2016 Fall Semester

Foundations

# Redemption applied (salvation)

## Election/Predestination

### Definition

#### Election is an act of God before creation in which he chooses some people to be saved, not on account of any foreseen merit in them, but only because of his sovereign good pleasure.

### New Testament Teaching

#### Acts 13:48 – “And when the Gentiles heard this they were glad and glorified the word of God; and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.”

#### Ephesians 1:4-6 – ““He chose us in him before the foundation of the world that we should be holy and blameless before him. He destined us in love to be his sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace.”

#### 1 Thessalonians 1:4-5 – “For we know, brethren beloved by God, that he has chosen you; for our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction”

##### Notice how Paul says that it is because they believed the Gospel when he preached it to them that he knows that God chose them.

#### 2 Thessalonians 2:13 – “We are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God chose you from the beginning to be saved through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.”

### Election is not based on our faith or our works

#### Romans 9:11-13 - “Though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad, in order that God’s purpose of election might continue not because of works but because of his call, she was told, ‘The elder will serve the younger.’ As it is written, ‘Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.’”

#### 2 Timothy 1:9 – “[God has] saved us and called us with a holy calling, not in virtue of our works but in virtue of his own purpose and the grace which he gave us in Christ Jesus ages ago.”

## Effectual Call

### Romans 8:30 – “Those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified.”

### Definition

#### Effective calling is an act of God the Father, speaking through the human proclamation of the gospel, in which he summons people to himself in such a way that they respond in saving faith.

### New Testament Teaching

#### 1 Corinthians 1:9 – “God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.”

#### John 6:44 – “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.”

#### When God calls people in this powerful way, he calls them “out of darkness into his marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9); he calls them “into the fellowship of his Son” (1 Cor. 1:9; Acts 2:39) and “into his own kingdom and glory” (1 Thess. 2:12; 1 Peter 5:10; 2 Peter 1:3). People who have been called by God “belong to Jesus Christ” (Rom. 1:6). They are called to “be saints” (Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2), and have come into a realm of peace (1 Cor. 7:15; Col. 3:15), freedom (Gal. 5:13), hope (Eph. 1:18; 4:4), holiness (1 Thess. 4:7), patient endurance of suffering (1 Peter 2:20–21; 3:9), and eternal life (1 Tim. 6:12).

### Effective calling distinguished from Gospel call, but is not devoid of the Gospel call.

#### 2 Thessalonians 2:14 – “To this he called you through our gospel so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

#### Romans 10:14 – “How are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?” – God ordains the means as well as the ends.

#### We must preach the gospel in all of its fullness.

##### All people have sinned (Romans 3:23)

##### The penalty for our sin is death (Romans 6:23)

##### Jesus Christ died to pay the penalty for our sins (Romans 5:8)

##### It is only through repentance and faith that you can come to Christ to be saved.

### The Gospel call is general, external, and is often rejected by many people, but the effectual call is particular, internal

## Regeneration

### Definition

#### Regeneration is a secret act of God in which he imparts new spiritual life to us. This is sometimes called “being born again.”

### Biblical Teaching

#### Ephesians 2:5 – “even when we were dead in our trespasses and sins, God made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).”

#### Colossians 2:13 – “When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses.”

### This usually happens in conjunction with the preaching of the Gospel. At least two passages suggest this

#### 1 Peter 1:23, 25 – “You have been born anew not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God…That word is the good news which was preached to you.”

#### James 1:18 – “He chose to give us birth through the word of truth.”

#### As the Gospel comes to us, God speaks through that Gospel that we preach to summon us to himself (calling) and to give us new spiritual life (regeneration).

### Notice I said that this *usually* happens in conjunction with the preaching of the Gospel.

#### John 3:8 – “The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know from where it comes or where it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

#### It is an instantaneous event, but the apparent impact or evidence of that event is different with each person. With some, like for children raised in Christian homes, there is a more gradual understanding of the gospel and there may not be a dramatic change within them.

