

## No 7 - The past, present, ongoing and future aspects of salvation

### Welcome - open in prayer

### Gods sovereignty in salvation

O/H - As we start by looking at Gods sovereignty in salvation - let's start by reading Romans 8:28-30  
For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

***To start off with in small groups I want you to discuss how you understand the terms Predestination, election, Gods foreknowledge, effectual call and choice.***

The word translated "predestined" comes from the Greek word *proorizo*, which carries the meaning of "determining beforehand," "ordaining," "deciding ahead of time." So, predestination refers to God's sovereign work in determining certain things ahead of time. The biblical terms election, foreknowledge and his effectual call and choice have a similar in meaning.

God's sovereignty in salvation starts with the need for him to initiate our salvation since we are naturally dead, blind and lost in our sin - with no natural desire to seek God unless he draws us to Him by His Spirit. While some see that foreknowledge refers to God choosing us because he knew in advance that we would choose to follow him, this is not the Biblical meaning of this word when its used in conjunction with predestination and election. Knowledge had to do with a relationship of already knowing someone intimately and it was used as a euphemism for sexual relations.

The following passages illustrate God's deliberate predetermined action.

One example is how God chose and called Israel - Deuteronomy 7:7-8 - The Lord did not *set his affection on you* and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

We also see this in sending Christ - Acts 2:22-23 - "Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by *God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge*; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.

Ephesians 1:1-12 - Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will - to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

***This leads to the question - if this is how these words are used in Scripture is it not unfair and unjust that everyone isn't saved? - Let's discuss this for a few moments.***

**The idea that some are passed over with salvation is called reprobation. But it is wrong to say that God is unfair or unjust in not saving everyone, as He is under no obligation to grant His grace and mercy to save anyone. The fact that anyone is saved is actually unfair and unjust as Jesus who was innocent, took our place on the cross when it should have been us.**

**As we saw last week the atonement or work of Christ on the cross is unlimited in its scope and power to save anyone but limited to those that repent and receive him. Those that don't choose to respond by receiving Christ as Saviour are still ultimately personally responsible for their choice of refusing Gods offer of mercy and justice will be served.**

An example of this is found in Acts 13:46-48 - Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: "We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. For this is what the Lord has commanded us: "'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'" "When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honoured the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.

Romans 9:16-24 - It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy. For Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." Therefore, God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.

One of you will say to me: "Then why does God still blame us? For who is able to resist his will?" But who are you, a human being, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?'" Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use?

What if God, although choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath - prepared for destruction? What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles?

**To balance this out the Bible also teaches the parallel truth that God desires to see all saved - For example - the parables of the lost sheep - coin - son shows God's heart for sinners.**

Ezekiel 18:23 - Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Sovereign Lord. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?

1 Timothy 2:1-6 - I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time.

2 Peter 3:8-9 - But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

**An Antinomy is the Greek word for - antí, "against, in opposition to", and nómos, "law" refers to a real or apparent mutual incompatibility of two laws. When it comes to salvation, Gods sovereignty and man's responsibility to respond are parallel truths that need to be held in tension.**

**When it comes to salvation the main Hebrew word in the Old Testament - Yasa - means to deliver or rescue. The main Greek word in the New Testament is Sotería - speaks of deliverance, rescue, preservation, wholeness and wellness.**

**So salvation refers to being saved, rescued, delivered or preserved from the penalty, power, effects and consequences of sin. The study of salvation is soteriology and there is a past, present, ongoing and future aspect to it that I would illustrate with the following illustration.**

## O/H - The parable of the helicopter rescue to illustrate the stages of our salvation

Through your own fault you have ended up going overboard from your boat - and you end up in the cold freezing ocean hundreds of miles from the shore with no hope of saving yourself as hypothermia quickly begins to set in.

But unbeknown to you - someone already knows your situation and a rescue helicopter has already been sent out to rescue you and take you to the safety of shore.

