

New Year Special 2024-25

January 5, 2025

Series: The Doctrine of the Son of God: His Person and Work

Message: The Work of Salvation Accomplished; John 3:16; 1 John 4:10-11 and selected verses

There is not another doctrine in the entire Bible that can better make known the Nature and Character of God more than the doctrine of salvation. Perhaps no other doctrine better confirms and defines the abject ruin of the human race after the fall or demonstrates and reveals the incomparable love of God. The expansiveness of this doctrine finds its epicenter at the cross of Christ, the fountain head of redeeming love!

I) The Gospel of God's Glory

- A) The truth about man: His forfeiture of innocence, life and dominion.
- 1) Man was created by God and for God. He was created "very good" and adorned with God's image, beautiful with God's graces, embellished with holiness and righteousness.
 - (a) Adam was created with the ability to do right yet was subject to fall.
 - 2) The fall: upon Adam's public objection to God's right as Sovereign did Adam die spiritually being *separated from God* in an instant, and all by Adam's choice.
 - (a) Instantly Adam (the man) began corrupting morally and eventually died physically.
 - (b) Through one man sin entered the world and death came to all men through sin. (Rm.5:12)
 - 3) The Aftermath: Death came to every generation of humanity. Adam forfeited his innocence before God, his life both spiritual and physical, and his dominion over the created order.
 - (a) Instead of seeking mercy and pardon Adam hid from God (Gen. 3:8).
 - (b) When God confronted Adam, instead of humble contrition, he blamed God (Gen. 3:12-13).
- B) God's Glorious Response
- 1) God was under no obligation to pacify His holy wrath and anger.
 - (a) God was not obligated to Adam's race to restore a righteous remnant.
 - 2) But God did have in mind, before the foundation of the world, the saving of a chosen remnant, having decreed the election and redemption of some people. (**see Eph. 1:11**)
 - (a) And in the fullness of time God sent His Son into the world to save His people from their sins.
 - (i) See Rom. 5:6-8; Gal. 4:4. These verses speak of "the right time," God's time!
 - 3) God sent His Son as the *propitiation* for our sins.
 - (a) He loved His people by sending His Son to satisfy God's righteous requirements. This act of love was not dependent upon any work or initiative of those He came to save! (**1 Jn.4:10-11**)
 - (i) This is where we find the glory of the Gospel of God: In Christ alone!
- C) God's immediate response upon Adam's sin.
- 1) Almost immediately the *first gospel* is announced. The Saving of a remnant and the destruction of the devil is found in God's promised *Seed* Who would be born of Eve! (**see Gen. 3:15; 1 Jn.3:8**)
 - (a) In this we have the first hint of a Savior who would reclaim what Adam forfeited!

II) The Gospel as a Gift

- A) The Gifts of God's grace (The Doctrines of Grace): These gifts are irrevocable! Rom. 11:29 says, "...for God's gifts and His calling is irrevocable."
- 1) Election and Predestination: God acted in accordance with His pleasure did choose to save some people without taking into account any foreseen merit in them whatsoever. God ordained, according to His predeterminate counsel those He would save. (See Acts 13:48; Rom. 8:28-30; **Eph. 1:4-6,11**; 1 Thess.1:4; 2 Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim.1:9; 1 Pet. 2:9)
 - (a) According to God's own counsel (read **Eph. 1:11**)
 - (i) No one offered suggestions or counsel to God (**Rom. 11:33-36**)
 - (ii) Because it depends on God's counsel, those He saves has assurance! (Rom.8:1,37,39)
 - 2) The Gospel Call

