

GIC 101:

Soteriology – The Study of Salvation

Christianity is the only “religion” in which God reaches down to man to fully and completely restore man’s relationship, status and future with Himself.

This act of saving man from the Fall, his own sin and eternal separation from God is a gift of God’s grace and is the Good News (the Gospel).

Being estranged from God and condemned by our sinfulness, our salvation is wholly dependent upon the work of God’s free grace. God credits His righteousness to those who put their faith in Christ alone for their salvation, and thereby justifies them in His sight. Only such as are born of the Holy Spirit and receive Jesus Christ become children of God and heirs of eternal life. – EPC Essentials # 4

Salvation is God’s redemption of man to Himself.

Remember where we stand before God...

- Condemned - Man has sinned and fallen from God eternally.
- Sin is radically part of every aspect of man – physically, emotionally, socially, spiritually, rationally, and morally.
- There is consequently, a separation between man and God, who is holy and perfect, which man cannot cross.

We deserve God’s eternal wrath for our sinful rebellion against Him.

This is the second death. The Lake of Fire, or Hell. - Revelation 21:82

We are not Sinners because we sin, we sin because we are Sinners.

- God being infinitely and eternally just, must justly deal with Sinners eternally.
Isaiah 59:2, Matthew 5:22; Matthew 23:33; 25:41, 10:33; Mark 16:16; John 3:18).
- God in His grace has to reach down to save man from his sin. The Lord does not have to save one of us legally, but does so graciously.

A MAN FELL INTO A HOLE - VIDEO

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How did God save man?

- Through the person and work of Jesus Christ, His obedient life to God the Father, which is the life we should all live, and His atoning sacrafice, which paid the penalty for sin once and for all.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Is that Fair?

Fair = Getting what you deserve.

1 Timothy 5:18 "The worker deserves his wages."

Romans 6:23 ²³ For the wages of sin is death..."

Mercy = NOT getting what you do deserve.

Jude 1:21 ²¹ Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

Romans 9:15-16 ¹⁵ For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." ¹⁶ *It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy.*

Grace = Getting what you do not deserve.

Ephesians 2:8-9 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.

2 Timothy 1:9-10 This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Do we want Him to be fair? – NO!

Common Grace and Special Grace

Believers are saved by God's grace, but does God's grace save everyone?

- Common Grace is The underserved blessings that God has given to all people. This is grace of God by which he gives people innumerable blessings that are *not part of salvation*.

Why? 1. To redeem those who will be saved.

2. To demonstrate God's goodness and mercy.

3. To demonstrate God's justice.

4. To demonstrate God's glory.

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Examples of Common Grace:

Physical Realm – every breath that people take is a gift of grace, makes the sun rise and rain fall (Matt. 5:44) fruitful seasons (Acts 14:16-17) desires of every living thing, (Ps. 145:9, 15-16)

Intellectual Realm - ability to grasp truth, some have great intelligence and understanding, knowledge of God (Rom. 1:21, Acts 17:22-23) grow in the grasp of understanding God's universe – science and technology

Moral Realm - our conscience (Rom. 2:14-15), a sense of good and evil (Luke 6:33) - honesty, hard work, showing love, kindness, faithfulness

Creative Realm – creativity, music, art, athletics, cooking, writing, beauty in many areas of life (Gen. 4:20-22)

Social Realm - families (Gen. 5:4, 4:17, 19, 26), government (Rom. 13:1, 4), education, businesses, volunteer associations, human friendships

Religious Realm – pray for those who persecute you and love them (Matt. 5:44), pray for kings and people in authority (1 Tim. 2:1-2)

Common Grace:

- Does not save
- Not all things Unbelievers do is evil
- Should stir our hearts to greater thankfulness

