

# The Doctrine of Salvation

A Study of the Ordo Salutis

July 1 - Oct. 14, 2018

# The Ordo Salutis

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) - part 1
9. Conversion (faith) - part 2
10. Conversion (faith) - part 3
11. Justification - part 1
12. Justification - part 2
13. Adoption
14. Sanctification
15. Glorification
16. Spirit Baptism: Where does it fall in the Ordo?

# Justification - Declared Righteous

In regeneration, God performs that divine operation in the sinner's soul whereby he births new spiritual life into him. In conversion, God grants the necessary gifts of repentance and faith by which we are united to Christ and lay hold of the blessings of salvation. Then in justification, God legally declares that we are no longer deemed guilty under the divine law but are forgiven and counted righteous in God's sight. - MacArthur, pg. 609

# Justification - Declared Righteous

- How can sinners come to be in a right relationship with the holy God of the universe? God is perfectly righteous (Matt. 5:48). He is light and in Him is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5). He is entirely (wholly) holy, free from any defect or impurity.
  - All mankind, on the other hand, has sinned against God and this falls short of that holy standard (Rom. 3:23). We are darkness (Eph. 5:8) and have incurred the penalty of death and condemnation (Rom. 5:16; 6:23).
  - Salvation is a matter of righteousness. People are condemned to eternal spiritual death because they lack the righteousness that a perfectly holy God possesses and requires for fellowship with Him.
- MacArthur, pg. 609-610

# Justification - Declared Righteous

- We must be given the righteousness that belongs to God Himself in order to fellowship with Him.
- 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. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”
- Romans 10:3 For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. 4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

# Justification - Declared Righteous

- Romans 3:21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. 27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. 28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

# Justification - Declared Righteous

- 2 Corinthians 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
- Galatians 2:16 knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.
- Galatians 2:21 I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.”
- Philippians 3:9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

# Justification - Declared Righteous

- Galatians 3:21 Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. 22 But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. 23 But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. 24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. 26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.
- “Justification is the article by which the church stands or falls.” - Martin Luther



# Justification - Declared Righteous

- There are only 2 religions in the world:
- 1) the Religion of Human Achievement - man contributes to his own righteousness thereby earning merit with his god(s).
- 2) the Religion of Divine Accomplishment - God accomplishes righteousness by the holy life and substitutionary death of His Son and then freely gives that righteousness as a gift by grace alone through faith alone.
- Good works, personal merit, and practical holiness are not the grounds for acceptance with God.
- Romans 4:2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” 4 Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.

# Justification - Declared Righteous

Justification is that instantaneous act of God whereby, as a gift of His grace, He imputes to a believing sinner the full and perfect righteousness of Christ through faith alone and legally declares him perfectly righteous in His sight, forgiving the sinner of all unrighteousness and thus delivering him from all condemnation.

# Justification - Imputed Righteousness

- Justification is a legal declaration. We are legally declared to be righteous and therefore right with God.
- This is not an impartation or infusion of righteousness.
- As an imputation, it describes what God declares about true believers and not what He does to change believers. Justification itself effects no change in the sinner's nature or character. It is a change of status before God and not a gradual transformation that takes place within us as we believe.
- Similar legal declaration: "I now pronounce you husband and wife." Before the pronouncement, you have 2 single people. After, you have one couple. The legal status of bride and groom is changed from single to married.

# Justification - Imputed Righteousness

In RCC teaching, justification does not mean “to declare righteous,” but “to make righteous.” They conflate justification and sanctification. The righteous things you do then become part of what saves you, so you are saved based on your righteousness added to Christ’s righteousness.

# Justification - Imputed Righteousness

- The ground of our justification is the imputed righteousness of Christ.
- God imputes, or credits and counts, our sin to Christ and punished Him in our place (propitiation), and He imputes Christ's righteousness to us and grants us eternal life in Him.
- God treats Christ at the Cross as if He had committed all our sins and treats us as if we committed all of Christ's righteous acts.
- Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.
- 1 Peter 2:24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

# Justification - Imputed Righteousness

- No sin ever goes unpunished.
- Romans 4:7 “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; 8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin.”
- Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.
- Romans 8:33 Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

# Justification - Imputed Righteousness

- Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
- Romans 8:30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.
- Titus 3:7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

# Justification - Imputed Righteousness

- It is not enough only to have had our sins forgiven. To have fellowship with God we must be holy as He is holy.
- **Passive and Active Obedience:** The law of God has both penal sanctions and positive demands. It demands not only the full discharge of its precepts but also the infliction of penalty for all infractions and shortcomings. It is this twofold demand of the law of God which is taken into account when we speak of the active and passive obedience of Christ. Christ as the vicar of His people came under the curse and condemnation due to sin and He also fulfilled the law of God in all its positive requirements. In other words, He took care of the guilt of sin and perfectly fulfilled the demands of righteousness. He perfectly met both the penal and the prescriptive requirements of God's law. - John Murray



# Justification - Imputed Righteousness

- Isaiah 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
- Romans 5:18 Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

# Justification - Imputed Righteousness

- What we have seen then is that Adam disobeyed God and that was counted for condemnation to all who were in him (would come from him). Christ obeyed God and His obedience was counted for righteousness to all who are in Him by faith.
- Christ has removed the penalty of our sin and fulfilled the prescriptive requirements of the law maintaining His own righteousness.
- His perfect righteousness is thus the ground on which we stand before God. Sinners are not justified because of some good things in them. God declares us righteous because He graciously imputes to us the perfect righteousness of His own dear Son. - MacArthur, pg. 618