

The Doctrine of Salvation

A 12 week study of the Ordo Salutis

July 1 - Sept. 9, 2018

The Doctrine of Salvation

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)
9. Justification
10. Sanctification
11. Glorification
12. Spirit Baptism: Where does it fall in the Ordo?

Regeneration

- Regeneration is a secret act of God in which He imparts new spiritual life to us.
 - Grudem, pg. 699
- A work of God according to the will of the Father worked through the power of the Holy Spirit by application of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost sinner.
- Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.
- “The term irresistible grace refers to the fact that God effectively calls His people and also gives them regeneration, and both actions guarantee that we will respond in saving faith.” - Grudem, pg. 700
- It is because we have been born again that we will respond to the gospel **voluntarily!**

The Necessity of Regeneration

- “In his natural state, man is characterized by spiritual death (Eph. 2:1). By nature he is a spiritual corpse, entirely unresponsive to the spiritual truth proclaimed in the external call of the gospel. For this reason the natural man will always reject the gospel, for the things of the Spirit of God “are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned” (1 Cor. 2:14). Sin has so pervaded man that all his faculties are corrupted by it. He is spiritually blind, for “the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ” (2 Cor. 4:4; Rom. 1:21-22; Eph. 4:17-18). He is also spiritually deaf (Jer. 6:10), and his heart is “deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked” (Jer. 17:9). - MacArthur, pg. 576-577

The Necessity of Regeneration

- Eph. 4:17-19 says, “7 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; 19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.”
- Eph. 2:1-3 says, “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.”

The Necessity of Regeneration

- Eph. 2:4-8 says, “4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, **made us alive** together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and **raised us up** together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Regeneration Accomplished

- “In the exercise of His sovereign pleasure, God issues an effectual call in the heart of the elect. He powerfully summons the sinner out of his spiritual death and blindness and, by virtue of the creative power of His word, imparts new spiritual life to him - giving him a new heart, along with eyes to see and ears to hear, thus enabling him to repent and believe in Christ for salvation. He effectually calls His people “out of darkness” and “into His marvelous light,” “to Himself,” “into fellowship with His Son”, so that they belong to Christ and His kingdom. Rom. 8:30; 1 Cor. 1:24; 2 Tim. 1:9; 1 Pet. 5:10; 2 Pet. 1:3; 1 Pet. 2:9; Acts 2:39; 1 Cor. 1:9; Rom. 1:6; 1 Thess. 2:12).

Regeneration/Faith: Chicken/Egg

- Which comes first? Regeneration or faith?
- It is called the new birth in John 3:3-8. 3 Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is **born again (from above)**, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” 4 Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” 5 Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Regeneration/Faith: Chicken/Egg

- “In the physical realm, a child makes no contribution to his conception and birth. Jesus chooses this analogy to illustrate the reality that dead and depraved sinners cannot contribute to their rebirth unto spiritual life but are entirely dependent on the sovereign will of God for regeneration.” - MacArthur, pg. 577-578
- John 1:¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
- James 1:¹⁸ Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

Regeneration/Faith: Chicken/Egg

- Eph. 2:1 And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins...
- 1 Pet. 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
- Col. 2: 13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,
- Ezekiel 36:26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

Ezekiel 37

The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. ² Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, *there were* very many in the open valley; and indeed *they were* very dry. ³ And He said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” So I answered, “O Lord GOD, You know.” ⁴ Again He said to me, “Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, ‘O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!’” ⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: “Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I *am* the LORD.” ⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸ Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but *there was* no breath in them. ⁹ Also He said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.”’” ¹⁰ So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army. ¹¹ Then He said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, ‘Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!’” ¹² Therefore prophesy and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³ Then you shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. ¹⁴ I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken *it* and performed *it*,” says the LORD.’”

The Means of Regeneration

- The gospel applied by the Holy Spirit is the cause, or means, or the new birth.
- James 1:18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.
- 1 Peter 1:23, 25 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever...now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.
- 2 Thess. 2: ¹³ But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, ¹⁴ to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Fruit (Results) of Regeneration

- Saving Faith - 2 Cor 4:6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
- Righteousness - 1 John 2:29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.
- Increasing Holiness - Eph. 4: ²⁰ But you have not so learned Christ, ²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²² that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, ²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.
- Good Works - Eph. 2: ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

The Fruit (Results) of Regeneration

- “As the new birth is the work of the Spirit, those who are born again necessarily bear the fruit of the Spirit and are increasingly characterized by love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” - MacArthur, pg. 589, Gal. 5:22-23
- Overcoming Evil - 1 John 5:4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.
- Love for and Obedience to God’s Word - Psa. 40:8 I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart.” Psalm 119:97 - Oh, how I love Your law! It *is* my meditation all the day.
- Love for Fellow Believers - 1 John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 1 John 5:1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.
- Conclusion: John 3:3 - Unless one is **born again from above**, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.