

Class 11 – The Holy Spirit and the Application of Redemption

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I. Hello...and Catechism Quiz (Questions 34–37)

II. Redemption Accomplished and Applied

- A. Taken from a book title from John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied* (1955).
- B. The idea is that salvation comes to us in two major steps.
- C. The first step is what Christ has done to save us. His incarnation and work of redemption.
- D. The second step is applying that work to individual Christians. Without this, Christ's work is of no benefit to us. Without this application of redemption, salvation is like having an inheritance no one ever told us about or told us how to access it.
- E. Our Salvation is a Work of the Trinity
 1. All of God does all that God does, but also...
 2. The Father plans.
 3. The Son accomplishes.
 4. The Spirit applies.

III. The Holy Spirit

A. Our God is One, but Three Persons

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in **the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**. (Matt 28:19)

B. He's a Person

1 Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." (Acts 13:1-2)

C. He's God

3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? 4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God." (Acts 5:3-4)

D. He Proceeds from the Father and the Son

"But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me." (John 15:26)

The Father is made of none: neither created, nor begotten.

The Son is of the Father alone: not made, nor created: but begotten.

The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son: neither made, nor created, nor begotten: but proceeding.

Athanasian Creed

IV. Is There an Order of Salvation? (*Ordo Salutis*)

A. In one sense, there's no order, we simply go from saved to unsaved, from dead in sin to alive in Christ. And most of it happens simultaneously.

B. And yet, the Bible does provide us with logical steps good to trace out and think through. Knowing these terms and steps helps us UNDERSTAND our salvation. Understanding it helps us love God more.

C. A passage that speaks to these steps more than any other in the New Testament:

29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. (Rom 8:29-30)

D. But also...

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. (1 John 5:1)

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. (Rom 10:17)

We know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. (Gal 2:16)

- E. Assembling these various puzzle pieces we get the Bible’s “Order of Salvation.”**

V. The Bible’s Order of Salvation

A. Election

Election refers to God in eternity past choosing some to be saved in Jesus Christ.

He **chose** us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will. (Eph 1:4–5)

B. General (External) Calling

The general or external call is what happens in evangelism and the ministry of the church when a person communicates the gospel and invites listeners to believe in Christ.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

C. Effectual (Internal) Calling

Effectual calling speaks to the moment when the Holy Spirit speaks the internal, inaudible, spiritual summons of God to come alive in Christ.

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. (Rom 8:29)

In the Five Points of Calvinism, this is the “I,” *Irresistible Grace*.

D. Regeneration

Regeneration is where we are given “a new heart,” when our “heart of stone” is removed by the Spirit of God and is replaced by “a heart of flesh.”

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. 26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit

within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. (Ezek 36:25-27)

E. Conversion (Faith/Repentance)

Conversion is where we exercise personal faith and repentance. The two are inseparable, though faith has a kind of priority. Faith always lead to repentance. Repentance always comes from faith.

True saving faith is a complete trust in Christ that is founded on an accurate knowledge about Christ we believe to be true and important.

Repentance means turning away from our sins and a self-directed life and turn toward Christ as our Lord and Savior and Master.

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.” (Mark 1:15)

F. Justification

Justification is God’s declaration that we are righteous in his sight.

We know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. (Gal 2:16)

G. Adoption

Our spiritual adoption is a new status we receive from God whereby we become children of God, and in this adoption, we also receive the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of adoption in whom we cry out “Abba! Father!”

In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will. (Eph 1:4–5)

J.I. Packer,

Adoption...is the highest privilege that the gospel offers: higher even than justification....Adoption is higher, because of the richer relationship with God that it involves....To be right with God the judge is a great thing, but to be loved and cared for by God the father is greater.⁴³

⁴³ Packer, *Knowing God*, 186, 187, 188.

H. Progressive Sanctification

Progressive sanctification is the gradual process by which a Christian becomes more and more like Christ in their character.

For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality. (1 Thess 4:3)

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thess 5:23)

I. Perseverance

The doctrine of perseverance is the truth that God in his grace will empower his people to persevere in their faith and repentance until they see Jesus face-to-face.

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (Phil 1:6)

In the Five Points of Calvinism, this is the “P,” *Perseverance of the Saints*.

J. Glorification

Glorification is the final stage of our salvation where we see Jesus face-to-face and become like him, living forever in a glorified body and soul without sin, sickness, death, or any of the weaknesses that are the result of sin and the fall.

And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. (Rom 8:30)

VI. Union with Christ and the Order of Salvation

- A. **We were predestined before the foundation of the world “in Christ” (Eph 1:4).**
- B. **When we were born again, we were “made alive together with him” (2:5).**
- C. **At conversion we were “raised with him” (Eph 2:6).**
- D. **We do good works prepared for us “in Christ Jesus” (Eph 2:10).**
- E. **At conversion, we were “crucified with him,” “buried with him,” “raised with him” (Rom 6:4).**

- F. Truly we can say with Paul, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. (Eph 1:3).

VII. Conclusion and Next Time

- A. As Ephesians 1:6, 12, and 14 say, our salvation and all things are “to the praise of his glorious grace” (1:6) and “to the praise of his glory” (1:12, 14).
- B. Next class: “Life in the Spirit” – Continuationism, spiritual gifts, etc.