

Alive in Christ

A SERMON SERIES IN ROMANS

ROMANS 8:29-30

The Golden Chain

1. Links are in **Order**
2. Links are **Essential**
3. Links are **Unbreakable**



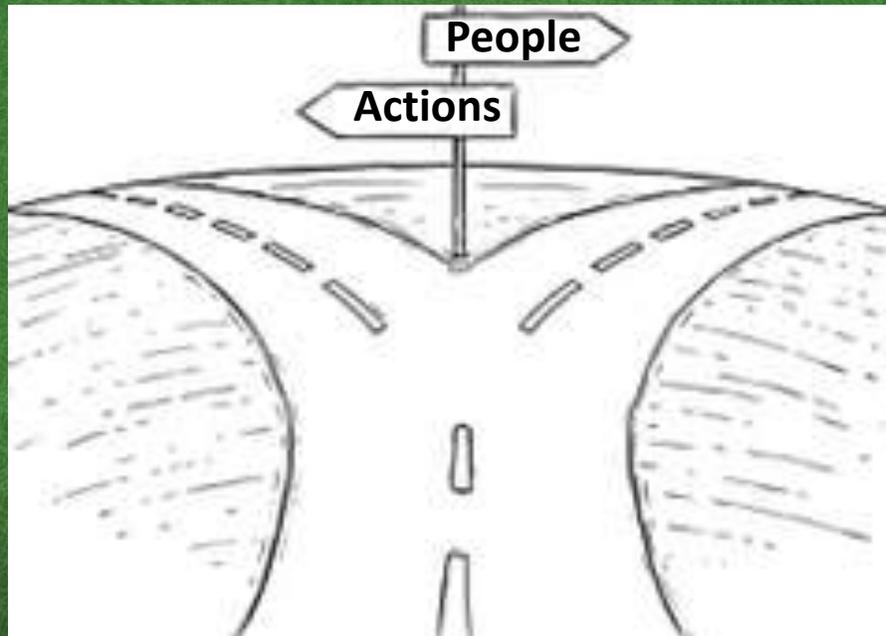
The Golden Chain

4. Links are **Sovereign Acts of God**

5. Links Go from **Eternity Past to Eternity Future**

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The First Link: Foreknowledge



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A. Wrong View of Foreknowledge

From Eternity past God looked down the corridors of time & saw who would believe & who would not. God then predestined those people He foresaw would believe.

1. God Foreknows **People**

Romans 9:10-16 ‘And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad, in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.... “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”

So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy..”

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2. God Foreknows **All Things**

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3. God Foreknows means **Intimate Relationship**

Gen 4:1 Now Adam knew Eve his wife & she conceived and bore Cain

Amos 3:2 “You only have I known of all the families of the earth

Mat 7:23 And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

4. God Foreknows does not mean
Foresee

5. God Foreknows means **God Foreordains**

Acts 2:23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

Rom 11:2 God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

I Peter 1:1-2 To those who are elect exiles.. according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood

6. God does not save us by our **Works**

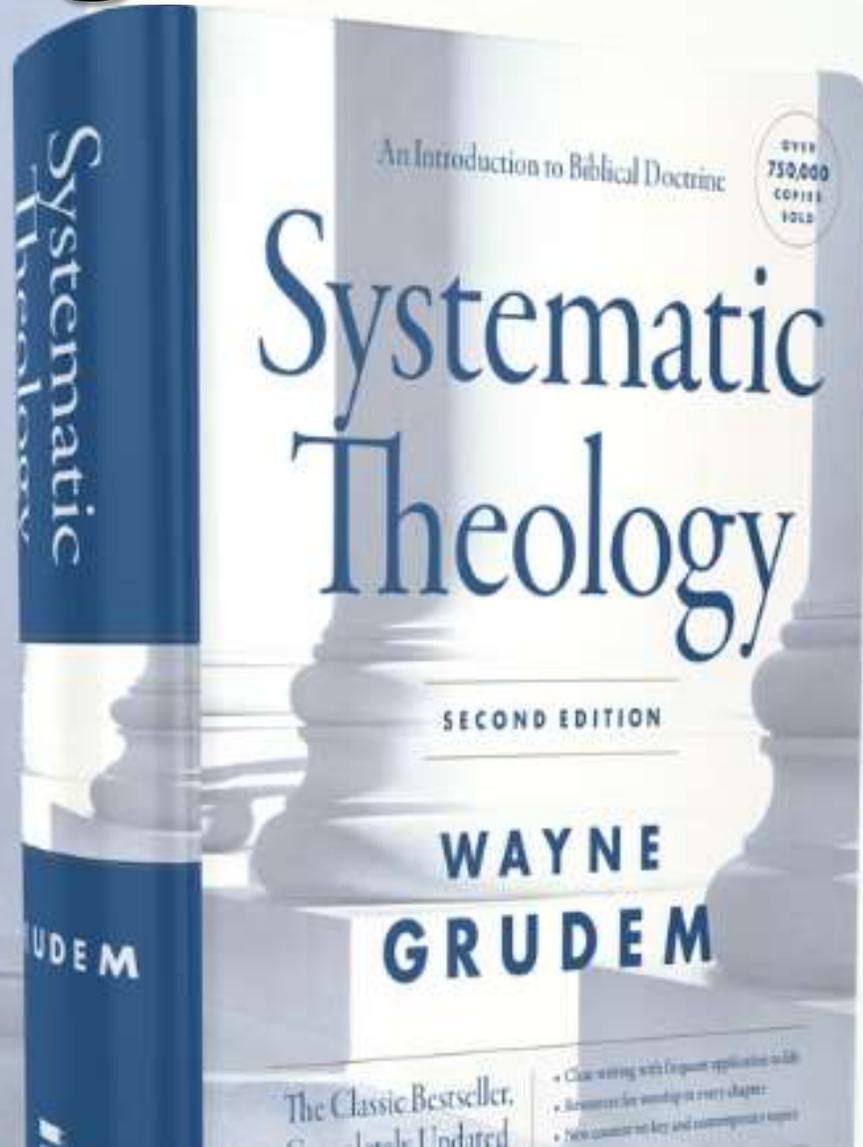
Ephesians 2:8-9 'For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.'