#### My regeneration was a bit different than this.

## Conversion

### Definition

#### Conversion is our willing response to the gospel call, in which we sincerely repent of our sins and place our trust in Christ for salvation.

### Repentance and Faith

#### Repentance is turning away from our sin, and faith is turning toward Christ.

### Faith

#### A saving faith includes knowledge, approval, and personal trust

##### Knowledge is required

###### Romans 10:14 – “How can they believe in him of whom they have never heard?”

##### But knowledge about God and what he requires and what Christ has done for us is not enough all by itself

###### Romans 1:32 – “Though they know God’s decree that those who do such things deserve to die, they not only do them but approve of those who practice them.”

###### Even the demons believe

##### Knowledge of the Gospel and even approval of it are note enough

###### Nicodemus knew who Jesus was and even approved him as such, saying “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do, unless God is with him.” (John 3:2)

###### King Agrippa provides another example. When Paul was on trial before Agrippa, he said, “King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe” (Acts 26:27), yet Agrippa, by his own admission, did not have a saving faith in Christ.

##### Saving faith includes knowledge, approval, and personal trust in Christ. Saving faith is trust in Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God.

###### John 3:16 – “whoever *believes in Him*”

### Repentance

#### Repentance is a heartfelt sorrow for sin, a renouncing of it, and a sincere commitment to forsake it and walk in obedience to Christ.

#### Acts 20:21 – Paul says that his message consisted of “solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance to God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

#### Acts 17:30 – “The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all men everywhere to repent.”

## Justification

### Romans 8:30 – “Those whom he predestined he called, and those whom he called he also justified.”

### Definition

#### Justification is an instantaneous legal act of God in which he thinks of our sins as forgiven and Christ’s righteousness as belonging to us, and declares us to be righteous in his sight.

### Biblical Teaching

#### Romans 8:1 – “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” In this sense, those who are justified have no penalty to pay for sin. God has forgiven us of our sins.

#### Romans 8:33-34 – “Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies; who is to condemn?” Again, God has forgiven us of our sins, there are no charges that anyone can bring against us. This is how Christ has defeated Satan, “the accuser.”

#### This justification is a declaration, not an actual reality. Meaning that upon our salvation, God doesn’t actually make us inherently worthy of being justified, instead, He declares us as justified despite what we have done.

##### Romans 4:5 – “And to the one who does not work, but trusts in him who justifies the ungodly his faith is reckoned to him as righteousness.”

#### But if God forgives our sins only, just like we talked about last week, that wouldn’t be enough. We need a positive moral standing before God. But as Romans 4:5 says, we are ungodly, we have no positive standing before Him. How can this be? The answer is imputation.

#### Imputation

##### In this instance of Christ’s imputation to us, what we mean is that God thinks of Christ’s righteousness as belonging to us. He “reckons” it to our account.

##### Imputation; not impartation

##### Romans 4:3 – “Abraham believed God and it was reckoned to Him as righteousness.”

##### Romans 4:5 – “And to the one who does not work, but trusts in him who justifies the ungodly his faith is reckoned to him as righteousness.”

##### 2 Corinthians 5:21 – “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

## Adoption

### Definition

#### Adoption is an act of God whereby he makes us members of His family. This occurs after our conversion and is an outcome of our saving faith.

### Biblical Teaching

#### John 1:12 – “But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave them the right to be called children of God.”

#### By contrast, remember, those who do not receive him are referred to as “children of wrath” (Ephesians 2:3) and “sons of disobedience” (Ephesians 2:2). In John 8, the Jews tried to claim that God was their father, but Jesus told them “If God were your father, you would love me…You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires.” (John 8:42-44).

#### Romans 8:14-17 – “For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.”

### You can see the implications of this here.

### 1 John 3:1-2 – “See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are…Beloved, we are God’s children now.”

### If you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children…

## Sanctification

### Definition

#### Sanctification is a progressive work of God and man that makes us more and more free from sin and like Christ in our actual lives.

