



THE GRAND SCOPE OF REDEMPTION

Lesson 12: The Subjective Application of Redemption (Part 2)

A Look at the Subjective Application of Salvation through Conversion (Faith)

Foreknowledge → Predestination (Election) +
Pre-temporal Union with Christ



General (Outward) Calling →
Effectual (Inward) Calling



Regeneration + Temporal Union with Christ by HS



Conversion (Faith + Repentance)



Justification (Remission + Imputation)



Adoption + Reconciliation + Sealing of HS



Sanctification (Mortification + Vivification)



Preservation → Perseverance



Glorification (Soul → Body)

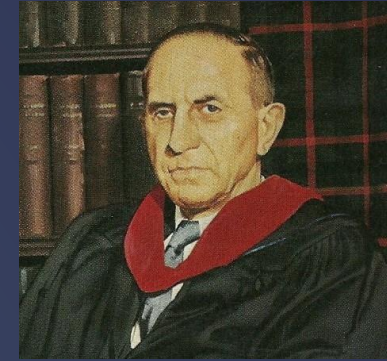
ORDO SALUTIS

THE ORDER OF SALVATION



“Faith... is a whole-souled movement of self-commitment to Christ for salvation from sin and its consequences.”

John Murray



1. Defining Conversion

Conversion is the humble response of the sinner to the gospel message in which he turns away from sin and self and toward Christ embracing Him as his only hope of salvation.

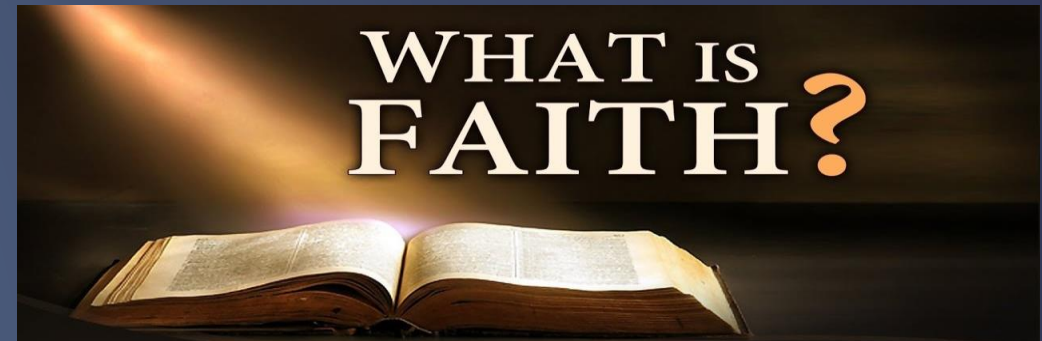
Note interconnectedness between faith (Acts 16:31) and repentance (Acts 2:38). Conversion involves both (Mark 1:15; Acts 20:21; cf. also Acts 19:4; Heb. 6:1).

Faith is a penitent faith and repentance is a believing repentance. Faith without repentance leads to license and repentance without faith leads to legalism.

2. Understanding Faith

A. The Need for Faith

Faith presupposes an acute sense of the need for salvation. Thus, the opposite of belief is not merely unbelief, but unbelief expressed by indifference toward one's condition (Acts 16:30).



B. The Object of Faith

One may have an acute and disconcerting sense of his need for salvation but trusts himself to remedy his lost condition (i.e. good deeds, religious rituals & deeds, etc.).

Faith abandons all self-reliance, self-sufficiency, self-worth and self-effort and instead relies wholly upon the sufficiency, worth and works of Christ alone (Acts 4:12; cf. also John 1:12; 9:35; 17:20; Acts 16:31; Rom. 10:9; 1 Tim. 1:16; 1 Pet. 1:8.; 1 John 5:13).

It is not strictly faith in Christ that saves, rather Christ saves through faith in Him. The efficacy of faith does not reside in itself as though it merits God's favor. All the efficacy of salvation lies solely in the object of faith which is Christ (Acts 4:12) and by God's grace (Eph. 2:8-9).