7. We are **Totally Depraved**

Romans 3:10-18 “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” “Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive.” “The venom of asps is under their lips.” “Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.” “Their feet are swift to shed blood; in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they have not known.” “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

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Right View of Foreknowledge

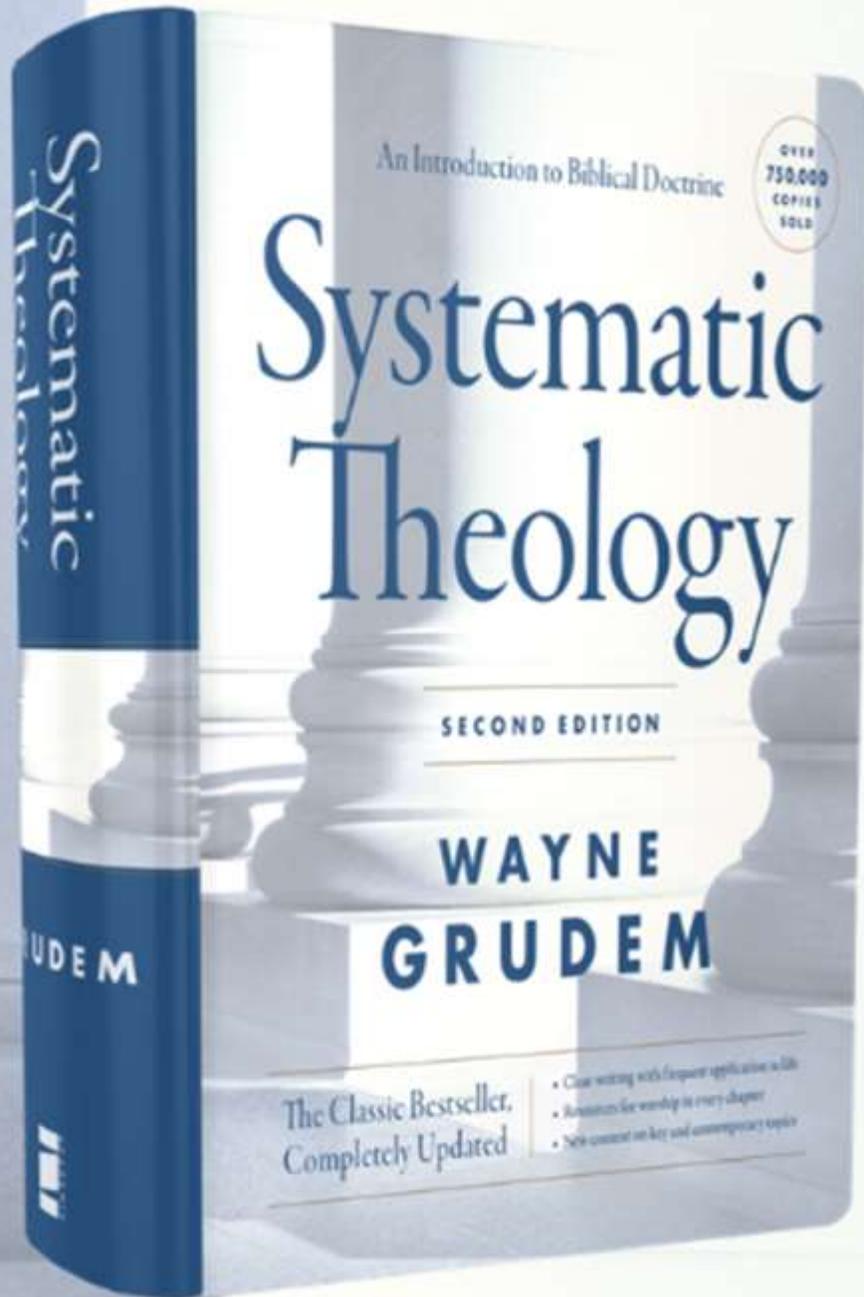


Foreknowledge: ‘Relating to the doctrine of election, the personal, relational knowledge by which God thought of certain people in a saving relationship to himself before creation. This is to be distinguished from the mere knowledge of facts about a person’ Grudem