- (a) A call to all, but effectual for the elect of God.
 - (b) A call to turn to God in repentance and for spiritual life (Acts 3:19); to peace with God (Rm. 5:1); a call to receive the righteous covering of Christ (Is. 64:6; 2 Cor. 5:19, 21); a call to sonship (Rm. 8:14-15); a calling into the Kingdom of Christ (Col. 1:13); a calling to receive an imperishable inheritance (1 Pet. 1:3-4); a call to union with Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Phil. 2:1; 1 Jn. 1:3) and a call to eternal life (43 times in the NT!).
- 3) Regeneration: “You must be born again!” With man this is impossible!
- (a) Born of God (Jn. 1:12-13); Being made alive to God (Eph. 2:1; Col. 2:13; Rm. 6:11); made spiritually new (2 Cor. 5:17); Born again by God’s purpose and will (Eph. 1:5; Phil. 2:13)
 - (b) Regeneration is a cooperative work of the Godhead. But Jesus gives the primary attention to the work of the Spirit in regeneration (see Jn. 3:8). Paul does as well in Titus 3:5!
 - (i) The Spirit works through the word (of Christ) which is implanted in the inner man. “For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and in enduring word of God.” (Jn. 16:13-15; Rm. 10:17; 1 Pet. 1:23)
- 4) Conversion: Having been born again, having been made new, our allegiance changes from love of the world to that of God because God converted our souls! Where once we worked against God, now God works for us! (see Lk. 15:11ff; Lk. 18:9ff; Acts 2:36-41; 2 Cor. 7:10)
- (a) Conversion is an irrevocable gift from God! We have new desires **demonstrated outwardly**.
- 5) Justification: We have been justified by the faithfulness of Christ through His obedience to God.
- (a) It is God who justifies (Rm. 8:30,33). God is responsible for our justification. He pardons sin and credits the believer with the righteousness of Christ (Eph. 1:7; 2 Cor. 5:21)
 - (b) Justification is an irrevocable gift of God as He forever imputes the righteousness of Christ to the believer (Rm. 3:22-26; Rm. 8:30; 2 Cor. 5:21)
- 6) Adoption as Sons and daughters of God (Eph. 1:5; Rm. 8:14-15)
- (a) At the moment of regeneration and having been justified through faith, God, according to His predeterminate counsel and choice, did adopt us into His family for all eternity (Jn. 1:13; Gal. 3:26 “You are sons of God through faith in Jesus Christ”; 1 Jn. 3:1-2 “now...children of God.”)
 - (b) The fullness of adoption awaits as a future hope: the redemption of our bodies (Rm. 8:23-24a)
 - (c) Adoption is an irrevocable gift from God. In love God predestined us to be adopted (Eph. 1:5)!
- III) The Gospel for our Growth. The Gospel assures us of future maturity and growth in Christ (Eph. 4:13, 15)!
- A) Sanctification
- 1) Immediate sanctification: There is a sense that our sanctification is immediate, where God sets us apart from all people for Himself for His purposes. Upon salvation He immediately sets us free from the penalty and power of sin. The Bible says that when Christ died, we died with Him and are no longer under the ruling power of sin (Rm. 6:7: “Because anyone who has died has been set from sin.”) (**see also Rm. 6:11, 14; 1 Cor. 6:11**)
 - 2) Progressive sanctification: Spiritual growth. Growing up in the grace and knowledge of God. Learning to say “no” to ungodliness and ungodly living (Titus 2:11-13)
 - (a) This can only be experienced in this life, in these bodies! It is when we learn to say “no” to sin and worldly passions and “yes” to Christ making our bodies servants of Christ (1 Cor. 9:24-27)
 - (i) Running a race (Heb. 12:1-4); to win a prize (1 Cor. 9:24-25)
 - (b) Growing up into Christ our Head becoming like Him, being conformed to His image (Rm. 8:29; 12:1-2; **2 Cor. 3:18**)
 - (c) Growing dependence upon God means that we turn our minds and our bodies over to Him, offering them to Him for His pleasure (Rm. 6:13; 12:1-2)
 - (d) It is growth with assurance! Phil. 1:6, “That He who began a good work in you will see it through to completion on the day of Christ Jesus.”
 - (i) Our losses become gains (Phil. 3:7-8)
 - (ii) Our trials and suffering become triumphs (Rm. 5:3-4). He becomes sweeter every day!