

The Grand Scope of Redemption

Lesson 4: The Order of Salvation

A Look at God's Saving Work in the Believer from Start to Finish

"God does not impart the fulness of His salvation to the sinner in a single act."
Louis Berkhof

*"As long as Christ remains outside of us, and we are separated from him, all that he has suffered and done for the salvation of the human race remains useless and of no value for us. Therefore, to share with us what he has received from the Father, he had to become ours and to dwell within us....
The Holy Spirit is the bond by which Christ effectually unites us to himself."*
John Calvin

1. Defining the Order of Salvation (*Ordo Salutis*)

Salvation is not a one-time event. Rather, it is a series of acts and processes over the course of time from eternity past through eternity future in which the Father plans our redemption, the Son accomplishes the work of redemption, and the Spirit applies that work by uniting us to Christ so that we may partake of all His saving benefits. There is both a logical and temporal order to salvation from start to finish, a map of sorts showing the full landscape whereby God saves sinners.

- Sinners have been saved (past dimension) – Eph. 2:5, 8
- They are being saved (present dimension) – 1 Cor. 1:18; 15:2
- And they will be saved (future dimension) – Rom. 5:9-10; 1 Pet. 1:5, 9

2. Defining Union with Christ

The believer's union with Christ in His person and work is the central means by which all the benefits of redemption described in the order of salvation are applied to their lives.

See some 200+ uses of "in Christ", "with Christ", "in Him", "with Him", "in the Lord", etc. in NT.

3. Describing Union with Christ

There are 5 interrelated terms that help us envision what union with Christ entails:

Union – Mutual indwelling whereby believers are in Christ and Christ is in them.

Participation – Partaking of events in Christ's life such as His death, burial and resurrection.

Identification – Being located in Christ and identified as belonging to Him as Lord and Savior.

Incorporation – The whole body of Christ is united together to His person and work.

Representation – Christ acts as our representative as the second/ last Adam.

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