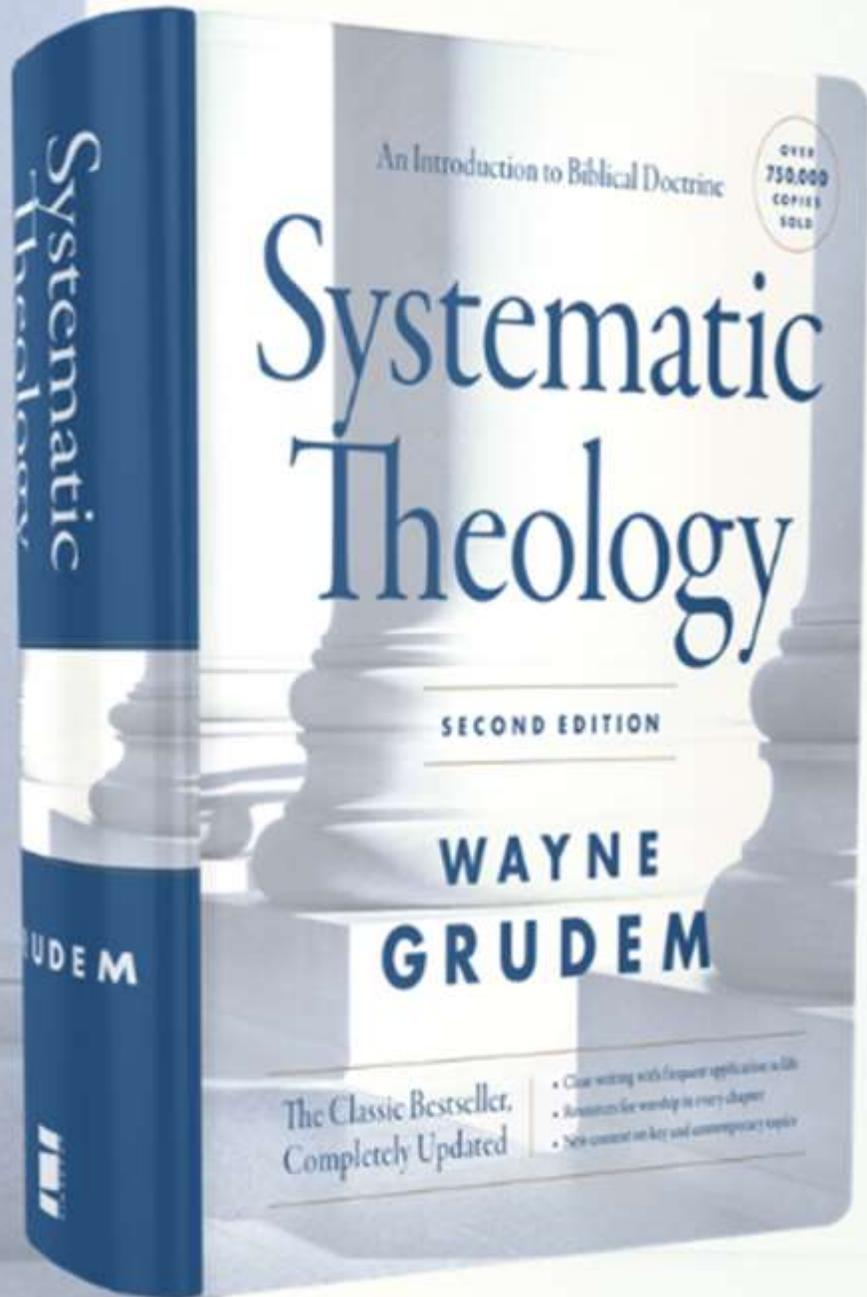
The Second Link: Predestination



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Predestination: ‘Another term for election in reformed theology generally this is a broader term that includes not only election for believers but also reprobation for unbelievers’ Grudem



Election: 'An act of God before creation in which He chooses some people to be saved not on account of any foreseen merit in them, but only because of His sovereign good pleasure' Grudem

Examples

1. God Predestined the **Cross**

Acts 4:27-28 'for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had **predestined** to take place.'

