

## 4. The Gospel and Salvation (Soteriology)

Biblical and Systematic Theology, Harpeth Christian Church

Chad Harrington

### The Gospel

I recommend *The Gospel Precisely* by Matthew Bates for source material. Also his book *Gospel Allegiance* for more in-depth.

1. What is the kingdom of God?
  - Kingdom is reign is: ruler, people who yield, and a place
2. What is the gospel?
  - Backgrounds
    - Good news
    - Victory announcement
  - Gospel in short: “Jesus is the Christ”
  - What it is not
    - Our Response: Faith and repentance, nor is it baptism
    - The Results: Receiving forgiveness, grace and mercy, salvation, the Holy Spirit, and eternal life
  - Gospel in more detail:
    - Isa 61:1 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, // because the LORD has anointed me // to preach good news to the poor. // He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, // to proclaim freedom for the captives // and release from darkness for the prisoners, // 2 to proclaim the year of the LORD’S favor // and the day of vengeance of our God, // to comfort all who mourn...
    - Mark 1:14–15: Gospel of the Kingdom: “Mark 1:14 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15 “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”
    - Acts
      - Acts 8:4 Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. 5 Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there.
      - Acts 9:22 Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.
      - Acts 17:2 As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3 explaining

and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. “This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ,” he said.

- Acts 18:5 When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.
- Acts 18:28 For he vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.
- Paul:
  - 1 Corinthians 15:3–5: 3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve.
  - Rom 1:1–4: 1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—2 the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures 3 regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, 4 and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.
  - 2 Tim 2:8 Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel.
  - This is not Jesus died for my sins.
    - It’s Christ, not Jesus here, so his forgiveness flows out of his kingship.
    - It’s not about *my* sins but all who believe.
    - Resurrection is gospel too.
- What it is in detail: Here’s a list from Matthew Bates’s *Gospel Allegiance* (test it with Acts 2):
  1. Preexisted as God the Son,
  2. was sent by the Father,
  3. took on human flesh in fulfillment of God’s promises to David,
  4. died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,
  5. was buried,
  6. was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,
  7. appeared to many witnesses,
  8. is enthroned at the right hand of God as the ruling Christ,
  9. has sent the Holy Spirit to his people to effect his rule, and
  10. will come again as final judge to rule.
- You don’t need to say everything all the time, but we ought to say a lot of it a lot of the time in our culture.

## Salvation

### A simple and partial *ordo salutis*

- Restoration Movement: Walter Scott and the “Five Finger Exercise” of evangelism (Based on Acts 2:38)
  1. Believe
  2. Repent
  3. Be baptized
  4. Remission of sins, and
  5. Receive the Holy Spirit and eternal life
- An Arminian approach:
  - Foreknowledge
  - Calling
  - Repentance
  - Faith
  - Election
  - Justification
  - Regeneration
  - Adoption
  - Sanctification
  - Preservation
  - Glorification
- A less chronological approach in buckets for “Salvation”
  1. Foreknowledge, predestination, election, and calling
  2. Faith and repentance with baptism
  3. Holy Spirit, regeneration, forgiveness, justification, and adoption
  4. Unification, sanctification, preservation
  5. Glorification

### Predestination and election

- Why do these matter?
  - It impacts the way we view God's nature: If he damns so people to hell, is he bad? If he is not sovereign how are we safe in him?
  - It impacts the way we view ourselves and even our salvation and security.
  - It impacts how we call lost people to the Gospel of Jesus.
  - It impacts how we read the Bible. To rightly handle the word of truth: 2 Timothy 2:15: "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." If we misunderstand it, we miss the real meaning

- It impacts how we think about our sanctification: I was living overseas and a friend of mine who was living in sin told me, "If Calvinism is true, I think I'm damned."

## Election

- What does Paul mean by "chosen"?
- In the Bible as a Whole: There's a lot of language about God's inheritance, God's property, electing the patriarchs, and about the forming of a nation. So we much read it in that context.
- In Ephesians 1:4: "For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight."
- The word here for chosen in Ephesians 1:4 is *eklegomai*. Definition: *eklegomai* or chose
  1. To pick out someone or something, choose (for oneself)
  2. \*To make a choice in accordance with significant preference, select someone or something for oneself; Indication of the purpose for which the choice is made: (Ps 32:12)
  3. gather in a crop, gather
- 22x in the New Testament: Mark 13:20; Luke 6:13; 9:35; 10:42; 14:7; John 6:70; 13:18; 15:16, 19; Acts 1:2, 24; 6:5; 13:17; 15:7, 22, 25; 1 Cor 1:27–28; Eph 1:4; Jas 2:5
  - It's never used in the New Testament to mean chosen for salvation.
  - It's always a choosing of something for a specific purpose.
- Look at Luke 10:42; Acts 1:24; 15:7; John 15:16
  - ~Luke 10:42 but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."
  - ~Acts 1:24 Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen
  - ~Acts 15:7 After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: "Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe.
  - John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.
- Who are the chosen?
  - "In Christ" (or "in him") is used 10x here: vv. 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 13
  - There's three ways to think of this:
    1. Individuals apart from a group
    2. Group with individuals
    3. Individuals of the group
  - Because they had a corporate mentality, aka group think, they probably thought of themselves in terms of a group.
  - This "us in him" denotes a corporate mentality that's characterized by an individual. Jesus is the individual that sets the tone.

- Class president
- Team captain
- Sales rep

## Predestination

- Ephesians 1:5–6: “In love 5 he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.”
- Theological history of predestination
  - Double predestination: 9th century Heresy (John Scottus, *A Treatise on Predestination*)
  - Calvinism vs. Arminianism: Article.
- What does Paul mean by "predestined"? Ephesians 1 and Romans 8–9
  - *proorizo* or define beforehand: Decide upon beforehand, predetermine
  - 6x in the New Testament: Acts 4:28; Rom 8:29, 30; 1 Cor 2:7; Eph 1:5, 11
  - Acts 4:27 Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. 28 They did what your power and will had *decided beforehand* should happen. 29 Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.
    - Determined beforehand that Jesus would die.
  - Rom 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29 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. 30 And those he *predestined*, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.
    - Determined beforehand that they would be conformed to the likeness of his son.
  - Eph 1:4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he *predestined* us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. 10 to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. 11 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, 12 in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.
    - Predetermined that we would be adopted.
    - Predetermined that those who were the first to hope might praise his glory.

- Conclusion: He predetermined that the group he chose to be blameless and holy would also be adopted into the family. Again, this is not about heaven one day, but about what rights and characteristics we have as sons and daughters.

## Faith, Grace, and Glory

- A parable of salvation: patron offers the gift of life, we give our allegiance (to them), and we give our praise (for them):
  - Grace: gifts
  - Faith: loyalty
  - Glory: praise

## Grace and Mercy

- My story with *The Grace Awakening* by Chuck Swindol
- Grace, in theology, is God's unmerited favor given to us; mercy is God's withholding of his just punishment for wrong we've done.
  - "grace" 115x in NT of NIV, 1984
  - "mercy" 54x in NT of NIV.
- See how both of these play out in Ephesians 2:1–10: 1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
- God's grace does not subvert our action or will: Phil. 2:12–13: "12 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, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose."

## Union and Sanctification

- Save this for next class!

## Eternal Security and Glorification

- Not here! There's a booklet on the first one in *RLT!*