

The Doctrine of Salvation

A Study of the Ordo Salutis

July 1 - Oct. 7, 2018

The Ordo Salutis

1. Introduction to Soteriology
2. Election/Predestination
3. Atonement
4. Outward Call
5. Inward Call
6. Regeneration (the new birth)
7. Conversion (repentance)
8. Conversion (faith - part 1) - What is Faith?
9. Conversion (faith - part 2) - Where Does Faith Come From?
10. Conversion (faith - part 3) - Faith that Works
11. Justification
12. Adoption
13. Sanctification
14. Glorification
15. Spirit Baptism: Where does it fall in the Ordo?

Conversion: Repentance and Faith

- The first act of a regenerated sinner's new nature is the conscious decision to repent of sin and believe in Christ for salvation. Finally furnished with the ability to perceive reality as it is, the newborn soul necessarily and immediately turns away in revulsion from sin and eagerly runs to embrace Christ. - MacArthur, pg. 590
- Turning away from sin = repentance
- Turning to Christ = faith
- This is one act and repentance and faith are inseparable, two sides of the same coin of conversion. You cannot turn away from something without turning toward something else.

What is Faith?

- Saving faith is a fundamental commitment of the whole person to the whole Christ; with his mind, heart, and will, the believer embraces Jesus as Savior, Advocate, Provider, Sustainer, Counselor, and Lord God. - MacArthur, pg. 596
- The mind embraces knowledge, a recognition and understanding of the truth concerning the Person and Work of Christ. The heart gives assent, or the settled confidence and affirmation that Christ's salvation is suitable to one's spiritual need. The will responds with trust, the personal commitment to and appropriation of Christ as the only hope for eternal salvation. - MacArthur, pg. 596
- Hebrews 11:1, 6 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

What is Faith?

- Faith is to spiritual life what breathing is to physical life. Without faith we cannot have spiritual life or enjoy the benefits of a personal relationship with our Creator. Imagine the danger when so many definitions and illustrations of faith being written about and preached today often present us with unbiblical notions. This is spiritually equivalent to breathing polluted, poisonous air.
- Faith means belief, or trust. It refers to finding something or someone reliable. To have faith in someone is to trust them. Biblically speaking, it is not ever a blind trust either, by the way. True faith is not blind at all. It is not a leap in the dark. Faith comes from the Word of God (Romans 10:17), so we understand that this trust, this deep abiding belief, is based on revealed truth, specifically on the truth of God's Word. As God reveals Himself to us through His Word He gives us faith, that is, the ability to believe Him.

What is Faith?

- It is also not enough to think that faith is belief in God. “Even the demons believe”, James tells us (James 2:19). They know Who God is and that makes them tremble with fear. Faith is not merely belief in God, it is actively believing God. It is also not a belief about God, it is a trust that serves as the foundation of a personal relationship. We take God at His Word, we trust Him, we believe Him, we know Him.
- In Hebrews 11 we see that this trust is the “substance of things hoped for.” The word substance means literally “existence” and refers to having the most solid possible conviction and absolute assurance of reality. This deep abiding trust in Christ gives substance to a reality for which we hope. We believe that the Word of God is true and that God meant what He said, and we take Him at His Word, having His Word give actual substance to our hopes. Faith makes our hope a tangible reality.

What is Faith?

- Faith is the “evidence of things not seen.” Here the word evidence means “proof.” It is the proving of unseen things, an inner conviction about what is real and what is not. It is supporting evidence. Faith gives us proof that the Word of God is true and that Jesus is Lord. It provides us with an inner conviction of things we cannot see. We know it is real; we are sure even though we cannot see it with our eyes.
- There is also an assurance that comes with true faith, not just a flimsy hope or a false glimmer of truth and reality. We are assured of what is true and real. The atheist may think that there is not a God, but we know better.

The Object of Our Faith

- Jesus is the object of our faith.
- For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. - John 3:16
- “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. -John 3:18
- He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” - John 3:36
- “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. - John 6:35

The Object of Our Faith

- To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.” - Peter in Acts 10:43
- So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.” -Paul and Silas to the Philippian Jailor and His Family in Acts 16:31
- “John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.” -Paul in Acts 19:4
- “Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, And whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” - Paul in Romans 9:33
- For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” - Paul in Romans 10:11
- In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, - Paul in Ephesians 1:13

The Object of Our Faith

- Now, observe we have called this faith true faith, and we will prove it to have been so. First, it was faith *in the person of Christ*. It is a great mistake to fancy that to endorse sound doctrine is the same thing as possessing saving faith, for while saving faith accepts the truth of God, it mainly concerns itself with the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ, and its essence lies in reliance upon Jesus himself. I am not saved because I believe the Scriptures, or because I believe the doctrines of grace, but I am saved if I believe Christ; or, in other words, trust in him. Jesus is my creed. He is the truth. In the highest sense the Lord Jesus is the Word of God. To know him is life eternal.
- Spurgeon (sermon “Faith’s Dawn”)

Who is Jesus?