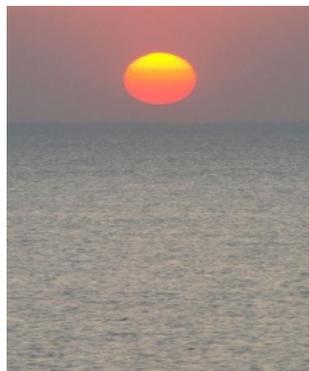


***Common grace reveals God to man, so that man is without excuse. For even as they know God exists they do not honor him or give him glory. (Rom. 1:20-23)**

A Special Grace is needed beyond Common Grace

Saving Grace

(Both Common and Saving are results of the Covenant of Grace of God)



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Special Grace – Saving Grace

How did God reveal this salvation to man?

- Through the Scriptures, specifically in the Gospels.

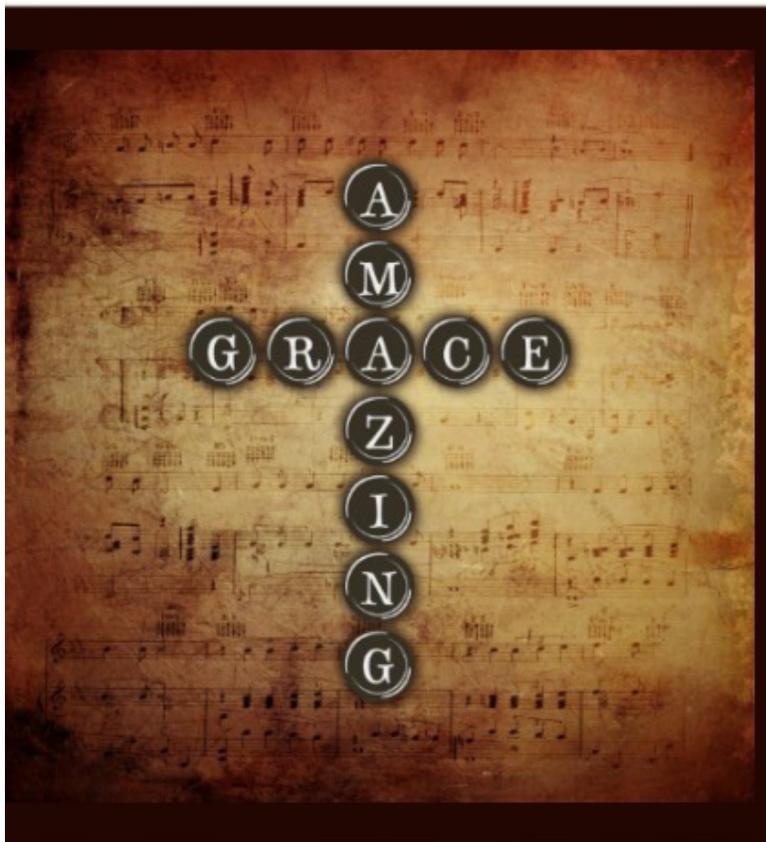
This salvation from the holy God to sinful man is a work of God's grace...a special grace...a saving grace.

Does this saving grace save all men?

- **NO** (Matt. 25:31-33)

It is God who saves us.

- *Salvation is not a cooperative event carried out by God and man working in partnership. In salvation, sinners are rescued from God's wrath by His grace alone (Titus 3:3-7).*
- *God's grace is His spontaneous and unmerited favor, granted to the spiritually dead and helpless sinner through the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit.*
- *God mercifully releases those whom He is saving from their own willful bondage to sin and thus enables them to repent and believe in Jesus Christ for salvation (John 3:3; 6:44; Rom. 8:6-8; 9:16).*



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If not all men are saved by this gift of God's saving grace, then how is this salvation actually applied to man?

The Order of Salvation

The steps that we see according to Scripture that God has established to apply the effective work of salvation on sinful man.