As it arrives just in time - the rescue basket is winched down with the rescuer who informs you just how dire and hopeless your situation is.

---> As he passionately pleads with you to acknowledge the reality of your situation - you are faced with a clear choice of trying in your own efforts to continue the futile attempt to reach the shore - or to accept the free rescue.

While every illustration breaks down - this in some ways captures our predicament as lost fallen sinners.

As we are winched on board - this can refer to the moment of our salvation.

The trip to land - can illustrate the process of sanctification.

And finally as we reach the land - this can refer to glorification.

O/H - Examples of the different tenses or aspects of salvation - Past, present, ongoing, future.

### Justification

The past aspect of salvation - We were / have been saved

*We were saved from the penalty sin and its controlling power and hold over us  
(Conversion and New Birth)*

### Justification and imputed righteousness

***What is justification - how would you explain it to a non-Christian or someone that's new to the faith?***

**It was a legal term that referred to a declaration of innocence and right standing in the eyes of the law. For us as sinners we can only be eternally acquitted of our sin and be right in the sight of God because of Jesus took the wrath to appease God and satisfy His justice by His once and for all time sacrifice on the cross to pay a ransom to God for our sins.**

Romans 3:23-24 - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Romans 4:1-5 - What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about - but not before God. What does Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.

Romans 5:1-2 - Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

Galatians 2:16 - Know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

Galatians 3:10-11 - For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because "the righteous will live by faith."

Acts 13:38-39 - "Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses."

***What else happens at the point of conversion?***

### **New birth and regeneration**

John 3:1-8 - Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him." Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." "How can someone be born when they are old?"

Nicodemus asked, "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!" Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit."

You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

1 Peter 1:3-5 - Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1:23 - For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

### **Adoption into God's family forever**

Romans 8:15-17 - The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Galatians 4:6-7 - Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

### **Forgiveness and reconciliation with God**

Romans 4:7-8 - Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven; whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them

2 Corinthians 5:17-20 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

## **The baptism of the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ**

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 - Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body - whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free - and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

Ephesians 4:4-6 - There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Romans 8:9-11 - You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

## **The sealing and indwelling of the Holy Spirit**

Ephesians 1:13-14 - And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession - to the praise of his glory.

2 Corinthians 1:20-22 - For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God. Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

Ephesians 4:30 - And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

1 John 4:4 - You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies.

Ephesians 2:19-22 - Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

## **Sanctified and declared to be holy in our position and standing as a saint**

**Sanctification means to be set apart - and it has 2 different aspects to it - where at conversion we are set apart as a gift of Gods grace and declared to be holy in our position and standing as a saint or holy one. It also refers as we'll see to a process of actually being made holy in practice. So holiness is both positional and practical.**

1 Corinthians 1:1-2 - Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ - their Lord and ours:

1 Corinthians 6:11 - And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

2 Thessalonians 2:13 - But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as first fruits, to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.

Hebrews 13:12 - And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood.

## **Sanctification**

### **The present and ongoing aspect of salvation - We are being saved**

***We are being saved from the presence of sin and conformed to become more like Christ (Christian growth and transformation)***

***What are some of the present and ongoing aspects of salvation?***

**While we are saints and holy in our position and standing with God - we are also being transformed in a lifelong process to grow to be increasingly Christlike.**

### **The process of sanctification - Christian growth**

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 - Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Hebrews 10:11-14 - Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 - It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality.

1 Peter 1:15-16 - But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

***What is God's role in our sanctification and what part do we play?***

**We can't be changed without a work of the Holy Spirit but we must actively cooperate with his work in our life. We must daily seek to follow Jesus as Lord of our life under the final authority of his Word, the Bible.**

**This includes the Christian disciplines of quiet times where we read, study, meditate and memorize God's word - prayer - confession - praise - thanksgiving - stewardship - witnessing. Our sanctification also involves the need to be an active member of a local church for corporate worship, service, applying the one another verses, communion and water baptism.**

Philippians 2:12-13 - Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed - not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence - continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

