

BIBLE CHALLENGE 2019

Week 25: June 16-22

Salvation: What does it mean and how does it happen?

Read: Leviticus 17:11; Deuteronomy 30:6; 1 Kings 19:18; Nehemiah 9:17-20; Psalm 19:1-4; 32:1-2; 65:4; 81:11-13; 85:2-3; 89:3-4; 130:4; 139:16; 143:2; Isaiah 43:25; 44:22; 45:22; 53:5; 55:7; Jeremiah 13:23; 24:7; 31:33; Ezekiel 11:19-20,26-27; 16:6-7; 33:11; 36:26; Micah 7:18-19; Zechariah 6:12-13; Matthew 5:48; 13:10-17; 18:11; 19:28; 20:28; 22:14; 27:51; Mark 1:15; Luke 5:32; 14:23; 22:37; John 1:12-13; 3:3-7,14,31,36; 5:24; 6:28-29,39,44,64-65; 7:37; 10:28; 19:11; Acts 4:12; 13:38-39; 15:16; 16:14,17; 20:24,28; 26:17-18; Romans 1:19-20; 2:14-15; 28:29; 4:3-6,22-24; 5:1-2,6,8-19; 6:18-22; 8:15-17; 29-30; 9:11,15-16,31-32; 10:14-17; 11:5-6; 1 Corinthians 1:9; 2:12-15; 6:11; 13:5; 15:57; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18; 5:7,11,17,20-21; 6:17-18; 13:5; Galatians 2:4-6,16-21; 3:6,10-13,18-24,26,29; 4:4-7; 5:13,24; 6:15; Ephesians 1:4-5,13-14,17-20; 2:4-10; 4:1-2; Philippians 2:12-13; 3:4-10; Colossians 2:13; 3:12; 1 Thessalonians 2:12; 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 3:5-7; Hebrews 2:13-15; 9:23; 11:1,6; 13:20; James 1:15,18; 2:10,23; 4:4; 1 Peter 1:3,10,23; 5:10; 2 Peter 2:5; 1 John 2:9-12; 3:1-2; 9; 4:7,13; 5:1; Jude 24; Revelation 13:8; 17:8; 20:12-15; 21:27; 22:17. Read Psalm 51, Romans 3, and 2 Peter 1 in full.

Heidelberg Catechism, Question 10: "Will God allow such disobedience and apostasy to go unpunished?" Answer: "No, he won't. He is very displeased with our inherited and actual sin and will punish them with a just judgment here and in eternity. He has declared: 'Cursed is everyone that does not continue to do everything written in the book of the law.'"

The bad news is that we are sinners and God demands that we are to be perfect as he is perfect. We have sinned and have fallen short of the grace of God. What we deserve is Hell for all eternity. That, of course, is the bad news.

The good news (another word for "good news" is "Gospel") is that God has a plan of salvation. From before the foundations of the earth, God decreed that he would send his Son to atone for the sins of his elect. So what is salvation? It is God's work of saving a body of sinners from the wrath and hell we rightfully deserve.

But, how does this salvation work? We have already talked about what the atonement is and we know that we are saved by grace through faith, but how does God put all of the pieces together and then work them out in each one of our lives? This is what theologians call the *Ordo Salutis* or the "Order of Salvation."

Ordo Salutis

The "Order of Salvation" is a step by step discussion, based on Scripture, of how God ordinarily works salvation in the life of a believer. And though the Scriptures that present this are not ever found in one neat and tidy place, there is ample evidence when plain reason is applied to the texts in question, to make out a sequence in which God works.

The Decree of God: In eternity prior to creation, God had a plan and it was his decree not just to create and to ordain the fall of his creation, but also to determine a plan by which he would redeem a group of people for his own glory.

Election: Part of this decree was to elect, from his creation, a people to redeem from their sins. This election was totally and utterly unconditional, otherwise, grace would no longer be grace.