- If we are to trust Christ, we must know Who He is.
- Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” - Matthew 16:16
- Immanuel - God with Us - Jesus is God. That is where we must start as we look at Who He is. Contrary to liberal and non-Trinitarian claims, Jesus absolutely identified Himself to His disciples and to the crowds to which He preached as God in human flesh.
- The Son of God - By using this term to describe Himself, Jesus was saying to his audience that He was equal with God. In other words, He was God. So as we have already seen the Bible establish, He is God, fully divine. He chose to limit His divinity while incarnate as a man, but is nonetheless still fully God and fully man.

Who is Jesus?

- The Son of Man - This was Jesus' favorite name for Himself. He used it to describe Himself more than any other name or title, using it 83 times in the Gospels. What does it mean to be the Son of Man? It is a title that only the Messiah could claim (Dan. 7:13-14). This title specifically speaks about His suffering as a man. Suffering hunger and thirst, tiredness (physical needs), pain, torment, and eventually death on the cross. It speaks of how He had to humble Himself to become a man in order to be our substitute upon the cross.
- The Lord - Jesus is Lord. We do not make Him Lord. We do not crown Him King. He is Lord. This is the plain testimony of Scripture. Jesus is Lord (master) over all of Creation. As such we are His slaves, purchased with His blood, and we owe Him perfect obedience and love and honor. At that final day, every knee will bow and every tongue confess what is true - Jesus Christ is Lord. But only those who confess it now, in this life, will have the hope of salvation in the life to come.

Who is Jesus?

- Messiah - the Christ - The term Messiah means literally the "anointed one" and is translated as Christ in the New Testament. He is the Messiah, the one appointed and anointed to save His people. He is the One who was promised all through the Old Testament. In fact, the OT points to Christ, showing us in shadows and types Who this Messiah would be and what He would accomplish. The crowd on the day of the Triumphal Entry professed that He was the Messiah.
- Redeemer - Jesus as the Redeemer has paid the price to buy us for Himself.
- Savior - Jesus is our Savior. He has saved us from our sin. He has offered Himself once for all as the sacrifice that the Father's holiness and justice demanded and He has become our Savior.

Who is Jesus?

- Mediator - Jesus also is the Mediator of the New Covenant, the Covenant in His shed blood. He is the only Mediator between God and men - the only One who could stand between the two and make peace with the sacrifice of Himself. He intercedes for those for whom He has died. He Mediates the Covenant of God's Everlasting Grace.
- Prophet, Priest, and King - Jesus is a prophet, declaring to us the Word of God as He presents Himself to us, the very living Word of God. Jesus is a priest in the order of Melchizedek, a new and everlasting High Priest who offered Himself as the supreme sacrifice for His people in order to reconcile them to God. And He is the King of Kings, the ruler of all Creation, in Whom the whole world and creation consists. He is above all and everything was created by Him for His good pleasure.

Who is Jesus?

- Rabbi - The disciples referred to Jesus as "Rabbi", a phrase which means teacher. They were His "disciples", learners or followers. He is the teacher.
- The Way, the Truth, and the Life - Jesus is the only Way to God. The early church in fact was known as "those of the Way." He is also the Truth. God cannot lie, there is no deceit in Him, He is light, pure, holy, spotless, and immutable. He is also the Life. To know Him is to have eternal life. Without Him there exists but death and judgment. With Him there is life eternal.

Why did Jesus Come?

- We have seen that true saving faith must have an object, but it is not that faith must be placed in a set of doctrinal statements or a systematic way of thinking about salvation. No, the object of our faith is to be Jesus Christ. We examined briefly the claims that Jesus and the Apostles made about Jesus, about Who He is. He is the Second Person of the Trinity, fully God and fully Man, the Lord, our Savior, and the only Mediator between God and men. But in order for us to place our faith in Christ, in order to trust Him, we also need to know why He came. Why should we trust Jesus? Sure He is by the testimony of Scripture the Son of God, “God with us,” but why do we need to trust Him?
- For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost. - Luke 19:10

Why Did Jesus Come?

- The Holiness of God
- The Lostness of Man
- The Necessity of Substitution
- (see handout that covers these three)