**Paul wasn't speaking here about working for our salvation in the sense of our justification, but rather the outworking of our sanctification in Christian growth and holiness.**

1 Peter 2:1-3 - Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

2 Peter 1:3-11 - His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.

For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

***What can and does God use to grow us as Christians?***

**God is more concerned about our spiritual growth and conformity to the image of His Son than our earthly comfort and convenience. As a result, he will use various trails, difficulties and even people as opportunities to grow us to be more like Christ. - Onion layer illustration.**

As a result, we read in 1 Peter 1:6-9 - In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith - of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire - may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

***When will the process of sanctification be completed?***

**Sanctification is a lifelong process and we will only arrive at glorification. Despite the clear teaching of Scripture that shows we still have the potential as Christians to sin - eg - Romans chapter 7 - there is a false teaching that we can called sinless perfectionism.**

Philippians 3:10-15 - I want to know Christ - yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

### **The filling of the Holy Spirit**

Ephesians 5:15-21 - Be very careful, then, how you live - not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

***What is the meaning of being filled with the Holy Spirit and how do we obey this command?***  
**It means daily making choices that put us under his control and influence. We do this though the disciplines already mentioned.**

Romans 8:29 - For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

***What is the evidence that we are being filled or in other words controlled and under the influence of Gods Spirit?***

**Fruit - power - boldness in sharing the gospel**

### **The fruit of the Spirit**

John 15:5 - "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:16 - You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit - fruit that will last - and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

Galatians 5:18-25 - But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.* Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

### **Glorification**

**The future aspect of salvation - We will or are yet to be saved**

***We will finally be saved from the potential to sin and all the effects of the fall  
(Resurrection and eternity with Christ)***

***What future aspects of our salvation are we still waiting for?***

### **Glorification - our resurrection**

Romans 8:18-25 - I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

Philippians 3:20-21 - But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 - Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed - in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

2 Corinthians 5:1-5 - For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 - Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

### **The eternal state with God**

1 John 3:2-3 - Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Revelation 21:1-5 - Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

**The error of realised eschatology - the error of claiming things for this life that will only be ultimately fulfilled in the future when we received a glorified resurrected body and the effects of the curse are eliminated when the new heaven and earth is formed. This includes fallacy of the health, wealth and prosperity teaching and physical healing in the atonement for now.**

### **Revision**

**Justification - Courtroom illustration.**

**Sanctification - Rock to smooth stone illustration - Song - Jesus take me as I am.**

**Glorification - Cocoon to butterfly illustration.**

### **What God begins he will finish**

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 Jesus.

1 Corinthians 1:8-9 - He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Next week - Gods judgement - what happens to people at death - Is hell real - is it eternal - how could a God of love send anyone there for an eternity - and on a positive note on what basis can we be fully assured that we will be going to heaven?**

***Jesus all for Jesus  
All I have is Christ***

**Close in prayer**

# **The past, present, ongoing and future aspects of salvation**

## **Justification**

### **The past aspect of salvation - We were / have been saved**

***We were saved from the penalty sin and its controlling power and hold over us  
(Conversion and New Birth)***

#### **Justification and imputed righteousness**

Romans 3:23-24 - 4:1-5 & 5:1-2.  
Galatians 2:16 & 3:10-11 - Acts 13:38-39

#### **New birth and regeneration**

John 3:1-8 - 1 Peter 1:3-5 - 1 Peter 1:23

#### **Adoption into God's family forever**

Romans 8:15-17 - Galatians 4:6-7

#### **Forgiveness and reconciliation with God**

Romans 4:7-8 - 2 Corinthians 5:17-20

#### **The baptism of the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ**

1 Corinthians 12:13 - Ephesians 4:4-6 - Romans 8:9-11

#### **The sealing and indwelling of the Holy Spirit**

Ephesians 1:13-14 - Ephesians 4:30  
2 Corinthians 1:20-22 - 1 John 4:4 - 1 John 5:18-21 - 1 Corinthians 6:19

