

Soteriology

Def.: The theology or study dealing with salvation, especially as effected by Jesus Christ. (Websters)

Gk. “soteria” rescue, deliver, make safe – morally and physically

Key: The implication is that this can only be completed in God

God’s salvation will ultimately restore all that was lost by Adam – Rom 5:15-21

A. Four Aspects of Salvation

1. Justification – the act by which God declares the sinner to be righteous. It is a legal term denoting a change of standing or status in the sight of God. Rom. 5:1,9; 8:30; Gal. 3:11; 5:4

Key: The sinner does not become righteous within himself – God counts, reckons, considers him so – disregarding past sins.

a. Two elements of justification:

- God forgives the sinner and removes the guilt and penalty of sin. Rom. 4:6-8; 8:1

- God imputes (transfers) Christ’s righteousness to the sinner
Rom. 3:22; 4:3-5

IMPUTES – A conclusion based on certain elements being present or conditions being met.

Key: Only a full reconciliation to God entitles us to receive His promises.

The origin of justification is God’s grace, purchased by the blood of Jesus.
Rom. 3:24-25 propitiation – atoning victim (alludes to the mercy seat)

It is by faith - not the works of the law (Rom. 3:28; 4:5; Eph. 2:8-9)

Note: God’s grace is the **source** of justification. Eph. 3:7; Titus 2:11-15
Christ’s blood (Death, Burial, Resurrection) is the **grounds** of justification.
Faith is the **condition** upon which we receive justification.

THE FULL WORK OF JUSTIFICATION OCCURS BY FAITH AFTER ACTS 2:38 IS OBEYED. SAVING FAITH (OBEDIENCE TO THE GODPEL OF JESUS CHRIST) MUST BE EXERCISED.

Note: 1 Cor. 6:11 is associated with water baptism. Most scholars agree to this association but a more sure testimony is found within the GK definition of the word:

“washed” Gk – apolouo – wash fully, remitted Gk. – louo – to bathe whole person

Note: over 100 verses speak of baptism. There are dozens of types, shadows and figures.

b. The role of repentance and water baptism

- at repentance man and God begin to form a personal relationship.

- this lays the foundation for water and Spirit baptism
- at water baptism God remits sin, which **corresponds** to the **first element** of justification (God forgives the sinner...)
 - c. The role of the Holy Spirit baptism
 - Imparts the righteousness of Christ (second element)
 - Rom. 8:4; 9:10-11; 15-17; Gal. 3:14
 - Enables us to receive future salvation (Rom 8:9-11)
 - Key: Double reference principle covering the “continuous work of salvation” and “qualifies us for Rapture”
 - Positions us to receive His promises and blessings (Rom 8:15-17; Gal 3:14)
- the baptism of the HG **corresponds** to the **second element** of justification (the imputed righteousness of Christ)

Note: The work of justification begins at repentance from sin and is completed when water and Spirit baptism is fulfilled.

Key: It would be incorrect to identify justification with only one aspect of the New Birth. The three aspects represent/constitute a whole inclusive act.

2. Regeneration – a 14th century term. Means “New Birth” or the acquisition of a new, holy nature that has power over the old, sinful nature.

- a. Two elements:
 - destroying the power of the old nature (2 Cor 5:17)
 - imparting a new nature, God’s nature (Eph 4:24; Col 3:10; 2 Pet 1:4 “divine nature”)

Key: It doesn’t eliminate the old nature, it destroys it’s power. **YOUR WILL AND POWER OF CHOICE IS NOT DESTROYED THUS YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO RESURRECT ANY ASPECT OF YOUR OLD NATURE.**

- It changes desires and attitudes (Eph. 4:23-32)
- It gives power to live the new life (Acts 1:8; Rom 8:4)
- Remember there are two natures within fighting for supremacy SPIRIT VS FLESH (Gal 5:16-26)

The Battle is described in Rom 7:21-25; 8:4, 12-13; Gal 5:19-21; 1 Jn 3:9

Note: There is no salvation without regeneration.

Regeneration:

1. Originates in God’s grace (John 1:13; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7; James 1:17-18)
2. Comes through man’s faith (John 1:12)

Key: We are begotten (conceived) by the Word of God, the Gospel of Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 4:15, James 1:18, 1 Peter 1:23)

Key: Hearing the Word plants the seed of salvation. It's development occurs upon responding in faith by obeying Acts 2:38

b. Role of water baptism and repentance
- old man is killed and buried - meaning - old lifestyle and the dominion of sin are destroyed (Rom 6:1-7)

c. Role of the Spirit baptism
- imparts the new nature (spirit)
- imparts the power to keep the old man dead

Key: Water and Spirit baptism correspond to the two elements of regeneration...both are part of the New Birth.