2. God Predestined **Salvation**

Eph 1:11 'In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will'

3. God Predestined **All Things**

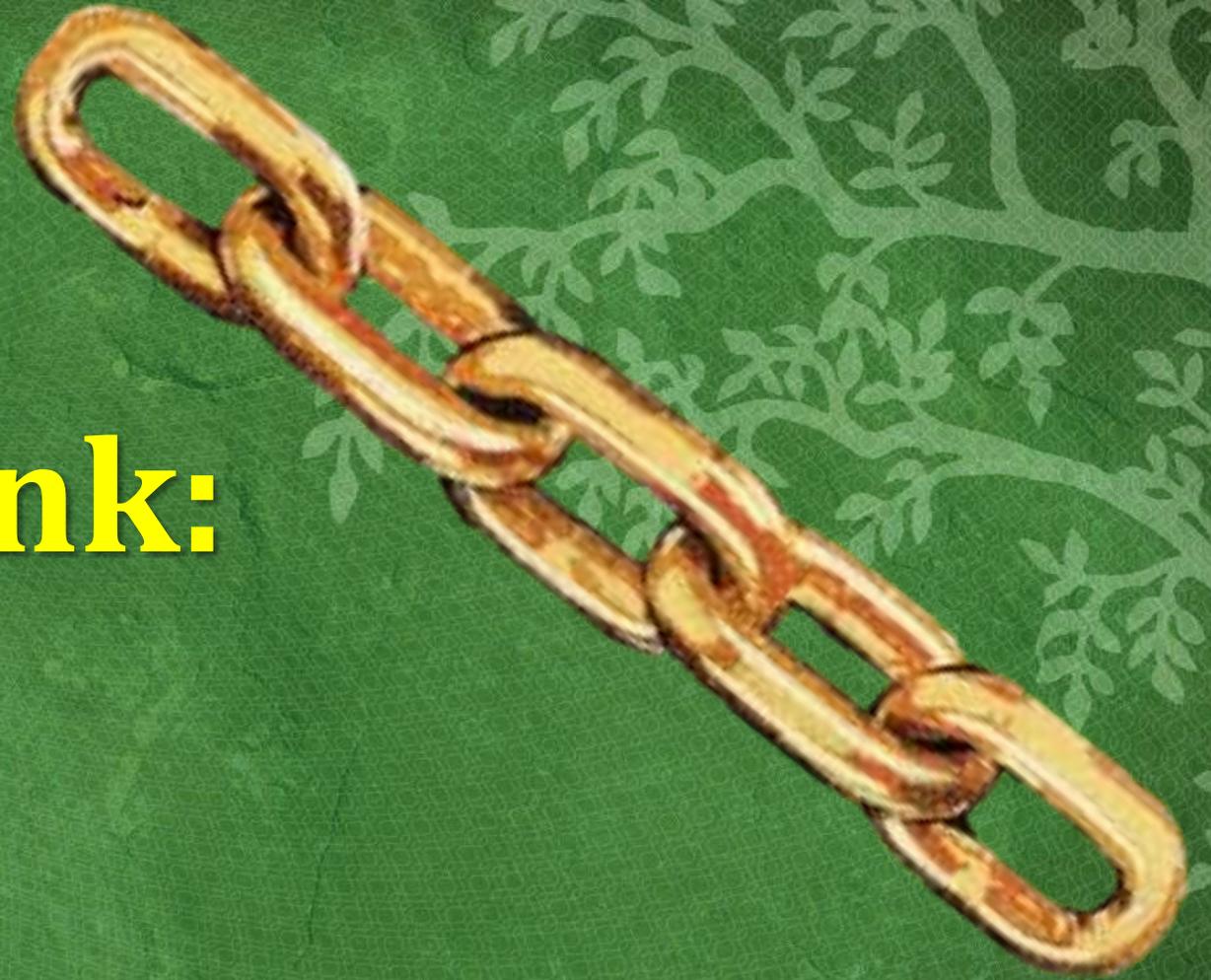
Rom 8:28 'And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.'

