

5. Overview of Soteriology (Doctrine of Salvation)

1. Definition of Salvation

- 1) Soteriology: Derived from the Greek word *soteria*, meaning “salvation.”
 - 2) It is the theological discipline that explains how human beings are saved from sin, death, and judgment and reconciled to God through His redemptive work.
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2. The Need for Salvation

- 1) Human Fall: Through Adam’s sin, all humanity became sinners (Roman 3:23)
 - 2) Divine Judgment: The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23).
 - 3) Total Depravity: Humans cannot save themselves (Ephesians 2:1–3).
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3. The Basis of Salvation

1) God’s Grace:

Salvation is entirely by God’s grace (Ephesians 2:8–9).

2) Atonement of Jesus Christ:

Accomplished through His death and resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:3–4).

3) Work of the Holy Spirit:

Regenerates and brings faith and repentance (John 3:5–6; 1 Corin 12:3)

4. The Order of Salvation (Ordo Salutis)

- 1) Election – Chosen before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4–5)
 - 2) Calling – The invitation through the gospel (Romans 8:30)
 - 3) Regeneration – Being born again (John 3:3)
 - 4) Conversion – Repentance and faith (Mark 1:15)
 - 5) Justification – Declared righteous by faith (Romans 5:1)
 - 6) Adoption – Becoming children of God (Romans 8:15)
 - 7) Sanctification – Growing in holiness by the Spirit (1 Thessalonians 4:3)
 - 8) Glorification – Resurrection and transformation into glory (Romans 8:30)
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5. Characteristics of Salvation

- 1) A Gift of Grace(Ephesians 2:8)
 - 2) Personally Received Through Faith(John 3:16)
 - 3) Exclusively Through Jesus Christ(John 14:6)
 - 4) Eschatologically Fulfilled– Already inaugurated, yet not fully consummated
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6. Salvation in Pauline Theology

- 1) For Paul, salvation is not merely a momentary event, but a divine act progressively fulfilled in history according to God's redemptive plan. Key emphases include:
 - 2) Grace –Based Justification(Romans 3:24; Galatians 2:16)
 - 3) Salvation by Faith(Romans 5:1; Galatians 2:16)
 - 4) Sanctification in New Life(Romans 6)
 - 5) Life and Hope in the Spirit(Romans 8)
 - 6) Union with Christ(Romans 6:5; 1 Corinthians 6:17)
 - 7) Assurance of Final Salvation(Romans 8:30; Philippians 1:6)
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7. Key Debates in Modern Theology

- 1) Relationship between faith and works
- 2) Assurance and perseverance of salvation
- 3) Divine predestination vs. human free will
- 4) Universalism vs. Particular Redemption
- 5) Salvation of Jews and Gentiles (Romans 9–11)