

Introduction to Soteriology and Common Grace

Soteriology comes from the Greek σωτηρία *sōtēria* "salvation" from σωτήρ *sōtēr* "saviour, preserver" + λόγος *logos* "study" or "word".

Hence it means the study of Salvation. Jesus means "Saviour". If that's so, then what are we saved from?

In the first place, Romans 5:9 says: "*Having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.*"

We will be exploring this salvation under the following headings:

1. Common Grace

What are the undeserved blessings that God gives to all people, both believers and unbelievers? How does understanding common grace affect our lives?

2. Election and reprobation

What is election? Who are the elect? What is a reprobate?

3. Calling and regeneration

What is the Gospel message? How does it become effective? What does it mean to be born again?

4. Conversion (Faith and Repentance)

What is true repentance? What does saving grace mean? Can people accept Jesus as Savior and not as Lord?

5. Sanctification and Perseverance

How do we grow in Christian maturity? What are the blessings of Christian growth? Can true Christians lose their salvation? How can we know if we are truly born again? "Your doctrine will determine how you live"

6. Adoption

What is adoption into the family of God? What are the privileges and benefits of adoption?

7. Death and Glorification

What's the purpose of death in the Christian life? What happens to our bodies and souls when we die? When will we receive a resurrection body? What will they be like?

8. Baptism in the Holy Spirit and Union with Christ

Should we seek a "baptism in the Holy Spirit" after conversion? What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit? What does it mean to be "in Christ" or "United with Christ"?

Chapter 31: Common Grace

It is the undeserved blessings that God gives to all people, both believers and unbelievers?

I. Explanation and Scriptural Basis

Introduction: When people sin, they become worthy of eternal punishment and separation from God (Gen. 2:17; Rom. 6:23)

Angels experienced separation from God and from all good immediately: 2 Pet. 2:4

But Adam and Eve did not die and go to hell at once. Nor do people who sin today.

Why? How can God continue to give blessings to people who deserve only death and hell? The answer is common grace

Def.: Common Grace is the grace of God by which he gives people innumerable blessings that are not part of salvation.

Common grace is different from saving grace in **result**, **recipient**, and **source**.

II. Examples of Common Grace

A. Physical Realm

(Matt. 5:44-45; Acts 14:16-17; Gen. 39:5; Ps. 145:9, 15-16)

B. Intellectual Realm

(John 1:9; Rom. 1:21; science and technology)

C. Moral Realm

(Ps. 81:12; Rom. 1:32; 2:14-15; Luke 6:33; 2 Kings 12:2)

D. Creative Realm

D. Societal Realm

(family – Gen. 5:4; government – Rom. 13:1, 4; other institutions).

E. Religious Realm

(Matt. 5:44-45; 1 Tim. 2:1-2, 4; 4:10; Luke 4:40; 6:35-36; Matt. 7:22).

G. Common Grace and Special Grace Influence Each Other.

H. Common Grace Does Not Save People

(Rom. 14:23; Matt. 22:37; cf. Rom. 2:4)

III. Reasons for Common Grace

A. To Redeem Those Who Will Be Saved

(2 Pet. 3:9-10).

B. To Demonstrate God's Goodness and Mercy

(Luke 6:35; Ps. 145:9; Mark 10:21; Ezek. 33:11).

C. To Demonstrate God's Justice

(Rom. 2:5; 3:19).

D. To Demonstrate God's Glory.

IV. Our Response to the Doctrine of Common Grace

A. Common Grace Does Not Mean That Those Who Receive It Will Be Saved (Rom. 5:10; Eph. 2:3; Phil. 3:18-19).

B. We Must Be Careful Not to Reject the Good Things That Unbelievers Do as Totally Evil.

C. The Doctrine of Common Grace Should Stir Our Hearts to Much Greater Thankfulness to God.