Key: Regeneration then occurs at the time we repent, are baptized in Jesus' Name and receive the Holy Ghost. Benefits are:

- a. Bestows godly desires
- b. Provides spiritual guidance
- c. Empowers to overcome sin daily

3. Adoption - the act of choosing and placing a child

Key: Comparison between Regeneration and Adoption

- a. Regeneration - indicates that we are children of God by reason of a new spiritual birth.
- b. Adoption - indicates that we become God's sons and daughters by His conscious choice.
- c. In adoption we are given that position of sons and daughters with ALL RIGHTS ASSOCIATED WITH OUR NEW STATUS.

Key: The contrast between the two lives is powerful and compelling (Gal 4:1-7)

Before Christ (Law)	After Christ (Grace)
Bondage to the world-sinners	Adoption - change of status
Subject to the Law	Entitled to inheritance
Under guardians and tutors	Become of age (rights and privileges)

Key: The analogy of Legal Adoption - Romans 8:14-17

- a. At conversion we were adopted into God's family, becoming younger brothers and sisters of the man Christ Jesus.
- b. Obtained all legal rights and privileges of a natural born son (co-heirs with Christ)

KEY: THE FULL BENEFITS OF ADOPTION HAVE NOT BEEN FULFILLED YET. Rom 8:23 READ!

POINTS TO CONSIDER

- Adoption originates in God's grace and choice (Eph. 1:4-5) through the exercise of our faith (Gal 3:26)
- Adoption occurs by water and Spirit baptism for this is what places us in the family of God. (Gal 3:26-27, 1 Cor 12:13, Rom 8:15)
- The Spirit is BOTH the agent of adoption and the first benefit thereof.
- Adoption occurs instantaneously at the New Birth
- We're already called the sons of God (1 John 3:1)
- We are enjoying the "first fruits" of our inheritance ie: The Spirit of God (Rom 8:23, Gal 4:6, Eph 1:13-14)
- We have assurance of future inheritance (Rom 8:23)
- God will eventually (after rapture) reveal our final position as adoptees before all creation.
- Our bodies will be redeemed as we embrace the "fullness" of our inheritance.

4. Sanctification - literally means separation in multiple dimension with clear application to our current dispensation. We are sanctified (1 Cor 6:11) ceremonially and morally blameless (completely purified)

NOTE: SANCTIFICATION IS THE LIFE LONG JOURNEY / PROCESS OF WILLFULLY REFLECTING CHRIST DAILY UNTIL WE EVENTUALLY BECOME LIKE HIM (RAPTURE)

Key: Sanctification is equivalent to holiness - which means

- a. Separation from sin...the world...ie: separation from all that is adverse or antagonistic to His nature, call, and
- b. Consecration to God and by default to His call and established destiny for us individually and corporately.

Scriptures declare that we can attain

Note: Sanctification is the process of becoming righteous or Christ like

- a. Starts at the New Birth - God sets us apart from sin
- b. We can attain a measure of maturity and perfection in this life (2 Cor. 3:18, 7:1, Eph. 4:11-15; 2 Pet 3:18)

Concerning PERFECTION (Matt 5:48) as it relates to:

- a. Man - relative perfection - the sinful nature and possibility, ability and will to sin still exists
- b. Christ - absolute perfection - completely single and holy

Key: God evaluates our lives on the basis of: (Matt 13:23 good ground - 25:14-30 talents)

- a. Where we have come from
- b. Our abilities
- c. What He has given us
- d. What He knows our potential is

He expects us to undergo His determined process for growth individually and corporately. (Mark 4:26-29)

- a. Absolute perfection is the goal and final outcome at His coming
- b. It's a work of His grace and our faith (Eph 2:1-10)
- c. It's based on His sacrifice at Calvary (Acts 26:18, 1 Thess 5:23, Heb 10:10)
- d. When the New Birth takes place the initial act of Sanctification occurs (1 Cor 6:11)
- e. The continuing work comes by the operation of the indwelling Spirit and our submission to Him (2 Thess 2:13; 1 Pet 1:2)
- f. The daily faith walk is paramount (Rom 1:17)

Conclusion

Sanctification is thus the first instantaneous work that occurs at the New Birth as He sets us apart from sin to Himself

It then becomes the continuous process and progress through out the Christian life and is completed at rapture.