

XIV. Soteriology: The Doctrine of Salvation

1. **The Gospel Call:** “The effective calling is an act of God, speaking through the human proclamation of the gospel, in which he summons people to himself in such a way that they respond in saving faith.” Rom. 8:30, “And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.” Rom. 10:14, “How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?”
 - a. An explanation of the facts concerning salvation.
 - b. An invitation to respond.
 - c. A promise of forgiveness and eternal life.

2. **Conversion:** Our willing responses to the gospel call when we sincerely repent of our sins and place our trust in Jesus for salvation.
 - a. Saving faith includes knowledge, agreement, and personally trusts him. John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”
 - b. Faith must be accompanied by repentance. II Cor. 7:9, 10, “...because your sorrow led you to repentance. ... Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.”

3. **Regeneration:** Being born again. - The act of God in which he imparts new spiritual life in us.” John 3: 3-8

4. **Justification:** An instantaneous legal act of God which sees us as forgiven, clothed with the righteousness of Christ, and declares us to be righteous. Rom. 8:30, 33-34; Gal. 2:16

5. **Adoption:** God makes us a member of his family. Jn. 1:12, “^{Yet} to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.” Gal. 4: 6-7, “^{Because} you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “*Abba*, Father.”⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.”

6. **Sanctification:** The progressive work of God and man that makes us more and more free from sin and become more like Christ in our lives. I Cor. 6:11, “^{And} that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”

- a. Stage one: The moment of regeneration.
 - b. Stage two: Throughout life as we increase in godliness.
 - c. Stage three: At the end of life or when Jesus returns. We will be perfectly sanctified.
7. **Perseverance of the Saints:** Those who are truly born again will be preserved till the return of Christ. John 6:38-40, “For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”
8. **Election:** The act of God before creation in which he chooses some people to be saved, not on account of any foreseen merit in them, but only because of his sovereign good pleasure. This is a Calvinistic teaching, not CBC’s.
9. The Calvinist acronym **TULIP:**
- a. Total depravity of man.
 - b. Unconditional election.
 - 1) Objection #1, it means man does not have a choice.
 - 2) Objection #2, any choice we may have are not real choices.
 - 3) Objection #3, we are merely robots without a free will.
 - 4) Objection #4, unbelievers have no chance to make a choice for Jesus.
 - 5) Objection #5, it’s just not fair. God is not fair.
 - 6) Objection #6, what about Jn. 3:16?
 - c. Limited atonement.
 - 1) Christ only atoned for the sins of those he chooses.
 - 2) The problem comes when some believe this relate to only those God chooses in the process of unconditional election. Those not elected have no chance for the atonement no matter what.
 - d. Irresistible grace.
 - 1) When God calls people with his grace, it will not be refused.
 - 2) Problem #1, does God give this to all people or just some?
 - 3) Problem #2, can man voluntarily choose for or against God’s grace?
 - e. Perseverance of the saints.