Reformed Theology the order of salvation works out like this:

- ***Election*** (God's choice of people to be saved)
- ***The Gospel Message*** (hearing the proclaimed Good News)
- ***Regeneration*** (being **born** again from above)
- ***Conversion*** (faith and repentance)
- ***Justification*** (right **legal** standing with God)
- ***Adoption*** (membership into God's family)
- ***Sanctification*** (HS maturing/changing us to be like the Son)
- ***Perseverance*** (remaining a Christian)
- ***Death*** (**going** to be with the Lord)
- ***Glorification*** (receiving a resurrected body and the rewards of faith)



Order of Salvation - Definitions

Election is **unconditional**– meaning there is no condition from man in which he can earn, or add to salvation, it is God alone who chooses his elect , chosen people. “The Elect” are those who have received his special grace of salvation and thus are forever saved in Christ. - Matt. 24:22, 24, 31; Rom. 11:7, 2 Ti 2:10, Titus 1:1, 1 Pet 1:1

*Election is an 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 will and good pleasure.*

The Gospel Message – The Great Commission of the Lord in Matthew 28:19 tells us to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Emphasis is “make disciples”

not “go” (which is more “as you go”) make disciples (focus)

Here is where many ask: ***If God elects them, then why do we even have to go tell them?***

1. Because God **commanded** we do so! Matt. 28:19

2. He chose to use us as vehicles for his salvation message. 1 Jn 1:1-3, Rom. 10:14-15

And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can they preach unless they are sent?

External Message – the proclamation of the Word (Gospel)

Internal Message – work of God inside the person to respond

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Regeneration is the work of the Holy Spirit in the soul of humans, enabling us to see our sinfulness and peril, and to behold the beauty of the Savior so that we can truly praise and worship him.

The Old Testament speaks of it as circumcising and softening otherwise unholy and hardened hearts (Deut. 30:6; Ezek. 36:26). It is portrayed as the act of God's writing his law on the human heart (Jer. 31:33).

In the New Testament, it is represented as becoming a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17), being brought from death to life (Rom. 6:13), being called out of darkness into God's wonderful light (1 Pet. 2:9), or being born again from above (John 3:3).

In the act of regeneration, God changes the nature of the person regenerated. The same soul exists, but differently. The same will is there, but with a new, spiritually alive component. It is an altogether new taste for the loveliness of Godly things, especially as they are taught in God's Word and personified by God's Son.

Being born again from above, being made a new creation
(John 3:3,7, 1 Pe 1:23, 2Cor 5:17, Gal 6:15)

How does God regenerate our soul?

That is a mystery...but the regenerate will demonstrate outward evidence of regeneration, a total life change, a bearing of fruit, that will exist in the believer's life.

1 John 3:9 ⁹ No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God.
Gal. 5:22-26 – We live by the Spirit and give evidence of it.

Conversion- Faith and Repentance

Acts 16:14 ¹⁴ One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. ¹⁵ When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home.

How much do we have to believe to be saved?

1. Knowledge of God or Christ is NOT Enough James 2:19
2. Knowledge and Approval is NOT Enough John 3:2, Acts 26:27
3. You Must Decide to Depend on Jesus to Save Me Personally! - Saving faith is a personal trust in Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sins and for eternal life with God for ME. – John 3:16 (believes IN him)

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Conversion is where Faith and Repentance Come Together!!

2 Cor 7:9-10

One does not come before the other (two sides of the same coin)