#### **Sanctified and declared to be holy in our position and standing as a saint**

1 Corinthians 1:1-2 & 6:11 - 2 Thessalonians 2:13 - Hebrews 13:12

## **Sanctification**

### **The present and ongoing aspect of salvation - We are being saved**

***We are being saved from the presence of sin and conformed to become more like Christ  
(Christian growth and transformation)***

#### **The process of sanctification - Christian growth**

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 - Hebrews 10:11-14 - 1 Thessalonians 4:3 - 1 Peter 1:15-16  
Philippians 2:12-13 - 1 Peter 2:1-3 - 2 Peter 1:3-11 - Philippians 3:10-15

#### **The filling of the Holy Spirit**

Ephesians 5:18-21 - Romans 8:29

#### **The fruit of the Spirit**

John 15:5 - Galatians 5:18-25.

## **Glorification**

### **The future aspect of salvation - We will or are yet to be saved**

***We will finally be saved from the potential to sin and all the effects of the fall and curse  
(Resurrection and eternity with Christ)***

#### **Glorification - our resurrection**

Romans 8:18-25 - Philippians 3:20-21 - 1 Corinthians 15:51-53  
2 Corinthians 5:1-5 - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

#### **The eternal state with God**

1 John 3:2-3 - Revelation 21:1-5.

## **The past, present, ongoing and future aspects of salvation**

### **God's sovereignty in salvation**

*Predestination, election, Gods foreknowledge, effectual call and choice*

### **Justification**

**The past aspect of salvation - We were / have been saved**

*We were saved from the penalty sin and its controlling power and hold over us  
(Conversion and New Birth)*

### **Sanctification**

**The present and ongoing aspect of salvation - We are being saved**

*We are being saved from the presence of sin and conformed to become more like Christ  
(Christian growth and transformation)*

### **Glorification**

**The future aspect of salvation - We will or are yet to be saved**

*We will finally be saved from the potential to sin and all the effects of the fall  
(Resurrection and eternity with Christ)*

## **Question: "What is predestination?"**

**file:///C:/Users/jks/Documents/New%20documents/First%20Things/What%20is%20predestination\_%20Is%20predestination%20biblical\_%20\_%20GotQuestions.org.html**

Answer: Romans 8:29-30 tells us, "For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified." Ephesians 1:5 and 11 declare, "He predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will... In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will." Many people have a strong hostility to the doctrine of predestination. However, predestination is a biblical doctrine. The key is understanding what predestination means, biblically.

The words translated "predestined" in the Scriptures referenced above are from the Greek word *proorizo*, which carries the meaning of "determining beforehand," "ordaining," "deciding ahead of time." So, predestination is God determining certain things to occur ahead of time. What did God determine ahead of time? According to Romans 8:29-30, God predetermined that certain individuals would be conformed to the likeness of His Son, be called, justified, and glorified. Essentially, God predetermines that certain individuals will be saved. Numerous scriptures refer to believers in Christ being chosen (Matthew 24:22, 31; Mark 13:20, 27; Romans 8:33, 9:11, 11:5-7, 28; Ephesians 1:11; Colossians 3:12; 1 Thessalonians 1:4; 1 Timothy 5:21; 2 Timothy 2:10; Titus 1:1; 1 Peter 1:1-2, 2:9; 2 Peter 1:10). Predestination is the biblical doctrine that God in His sovereignty chooses certain individuals to be saved.

The most common objection to the doctrine of predestination is that it is unfair. Why would God choose certain individuals and not others? The important thing to remember is that no one deserves to be saved. We have all sinned (Romans 3:23) and are all worthy of eternal punishment (Romans 6:23). As a result, God would be perfectly just in allowing all of us to spend eternity in hell. However, God chooses to save some of us. He is not being unfair to those who are not chosen, because they are receiving what they deserve. God's choosing to be gracious to some is not unfair to the others. No one deserves anything from God; therefore, no one can object if he does not receive anything from God. An illustration would be a man randomly handing out money to five people in a crowd of twenty. Would the fifteen people who did not receive money be upset? Probably so. Do they have a right to be upset? No, they do not. Why? Because the man did not owe anyone money. He simply decided to be gracious to some.

