

Systematic Theology session 32  
Redeemed, Part 1

- Why do we need salvation?
  - Sin renders us unacceptable to God because we owe a sin debt to God we cannot pay (Colossians 2:13-14).
  - Sin renders us haters of God and enemies of God (Colossians 1:21-22).
    - Our minds were hostile against God.
    - We desperately need reconciliation with God.
  - Sin renders us criminals against the Law.
    - This criminal guilt against the Law is universal (Romans 3:19).
  - The doctrine of total depravity.
    - Total depravity is one of the points of the “doctrines of grace” that came from the Synod of Dort.
      - The Synod of Dort was convened to answer the false doctrines of the Remonstrants, doctrines that arose from the teachings of Jacob Arminius.
    - Total depravity does not hold that mankind is as evil as possible.
      - People are still capable of “civic righteousness” as a part of God’s common grace.
    - Total depravity means that there is no part of man left uncontaminated by the fall of Adam.
      - Unsaved man is contaminated by sin at the heart level, at the very seat of his soul (Proverbs 4:23, Jeremiah 17:9, Romans 3:10-18).
      - Westminster Confession of Faith: “Man, by his fall into a state of sin, has wholly lost all ability of will to any spiritual good accompanying salvation: so as, a natural man, being altogether averse from that good, and dead in sin, is not able, by his own strength, to convert himself, or to prepare himself thereunto.”
  - The inability of unsaved man to approach God on His “holy hill,” the place where God chooses for His special presence as a meeting place between God and man.
- What are we saved from?
  - In Christ, God saves us from His righteous wrath against sin.
    - Wrath is not a divine “mood”; God doesn’t have “moods” like we have. Wrath is divine, settled opposition to evil.
    - God’s justice is currently limited from its full expression by God’s patience until the final day.
    - In our unsaved state, we were storing up wrath (Romans 2:3-5).
- Why can’t we just save ourselves?
  - False religions claim that salvation is a joint project between God and sinners.
  - If we could in any way earn our own righteousness, then Christ died needlessly (Galatians 2:20-21).
  - In our unsaved state, we were spiritually dead, and incapable of contributing to salvation (Ephesians 2:1-3).
  - Salvation is not a work of synergism (“together work”), but of monergism (“the work of one”).
  - Jesus is the only means of deliverance from condemnation (John 3:18).