### Three stages of sanctification

#### Sanctification has a definite beginning at regeneration

##### In Titus 3:5, Paul speaks of “the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit.”

##### This is an initial moral change in the life of a believer that marks the beginning of our sanctification.

#### Sanctification increases throughout life and we are very active in this process

##### Romans 6:19 – “Just as you once yielded your members to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now yield your members to righteousness for your sanctification.”

##### 2 Corinthians 3:18 – “And we all with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed from one degree of glory to the next.”

##### Colossians 3:10 – “Put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.” – This shows that sanctification involves reforming our thoughts and minds as much as our actions.

#### Sanctification is completed at death (for our souls) and when the Lord returns (for our bodies)

##### When we die, we know that our bodies will remain here, and our souls will go to be with the Lord in heaven. Hebrews 12:23 refers to the souls in heaven as “the spirits of just men made perfect.”

##### This is anticipated because we know from countless other verses in Scripture that nothing unclean can enter the presence of God. So if to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord, then we know that our souls are made perfect upon death.

##### And then our bodies will be made perfect at the second coming of Christ where Paul says in Philippians 3:21 that Christ “will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body.” It is at his coming that we will completely “bear the image of the Man of heaven.” (1 Corinthians 15:49).

##### Chart

## Perseverance

### Definition

#### The perseverance of the saints means that all those who are truly born again will be kept by God’s power and will persevere as Christians until the end of their lives, and that only those who persevere until the end have been truly born again.

### All who are truly born again will persevere to the end and this perseverance is wrought by God

#### Eternal life is truly eternal

#### Philippians 1:6 – “being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ.”

#### Ephesians 1:13-14 – “In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit which is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory”

### Only those who persevere to the end have been truly born again

#### John 8:31-32 – “Jesus then said to the Jews who had believed in him, ‘If you continue in my word you are truly my disciples.’” That is, if you continue to believe what he says and live a life of obedience to his commands.

#### Matthew 10:22 – “He who endures to the end will be saved.”

#### Hebrews 3:14 – “We have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end.”

### What of those who once showed signs of conversion but have since fallen away?

#### Romans 8:38-39 – “For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

#### 1 John 2:19 – “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out, that it might be plain that they all are not of us.”

#### Paul in Galatians and 2 Corinthians mentions that he has come across “the false brethren.”

#### Parable of the seed on rocky soil. Mark 4:16-17 – “when they hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy; and they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while, then when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away.”

#### Faith that fizzles before the finish was faulty from the first.

#### What is the trajectory of your life?

##### Do I have a present trust in Christ for salvation?

##### Is there evidence of a regenerating work of the Holy Spirit in your heart?

##### Do you see a long-term pattern of growth in your Christian life?

## Glorification

### Definition

#### Glorification is the final step in the application of redemption. It will happen when Christ returns and raises from the dead the bodies of all believers for all time who have died, and reunites them with their souls, and changes the bodies of all believers who remain alive, thereby giving all believers at the same time perfect resurrection bodies like his own.

### New Testament Teaching

#### 1 Corinthians 15:22-23 – “So also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.”

#### 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 – “Lo! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.”

#### Philippians 3:20-21 – “But our commonwealth is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body by the power which enables him even to subject all thigs to himself.”

### The Nature of our Resurrection Bodies

#### 1 Corinthians 15:42-44, 49 – “What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body …. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.”

#### Imperishable – no sickness, no disease, no wearing out or growing old.

#### Glory – sinless, beautiful, inherently righteous

#### Power – we will have full, complete power and strength to do all that will be required of us in heaven. We fail to be perfectly obedient to the Lord now because sin has sapped us of our strength. We are weak people. Not so then.

#### Spiritual Body – In Pauline writing, “spiritual” seldom means “nonphysical”, but rather “consistent with the character and activity of the Holy Spirit.”