, we begin to understand who God is. Holy means to be separate or set apart from anything unclean or common. It means to be completely pure, to be clean, and to be without blemish. God's holiness is who He is. He sits high above all things in complete perfection.

He is completely flawless, and absolute in purity. He will never cease to be completely holy, and He will never act in an unholy way. This means God will never allow anything unclean or unholy in His presence.

It is important to know that God is holy because we are not. Our sin has made us unclean in the eyes of God and it is what separates us from Him. We need to be made holy, and that comes only from believing in Christ Jesus. To learn the doctrine of God, we must know that God is holy, holy, holy.

-Jeremy Martinez

Building Foundations:
Using legos to teach the Word of God.
Wednesdays,
Beginning May 27th 2026
from 5PM-7PM
For Pre-K-6th Grades Completed
Register Here To Join The Fun!
Or @firstbaptistchurchmena.com

ROME
PAUL[™] UNDERGROUND CHURCH
FBC Mena VBS
June 7th-11th
6:00pm - 8:15pm
Ages 5 years-5th grade
(completed)
Register Here
or at firstbaptistchurchmena.com

Help launch our new discipleship program!
We are seeking dedicated and compassionate volunteers to serve as mentors.
To volunteer or learn more, please contact Bro. Jim.
Together, we can make a difference in the lives of new believers!

www.FiveDayBibleReading.com
2026 Edition

Week Nineteen: May 3-9
Day 1: 1 Samuel 26-27; 1 Chronicles 8; Acts 18
Day 2: 1 Sam 28-29; 1 Chr 9; Acts 19
Day 3: 1 Sam 30-31; 1 Chr 10; Acts 20
Day 4: 2 Sam 1-2; 1 Chr 11; Ps 96, 106; Acts 21
Day 5: 2 Sam 3-5; 1 Chr 12; Ps 122; Acts 22

Week Twenty: May 10-16
Day 1: 2 Sam 6; 1 Chr 13; Ps 60; Acts 23
Day 2: 1 Chronicles 14-16; Acts 24
Day 3: 2 Sam 7-8; 1 Chr 17; Ps 132; Acts 25
Day 4: 2 Sam 9-10; 1 Chr 18-19; Ps 89; Acts 26
Day 5: 2 Sam 11-12; 1 Chr 20; Ps 51,32; Acts 27

Week Twenty One: May 17-23
Day 1: 2 Samuel 13-14; Acts 28
Day 2: 2 Sam 15-17; Psalm 3, 63; Romans 1
Day 3: 2 Sam 18-20; Psalm 34; Romans 2
Day 4: 2 Sam 21-23; Psalm 18; Romans 3
Day 5: 2 Sam 24; 1 Chr 21; Romans 4

Week Twenty Two: May 24-30
Day 1: 1 Chr 22-25; Psalm 78; Romans 5
Day 2: 1 Kings 1; 1 Chr 26-27; Romans 6
Day 3: 1 Kings 2; 1 Chr 29; Romans 7
Day 4: 1 Kings 3; 2 Chr 1; Ps 42; Romans 8
Day 5: 1 Kings 4; Proverbs 1-2; Ps 43; Rom 9

When I resigned, because of health challenges, from the last church of which I was pastor, I was asked, "What are you going to do now?" I answered that I would wait to see what next exciting chapter God had for Sheila and me. Beyond moving to Mena to be near Sheila's aging parents, I really did not anticipate doing anything other than supply preaching. We joined First Baptist, and I began to do pulpit supply for area churches. After a few weeks, I was asked to teach the Senior Adult Men's Sunday School class, which I did. After about four months, the chaplaincy position at the Rich Mountain Nursing Home became vacant. I had applied and had been approved some years before to Marketplace Chaplaincy which contracted with the nursing home to provide a chaplain. I served as chaplain for a year before the nursing home sold to new owners and the chaplaincy ministry was discontinued. Two months after the chaplaincy ministry ended, I was asked to serve as interim Minister of Music at First Baptist. That was twelve years ago this past February. None of these things were planned by me. God opened the doors for me to serve in ways I would have never imagined.

I share all of this to point out the truth that the apostle James shared in James 4:14, "You do not know what your life will be like tomorrow." Some people think that, in order to be responsible, they have to have everything planned in detail. Oswald Chambers points out that certainty is the mark of the common-sense life, whereas "gracious uncertainty" is the mark of the spiritual life.

To be totally trusting of God, certain of His goodness and trustworthiness and sovereignty, is to be uncertain about our ways, for we do not know what tomorrow will bring or how God will lead. Abraham, when God called him, "went out, not knowing where he was going" (Hebrews 11:8). As Jesus taught in Matthew 6:34, "Do not be anxious for tomorrow, for tomorrow will care for itself." We are not uncertain of God, but uncertain of what He is going to do next... "it is gloriously uncertain how He will come in, but He will come. Remain loyal to Him." (Oswald Chambers).

Blessed to Serve,



Bro. Vernon