

Ephesians 1: 1-14

Saints and the will of God

By the will of God

Calvinistic understanding of salvation. We use the acronym TULIP to convey these beliefs. **These five points arose from the Synod of Dort in 1618-1619.** Total Depravity, Unconditional election, Limited atonement, Irresistible grace, and the Perseverance of the saints.

Predestination Latin predestination; *God's actions in willing something to a specific result.* ---Westminster Dictionary of theological terms.

Did Saul have a choice? Wesleyan Arminian view of original sin.

Prevenient grace- That God draws to Himself the unregenerate, who by reason of original sin, would otherwise be inclined to sin and evil.

Paul is all he is because of God's will. All of us have a desire, but the issue is not what we want, but as Christians daily bending our will and desires and causing them to conform to God's. He has a plan of salvation for this world; it involves each and every one of us.

Two terms "**faithful**" and "saints".

Saints- This comes from the Greek word (ἅγιοι) hagioi meaning "**holy** ones".

This expression was taken from the Old Testament. It was a designation for Israel and their being set apart for God. They had a special plan and purpose and they were to be pure in many ways:

- 1: To show themselves as an example of how God wants us to live.
- 2: To be a pure vessel in which God's plans can be enacted upon the world.

The OT view however was more of dedication of persons, places or things for the use of God. The NT connotation is more in line with a moral frame work. This is better understood in 2: 21 when Christians are viewed as a holy temple.

For a further understanding we need to read Romans 1: 7. Here we see a tie in with the concept of the "will of God" and being "called". We see the terms saints applied here in 3 senses:

- 1: As members of the visible and **local** community (Acts 9:32)
- 2: As members of a **spiritual** community. (I Corinthians 1: 2)
- 3: As **individuals** who are holy. (Ephesians 1: 18)

V2 embodies an outcome of this will. **Grace and Peace**. These words are standard greetings for Gentiles and Jews of this day.