Results

1. We will be
Conformed to Christ

2. Christ will be
Preeminent

The Third Link: Calling



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1. **General** Call

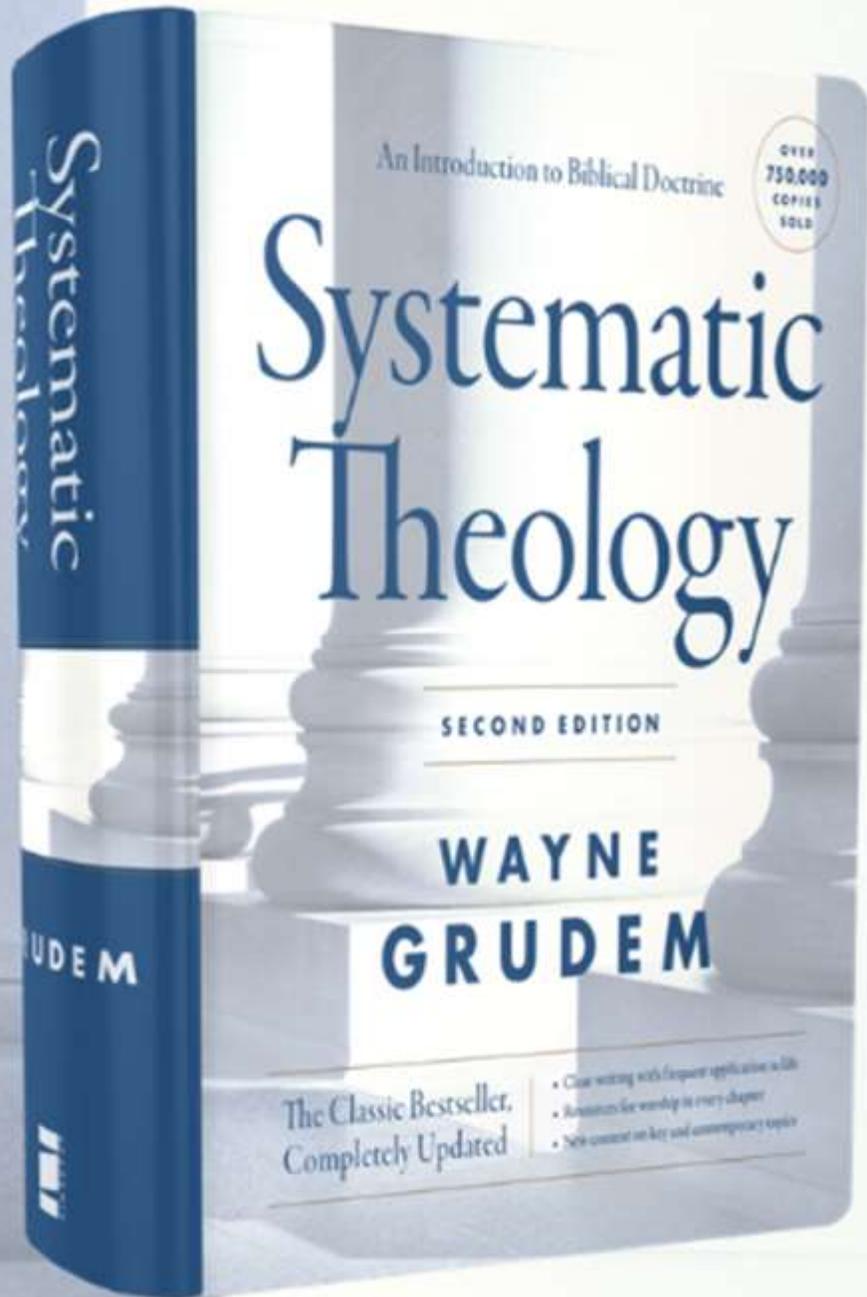
Matthew 11:28 'Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.'

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2. **Effectual** Call

Acts 16:14 One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.

John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.



Effective Call: ‘An act of God the Father, speaking through the human proclamation of the Gospel, in which He summons people to Himself in such a way that they respond in Saving Faith’ Grudem