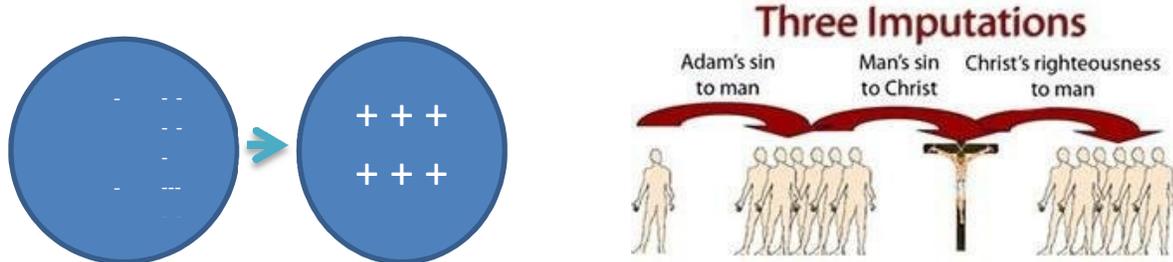


Justification – sola fide – is by faith alone

This **judicial** declaration of God where sinful man, who is incapable of saving himself from God's wrath and curse is granted pardon by God based on the work of His Son Jesus Christ. It is **received** solely by faith.

God in justifying imputes (accounts) to the faithful the righteousness of Christ.

A GREAT EXCHANGE!



Psalms 84:12, Isaiah 64:6, 2 Chronicles 20:20, Matthew 7:22-23, Luke 5:20, 18:10-14, 23:40-43

John 3:16, 3:18: "Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son." John 6:28-29, 5:24, 6:40, 6:47, 14:6

Acts 10:43, 16:31: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved."

Acts 26:18: "...that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in me..."

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Justification

Romans 1:17-18: "Therefore the just shall live by faith. The **wrath** of God is indeed being revealed from heaven against every impiety and wickedness of those who suppress the truth by their wickedness."

Romans 3:28: "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law."

Romans 4:5, 5:1, 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is **eternal** life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 10:9, 11:6, 14:23, Corinthians 1:21 Galatians 2:16, 2:21, 3:1-3; 9-14; 21-25: 5:4,5 Ephesians 1:13-14, 2:8-10 Philippians 3:9

Adoption – believers are made legitimate **heirs** to the Kingdom of God, and restored in relationship with Him

We are moved from **enemies** to God to sons of God Col 1:21-22

Romans 8:15 ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. {Or **adoption** }

And by him we cry, "Abba, {Aramaic for Father} Father." Gal. 4:4-6, Eph. 1:5

Sanctification - can be described as an inward spiritual process whereby God brings about holiness and change in the life of a Christian by means of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit **enters** our life to start a transformation process. He convicts us on areas that need to be changed, helping us to grow in holiness, and the likeness of Christ.

This will **not** be completed in this life, but in the eternal life to come with God. 1 Thes. 5:23, Phil 3:12, Eph 4:11-13

Perseverance – God's persevering (enduring and sustaining in salvation) the believer and the believer with Christ in obedience and love. This means that **none** who are truly saved can be condemned for their **sins** or finally fall away from the faith.

- Eternal security, "once saved, always saved"

John 8:35-36 ⁵ Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. Jn 14:16-17, Heb. 6:19-20

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John 10:29 ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; **no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.**

Death – separation of body and soul, **not** soul sleep, or annihilation, the soul **lives** on

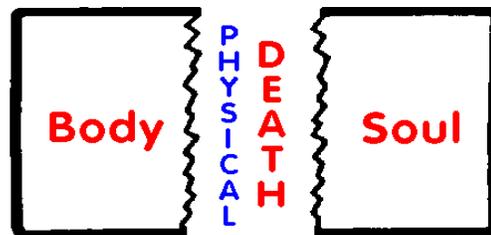
Ecclesiastes 12:7 ...and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

James 2:26 ²⁶ As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

Hebrews 9:27 Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,

- **Death moves us to eternal life.**

And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will **be with me in paradise.**” – Luke 23:43



Glorification - those who have been called, regenerated, justified, adopted and sanctified will, one day, be confirmed in sinlessness and experience a state of **unending** joy and blessedness in the presence of God.

One day we will be done with **sin** and we will live in the presence of God, in perfection forever. Paul write this as if it has it already belongs to us. – Rom 8:30, 2 Tim 1:9

Colossians 3:4 ⁴ When Christ, who is your *life*, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Romans 8:17 ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are **children** -- heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.