

# *The Ordo Salutis*

## The Order of Salvation

### Step 9- Justification

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As of 01/09/22

*“Justification is the main hinge on which Salvation turns.”*

- John Calvin

*“God does not justify us because we are worthy, but by justifying us He makes us worthy.”*

- Thomas Watson

*“If you do not put a difference between Justification wrought by the Man Christ without, and Sanctification wrought by the Spirit of Christ within, you are not able to divide the Word aright; but contrariwise, you corrupt the Word of God.”*

- John Bunyan

*“Whom God legally saves, He experimentally saves; whom He justifies, them He also sanctifies. Where the Righteousness of Christ is imputed to an individual, a Principle of Holiness is imparted to him; the former can only be ascertained by the latter. It is impossible to obtain a Scriptural knowledge that the Merits of Christ's finished Work are reckoned to my account, except by proving that the efficacy of the Holy Spirit's Work is evident in my soul.”*

- A. W. Pink

*“To be justified means more than to be declared ‘not guilty.’ It actually means to be declared righteous before God. It means God has imputed or charged the guilt of our sin to His Son, Jesus Christ, and has imputed or credited Christ's Righteousness to us.*

- Jerry Bridges

*“Saving faith is an immediate relation to Christ, accepting, receiving, resting upon Him alone, for Justification, Sanctification, and Eternal Life by virtue of God's Grace.*

*Those who have been justified are now being sanctified; those who have no experience of present Sanctification have no reason to suppose they have been justified.”*

- F.F. Bruce

*“Any church which puts in the place of ‘Justification by Faith in Christ’ another Method of Salvation is a harlot church.”*

- Charles Spurgeon

*The truth is that, though we were justified by faith alone, the faith that justifies is never alone (it always produces fruit, "good works,"...a transformed life).*

- J.I. Packer

***“True Faith will inevitably manifest itself in the performance of Works of Obedience... The performance of Works are the result of Faith and the Fruit of Justification.”***

- R. C. Sproul

***“Night and day I pondered until I saw the connection between the Justice of God and the statement that 'the just shall live by his faith.' Then I grasped that the Justice of God is that Righteousness by which through Grace and sheer Mercy God justifies us through Faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into Paradise.”***

- Martin Luther

## **Definition of Justification**

**Justification:** The sovereign Act of God whereby He graciously pardons all Sin and “declares” the guilty sinner to be “Just” or “Righteous”- even though he isn’t. This Act is appropriated to the individual sinner by Belief and Trust in Jesus and in the finished Work of Jesus alone; and a “turning away” (Repentance) of the individual’s Sin; and is entirely separate from all godly Works that the individual does.

So, we can see here that Justification involves two things:

1. Forgiveness
2. Righteousness

We need to have all of our Sins (that we have already committed) forgiven or we have no Hope of Eternal Life. But we also need to have all of the Sins that we are committing now; as well as those Sins we haven’t even committed yet- forgiven as well. Justification does that.

But even though our Sins have been forgiven- we still have not become Righteous. Righteousness has to do with Obedience- NOT Forgiveness. So, in order to enter into Heaven- we also need to have Righteousness added to our *personal accomplishments*- or we would still not be able to stand in God’s Presence- **even though we have been forgiven!**

Forgiveness has to do with “righting a wrong”; or “correcting a problem”- our Sins that we have committed have been forgiven. But Righteousness has to do with God taking us to the next step- and giving us something; or adding something to our lives that we haven’t earned.

Justification is what most people are talking about when they mention, that they were saved on a certain date. In actuality- they were justified- which is merely a part or a step of the overall Issue of “Salvation”. But what we must understand is that this Justification *always* follows Regeneration (being born again); and *always* includes both Faith and Repentance. So, the Formula goes like this:

Regeneration *precedes* Justification

... or being born again comes *before* us being forgiven and made Righteous.

Now why is this true? Because in order to be Justified (made Righteous)- a person must do two things:

1. Repent

## 2. Believe

... yet he can do neither one until he is given “new spiritual Life”- which is what being Regenerated or being born again does.

A lost person CAN'T believe or repent unless the Spirit of God gives him both the Power (Ability) and the Desire (Will) to do so. So, God must “grant” Repentance- or else nobody would ever turn from their Sins.

### **2 Timothy 2:24-26**

**24 The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged,**

**25 with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth,**

**26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.**

And we also need for God to give us the Gift of “Saving Faith” in order that we might believe.

### **Ephesians 2:8&9**

**8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that [faith is] not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;**

**9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.**

Why does God have to sovereignly and graciously give to us or grant to us both Faith and Repentance? Because we lost both of those things in the Fall. Regeneration restores these things to the believer. Interestingly, this 9<sup>th</sup> Step in Salvation is where all of God's Wrath against the individual is turned away from him- forever!

### **Our Need for Justification**

The main Need for Justification is that we are all sinful. And part of what it means to be “Sinful”- is that we are also “Unrighteous”. And the end Result of a person being both sinful and unrighteous- is Eternal Damnation. And that means that wicked rebels becoming Righteous- or Obedient to the Commands of God- is one of the main Goals in biblical Salvation. God Himself is Righteous. And in order for us to live in the Presence of God forever- a guilty sinner MUST become “just as Righteous as God Himself”. So, not only do we need to be forgiven- we also need to be “made Righteous”. And this is why the modern church's mantra of “*Accept Jesus into your heart*” is so misleading and destructive. It completely leaves out both Repentance and Righteousness (Obedience).