Mystical Union: Not only did God elect to save a people for himself, but he saved them with the aim of uniting them to Christ in a spiritual union.

External Call: God's call begins as an external call both in nature (leaving all men without excuse) and then extends to the preached word as it is taken to the nations. The call is not, in and of itself, efficacious, though it holds the reprobate up to greater condemnation for they have heard and rejected the Word of Truth.

Regeneration: It is impossible to see the Kingdom of God without being "born again" or "born from above" (depending on how the Greek word is translated). This regeneration is what makes the External Call something that effects the internal person — or, in other words, makes the ineffectual

external call into an effectual call.

Effectual Call: Having been given spiritual life by the Holy Spirit, the person now has "ears to hear" and thus is able to respond to the call of the Gospel, turn from sin, and be saved.

Conversion: Here we have the conversion of the individual, something that has two parts — faith and repentance. Both of these are the natural response to the Gospel of a regenerated soul and both go hand in hand, one cannot repent without faith and if one has faith, they are driven to repent of their sins.

Faith, of course, is the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things unseen (as many translations render it). Repentance literally means to change your mind toward something — "I once thought this behavior was okay, now I do not." Repentance is not merely apologizing for sin, it is desiring to change behavior so that sin does not continue.

Justification: Justification is God's forensic declaration that the righteous penalty of the Law has been satisfied in our behalf. It is the declaration of God as Judge that we are innocent in our standing before him.

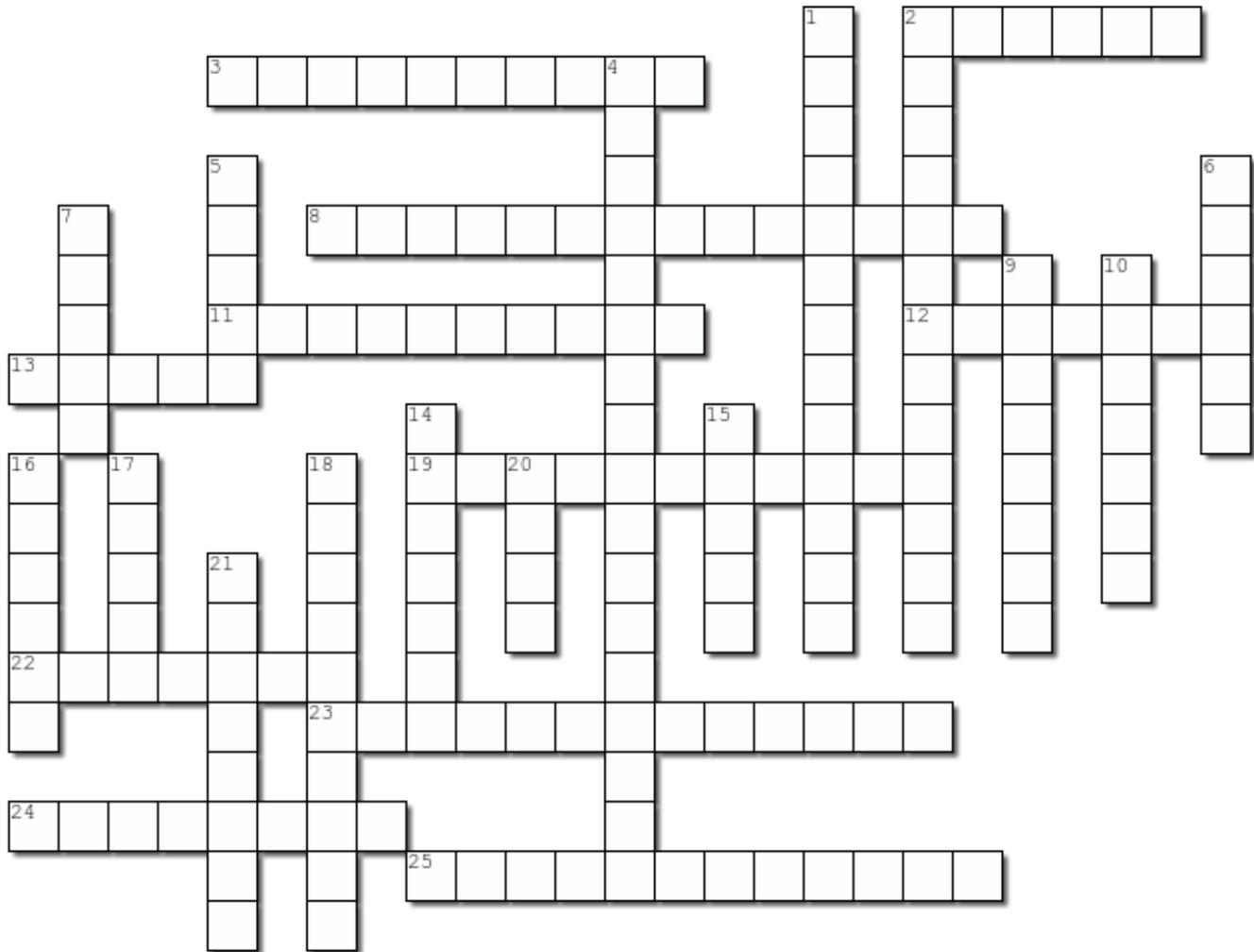
Adoption: As noted with respect to the Mystical Union, we are not merely justified, but that we are united to Christ as adopted sons and daughters of the Almighty God.