Implications

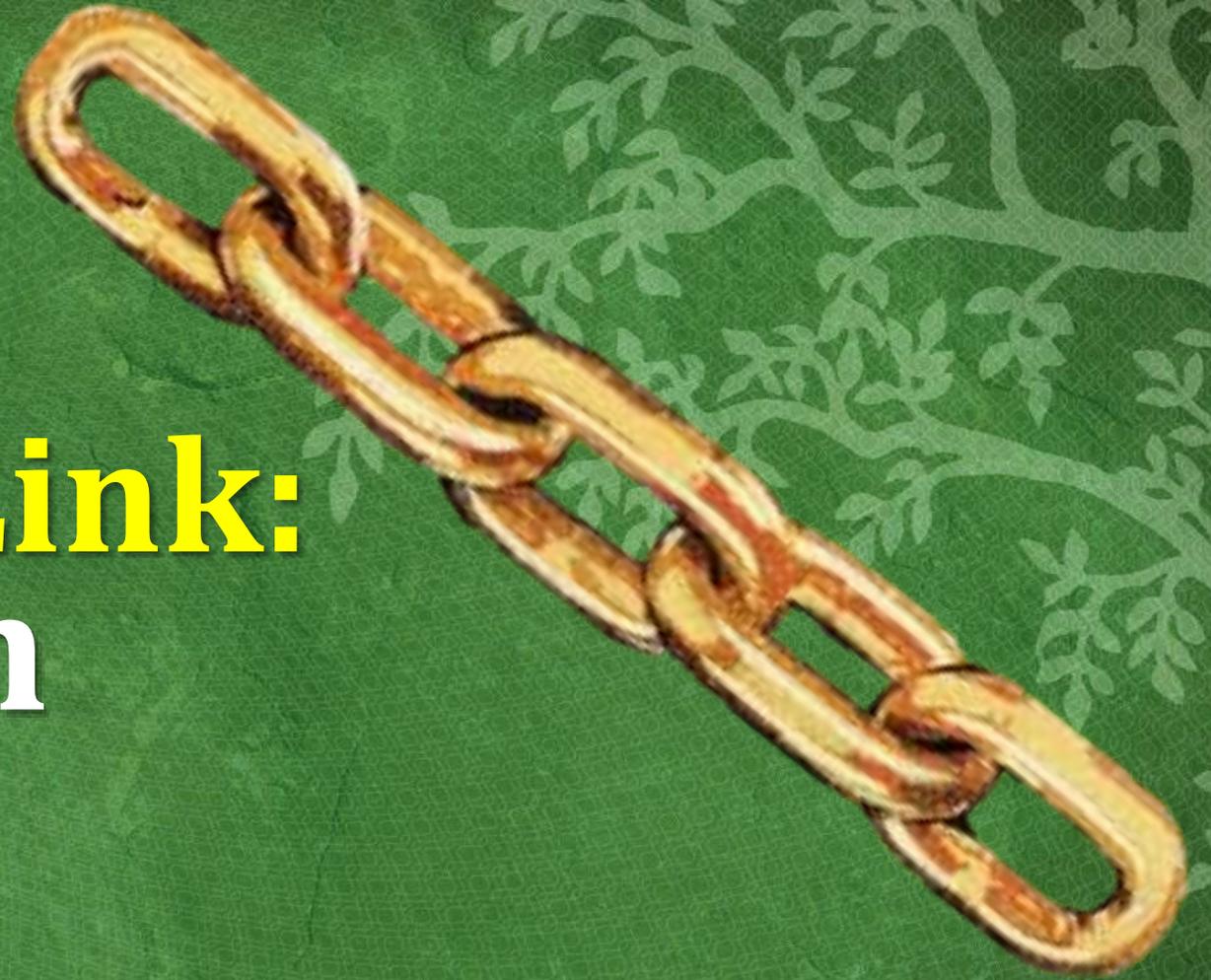
1. God's Children

Irresistibly Respond

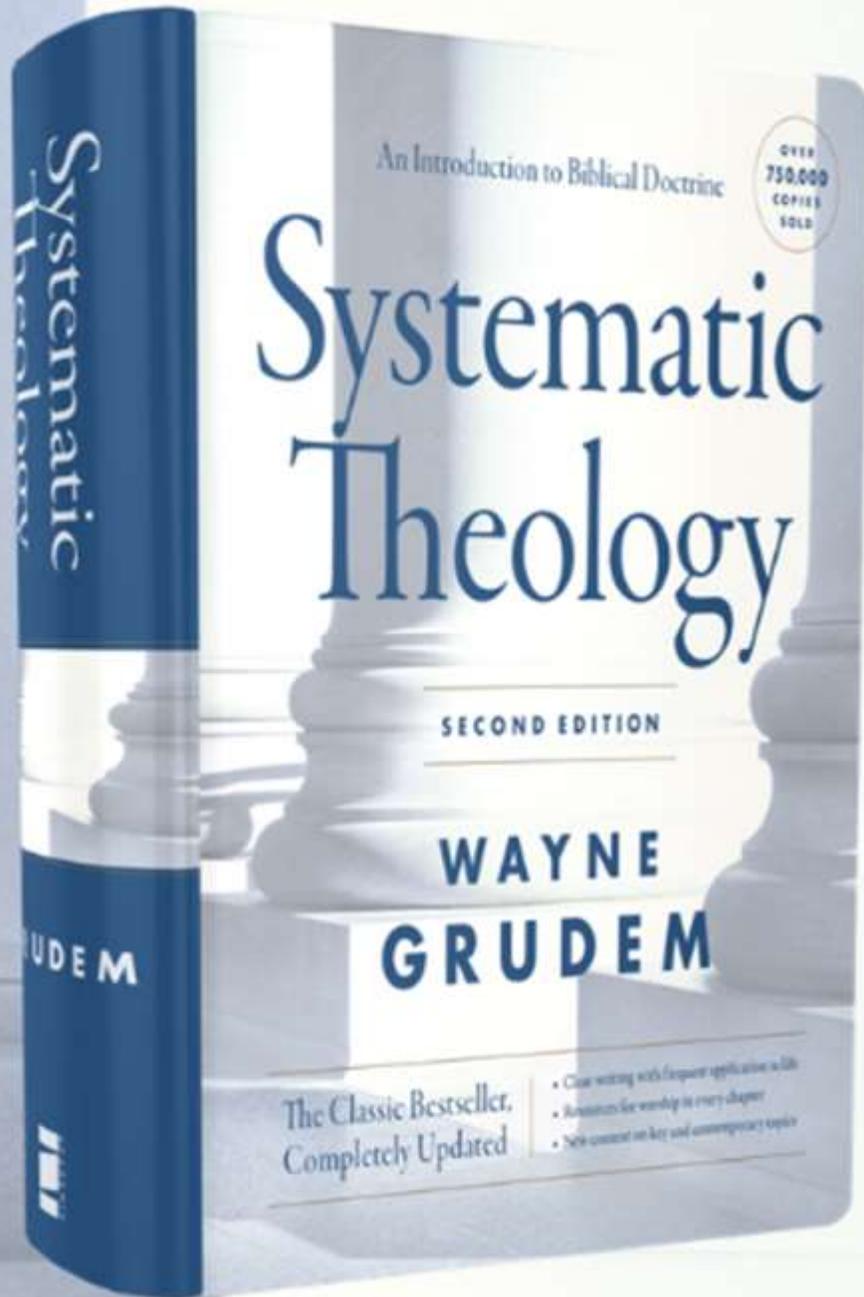
2. God's Children