But how do guilty, wicked, and evil people become Righteous? Well, the Law of God promises Righteousness to everyone who obeys it. But the kicker is that people have to obey God's Law- *perfectly and continuously*. Okay, so, why don't we all just obey the Law and thereby become Righteous?

First of all, the Bible teaches that there is absolutely nothing wrong with God's Law.

### **Romans 7:12**

## **So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good**

So, why don't we all just obey the Law and become Righteous? Because we CAN'T. The problem with the Law is not that there is anything wrong with the Law itself. But the Problem with the Law of God- is us! As human beings, we simply CAN'T keep all of God's Law- perfectly and continuously. So, the Failure is NOT due to a lack of Desire to be perfectly Holy. The Failure is due to the Weakness of our Flesh. So, obeying God's Law- perfectly and continuously- is not hard or difficult. No, complete and ongoing Obedience to God's Law is *impossible!*

But doesn't God realize that we simply *can't* obey His Law- perfectly? Yes, He does. And will He not then give us credit if we are, at least, *trying* to "do Good"? No, He won't. If we fail to keep ALL of God's Laws- perfectly and continuously- we remain nothing but guilty sinners. And guilty sinners *deserve* Eternal Damnation. The half- brother of Jesus wrote in his Epistle this in **James 2:10:**

**For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.**

This puts us in the worst of all possible positions. The very thing we are *commanded* to be- is the very thing we *cannot* accomplish. We are commanded to be "just as Righteous as God Himself" yet it is *impossible* for any human to obey God's Law- perfectly and continuously. But the frightening aspect of this is that God has promised horrific Punishment to those who are not Righteous- not merely Unforgiven.

## **The Punishment Must Fit the Crime**

To think that the Punishment for having a covetous Thought for five seconds- is eternal Damnation- seems to be a gross *over-reaction* on God's part to most people today. Now keep in mind- this fictitious person didn't actually "do" anything. He simply had a sinful thought. And yet, unless this person is saved- he will scream in the flames of Hell Fire throughout all of Eternity. And curious minds would ask, "*Why?*". Why does God's Punishment for Sin seem so harsh? And why is God so angry about Sin?

Now keep in mind that the reason people think this way is NOT because God is mean or cruel or that He over-reacts. They think this way because they either do not know what the Bible teaches about Sin; or they don't believe it.

The lack of understanding of how radical and "total" the Fall of Man really was- is the embarrassment of our Age. After the Church being on the earth now for 2,000 years- statements are made all the time- by the people of the Church, concerning Salvation that shows an amazing Ignorance of what happened when Adam fell. There are many Resources available on the Church website that will bring Understanding to the worthy seeker.

The Bible reveals that God loves God. Perfectly. Continuously. Totally. There is nothing that God loves more than Himself. And that would be weird and maybe even sinful- if we were talking about Man. If Man loves Himself as much as or even to the same degree that He loves God- that person is in Idolatry. But we aren't talking about Man. We are talking about God- Who alone is the single most important, valuable, glorious, and lovable Being in the Universe. So, it is Correct; it is Right for us to love God the way God moved on Moses to say in **Deuteronomy 6:4-9:**

**4 "Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one!**

**5 "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.**

**6 "These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart.**

**7 "You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.**

**8 "You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead.**

**9 "You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.**

... yet because of our fallen flesh- all we can offer God is shallow and temporary love that rises to the surface on occasion and by times.

So, the bottom line is that no human obeys God perfectly and continuously. And no human loves God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength. And therefore, no human is Righteous. And that is true when people are seriously trying to love and obey God- which is rarely ever done.

So, the net result is that all of Humanity are sinful and headed for certain Damnation- unless God does something for them that they *cannot* do for themselves. And God did that in, by, and through Jesus, the Christ.

## **The Glory of God**

The Holiness of God is God's "otherness". It is what separates God from all that He made. And the thing that demonstrates or shows God's Holiness the best- is the Glory of God. And so, God loves the Glory of God better than anything else. It is for the sake of His Own Glory that God does all that He does. The Glory of God is what brings to God the Worship and Admiration and the Delight and the Fear that He is entitled to have. Nothing is more important to God- than that He alone is glorified.

But Sin stops that from happening. Sin robs God of the Worship and Admiration and Delight and Fear that He should get from us- His creatures. But how does Sin do all that? Sin *belittles* God's Glory. Sin *insults* God and His Glory. Sin makes God's Glory (the thing that God is MOST concerned about) look *less* than it really is.

For example, when a person voluntarily chooses to sin against God- he is testifying that the Sin he is about to engage in is more Important and Valuable to him than God His Glory. He is saying that this Sin makes him happier than God- and nothing infuriates God more than that.

And so, Sin is bad and wrong not simply because it is bad for us (even though it is). But Sin is bad and wrong mostly because it insults and degrades God and His Glory. And now that God and His Glory have been offended- that Offense must be adjudicated. Sin cannot merely be swept under the rug. It has to be paid for. And the Punishment for Sin- any Sin- is eternal Damnation.

And because we have sinned willingly and continuously all our lives- God is white hot in His Anger toward us. And unless we find a substitute- who will pay for our sins himself- we will spend all of Eternity in a devil's hell.

**Hebrews 10:28-31**

**28 Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.**

**29 How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?**

**30 For we know Him who said, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY." And again, "THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE."**

**31 It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**

#### **Jude 5-7**

**5 Now I desire to remind you, though you know all things once for all, that the Lord, after saving a people out of the land of Egypt, subsequently destroyed those who did not believe.**

**6 And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day,**

**7 just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.**