3. Defining Faith

Faith involves knowledge of truth, assent to the truth and commitment to it (cf. 1 Thess. 2:13).

A. Knowledge (*Notitia*)

- Faith engages the mind with the knowledge of truth.



A. Knowledge (*Notitia*) Cont'd.

Faith requires knowledge of objective truth regarding Christ and the Gospel. Without objective revelation of truth one cannot know what he places his faith in.

- See John 20:31; Rom. 10:13-14, 17; 1 Cor. 15:1-8 (cf. also Luke 24:45; John 2:22; Acts 17:23; Eph. 1:13; 2 Tim. 3:15)

B. Assent (*Assensus*)

- Faith engages the heart accepting the knowledge of truth.

Faith requires that a person gives assent to the truth and trustworthiness of Christ and the Gospel. Faith is not credulity (i.e. faith based on a lack of compelling evidence). Faith is a deep-rooted conviction of truth that goes beyond awareness of it.



- See Rom. 4:20-21; Heb.; 11:1; 6, 11, 19; James 1:6 (cf. also Eph. 3:12; 1 Thess. 4:14; 2 Tim. 1:12; Heb. 10:22)

B. Assent (*Assensus*) Cont'd

Spurious faith often stops here. This is just enough faith to qualify one to be a demon (James 2:19). See also parable of the Sower (Mark 4:13-20).

Salvation does not depend on the strength of one's faith as much as it does on the faithfulness of God who saves. See Matt. 17:20; Mark 9:24; Rom. 14:1.

C. Commitment (*Fiducia*)

- Faith engages the will committing one's self whole-heartedly to Christ and the gospel.

Faith requires that one whole-heartedly entrusts himself to the truth, trustworthiness and supreme value of Christ and the gospel. Such a faith is evidenced by transformed affections (love) for and obedience to Christ. It is a faith that not only regards Christ and His gospel as true, but also as good and desirable. In this case, the mind, the affections, and the will are fully engaged.



- See Matt. 13:44-46; Phil. 3:8; James 2:14-26; 1 Pet. 1:8 (cf. also Matt. 11:28-29; Rom. 1:5 [16:26]; Acts 16:34; Heb. 11:1-40 [e.g. vs. 8, 26]; 1 Pet. 2:7; 1 John 5:4-5)

C. Commitment (*Fiducia*) Cont'd

In addition to Hebrews 11, note the transformation expressed in other examples of genuine faith – **Mary**, Martha's sister (Luke 10:38-42); **Thomas** (John 20:28); **Peter's** boldness (Acts 2:14ff.); **Stephen** (Acts 6:8; 7:55, 59); **Paul** (Acts 9:20); the **Philippian Jailer** (Acts 16:30).



Mary at Jesus' feet



Peter preaching on Pentecost



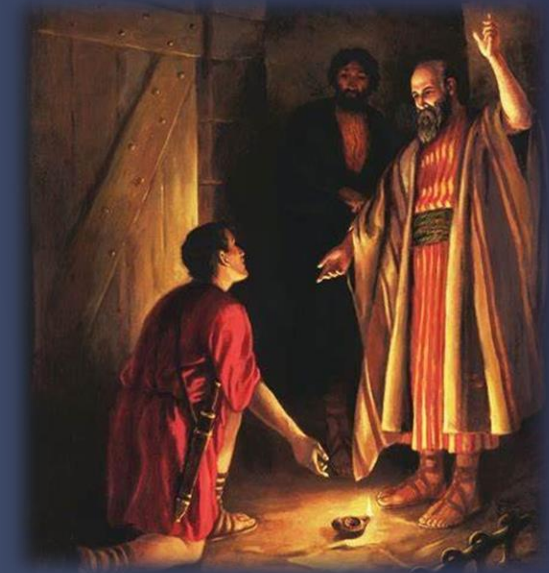
Paul's conversion



Thomas doubts no more



Stephen is stoned to death



Philippian Jailer's conversion