Share the Gospel

The Fourth Link: Justification



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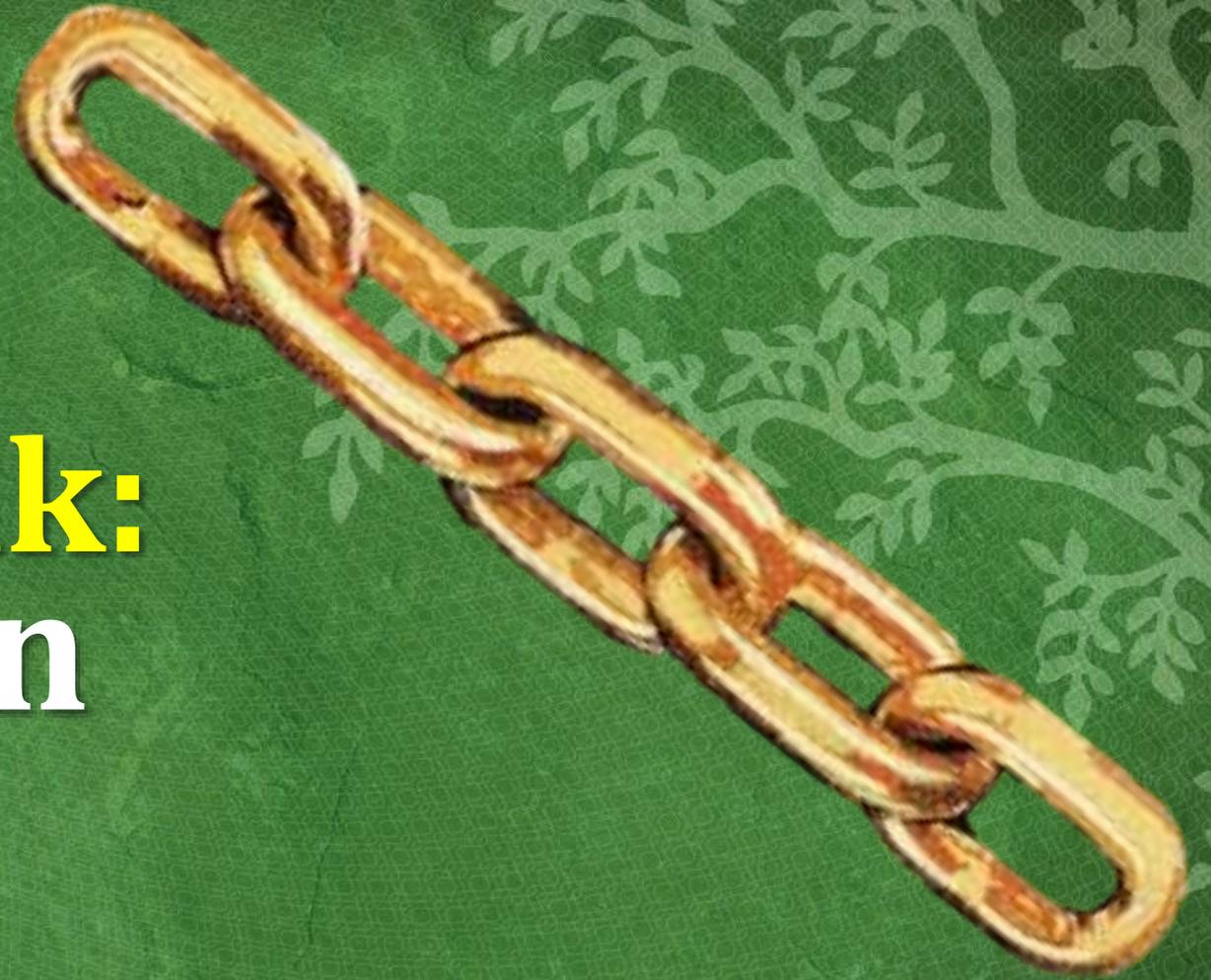