Sanctification: This reflects the life of the believer from the time of their conversion to the time of their death. Little by little the believer is conformed into the image of Christ. We'll never be perfected in this life, but our lives should reflect growth as we progress in our faith from being babies in the faith to being mature in the faith.

Glorification: This speaks of our perfection. Like calling, this has two parts. The first part is our spiritual glorification as our spirit ascends into the presence of Christ at our death. Yet, when Christ returns to earth, our bodies will be resurrected from the graves and made perfect while being joined with our glorified spirits. And here, we will dwell forever in the new creation.

It should be noted that there have been times and places when people have debated some of the ordering of these elements, oftentimes from personal experience. And, while much of this is a reflection of a logical ordering of what is found in the Scriptures, it should be stated that much of this is in fact laid out in the Bible (for example, in Romans 8:29-30). Also, there are some things that logically must precede others. For example, it is impossible to have saving faith apart from being regenerated. Thus, the order listed here has been largely defended and has stood the challenges of time and ought to be seen as valuable as we think about how Salvation is applied to our lives.

Week 25 - Salvation



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Across

2. Who bears witness with our spirits that we are children of God?
3. This is a result of faith and repentance.
8. God blots out these for his own name's sake.
11. 'Faith is the assurance of things hoped for and the _____ of things unseen.
12. This declares the glory of the Lord.
13. 'The Spirit and the _____ say 'Come...'
19. The Latin phrase meaning, 'Order of Salvation.' (2 words)
22. '_____ yourselves to see whether you are in the faith.'
23. Abraham believed God and it was counted to him as _____.
24. 'Blessed is he whose transgression is _____.'
25. No one can see this unless he is born again (3 words).

Down

1. This is a forensic act.
2. God had promised Elijah that he had elected to save a remnant of this many people who had not bowed to Baal. (2 words).
4. 'Who is it that _____ except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. (3 words)
5. Because we have been Justified by faith we have this with God through Jesus Christ.
6. 'Many are called but few are _____.'
7. 'I will give them a _____ to know that I am Lord...'
9. 'Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in _____.
10. You must be _____ as the Father is.
14. 'And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose _____ of all he has given me.
15. The life is in this.
16. 'But with you there is forgiveness that you may be _____.'
17. This seller of purple cloth had her heart opened by God so she could understand Paul's preaching.
18. Nehemiah reminds the people that despite their sins, God had not forsaken them in this place.
20. We were _____ in our trespasses.
21. 'Who is a God like you, pardoning _____?'