If God is choosing who is saved, doesn't that undermine our free will to choose and believe in Christ? The Bible says that we have the choice—all who believe in Jesus Christ will be saved (John 3:16; Romans 10:9-10). The Bible never describes God rejecting anyone who believes in Him or turning away anyone who is seeking Him (Deuteronomy 4:29). Somehow, in the mystery of God, predestination works hand-in-hand with a person being drawn by God (John 6:44) and believing unto salvation (Romans 1:16). God predestines who will be saved, and we must choose Christ in order to be saved. Both facts are equally true. Romans 11:33 proclaims, "Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!"

## **Question: "What is the doctrine of election?"**

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Answer: An election is a time when people choose who they want to fill certain positions from President on down. An election is a choice. The biblical doctrine of election teaches that God chooses to save some, and, by necessity, if He does not choose everyone, then there are some who are passed over. Those whom He has chosen to save are referred to as "the elect" (see, e.g., Mark 13:20).

The Bible teaches that God chooses people based on His own purposes and His desire to show grace to underserving sinners. Ephesians 1:4–6 says, “For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.” He chose in love, in accordance with His pleasure and will, so that He would be glorified. God’s election has nothing to do with what the elect would or would not do.

God did not choose everyone. If He had, then everyone would come to faith in Christ. He chose some, and He left others to their own desires. Left to ourselves, all of us would continue in our rebellion and reject Christ. God chose to pursue some, convict them of their need, and lead them to faith. It is because of God’s choice that anyone comes to faith in Christ. Jesus said, “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day” (John 6:44).

This is a tough truth to get our minds around. We are tempted to think that we are more just and gracious than God and that He should have chosen everyone. We need to reject that temptation. We are in no place to judge God! It is not as though some are desperately crying out to Him for salvation and He rejects them because He has not chosen them. Those whom God does not choose continue doing exactly what they want—they rebel against God and try to stay as far away from Him as possible. He simply allows them to continue on the path they have freely and willfully chosen. He has, however, chosen to intervene in the lives of some and win them over. He does this so that He might show His love and kindness to people who are undeserving.

Some people think that God “chooses” based on the choices that He knows that the elect will make: He knows who will and who will not receive Christ, and He makes His choice based on that. But that would make people the ultimate choosers, with God simply following our choice. Biblically, it is the other way around. God chooses some based on His own purposes, and then, in response to His work in their lives, they choose Him. His choice is first and foundational. Without God’s election, no one would ever turn to Him.

Many Christians recoil at the doctrine of election the first time they hear it. But, upon further reflection, most believers will admit that God was at work in their lives, drawing them to Himself long before they were even aware of it. They will recognize that, if He had not intervened, they would have continued in unbelief. The hand of God, working in big ways and little ways, becomes more evident in hindsight.

Some object to the doctrine of election on the grounds that it stifles missionary and evangelistic activity. After all, if God has chosen to save some, then they will be saved whether or not anyone takes them the gospel—so why bother? This objection overlooks the truth that hearing and believing the gospel is the means that God uses to save those He has chosen to save. Paul believed and taught election (it is a New Testament doctrine), yet he was zealous like no other in his missionary endeavours.

Because he knew that God had chosen to save people through the gospel, Paul proclaimed it boldly and was persecuted for it. He explains, “I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 2:10). Paul endured persecution so that the elect will be saved, because the elect cannot be saved without hearing and believing the gospel. Through evangelism, God allows people to participate in His great plan of drawing a people unto Himself from every nation and language on earth.

The doctrine of election frees us to share the gospel without pressure or fear of failure. When we share the gospel clearly, we have been obedient, and that is a success. The results are left to God.