Justification: ‘An Instantaneous legal act of God in which He 1. Thinks of our sins as forgiven & Christ’s Righteousness belonging to us & 2. Declares us to be righteous in His Sight’ Grudem

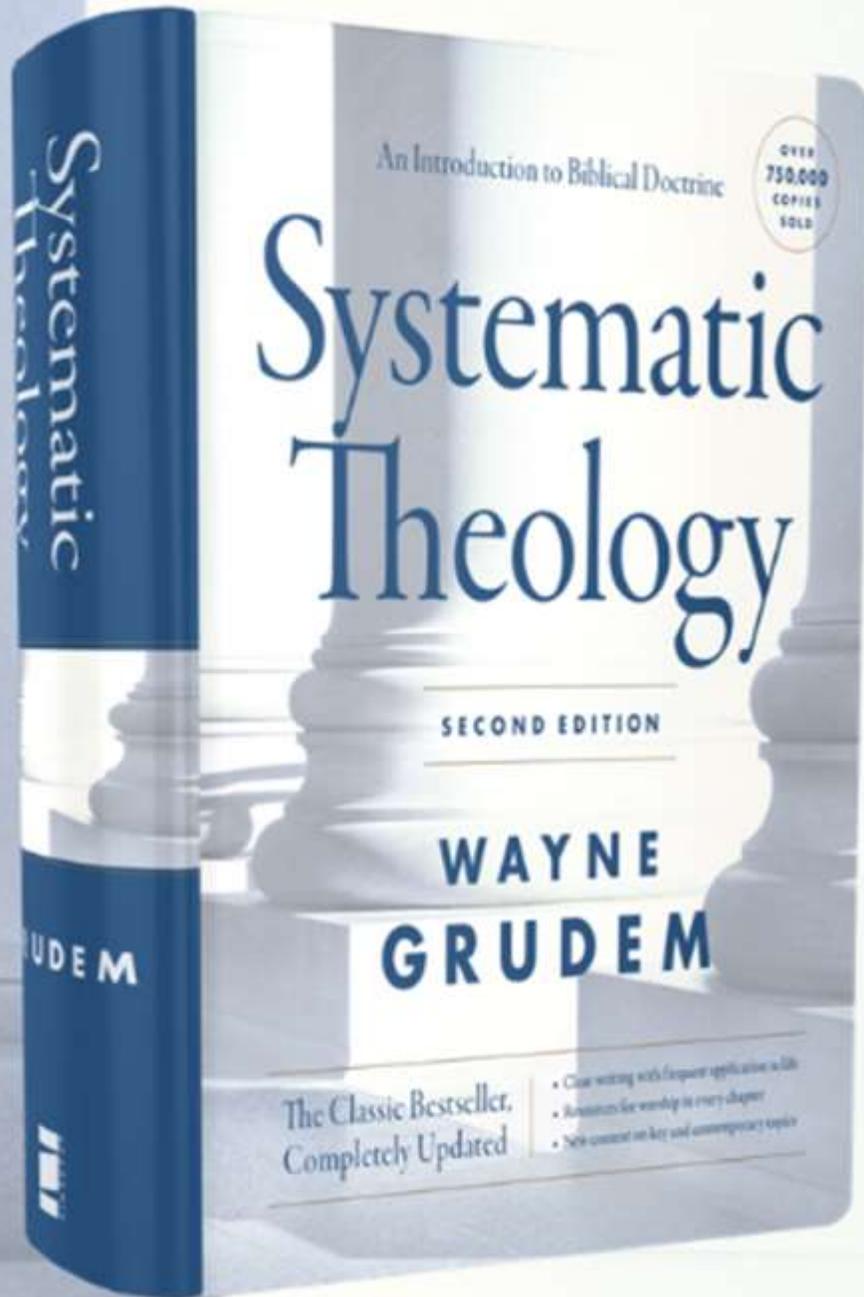
1. Justification is **Instantaneous**
2. Justification is **Legal**
3. Justification is **God's Work**

4. Justification is **by Imputation**
5. Justification is **by Declaration**
6. Justification is **by Faith**

The Fifth Link: Glorification



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Glorification: “the final step in the application of redemption. It will happen when Christ returns and raises from the dead the bodies of all believers for all time who have died, and reunites them with their souls and changes the bodies of all believers who remain alive, thereby giving all believers at the same time perfect resurrected bodies like his own.’

1. It is **Past Tense**

2. It is **Perfect**

3. It is **Personal**

4. It is **Powerful**

Application



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