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Section: Doctrine of Salvation (Soteriology)

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**HANDOUT NOTES**

**Q86. What must we do to be saved?**

When we are enabled by the power and will of God, we joyfully and willingly turn from sin and trust in Christ Jesus alone. This is saving faith.

* **The *Ordo Salutis***

1. Election/Predestination
2. General Gospel Call
3. Regeneration – includes the Effectual Call of the Holy Spirit
4. Conversion
5. Justification
6. Adoption
7. Perseverance and Sanctification
8. Glorification

**Romans 8:30** And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

**Acts 17:30** “... [God] commands all people everywhere to repent …”

**Mark 1:15** … “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

* **Saving Faith**

**Saving Faith**: Rather than trusting one’s own assumed worth, works, or ability, a person repents and believes that Jesus is God, trusts in Jesus’ sinless life of perfect obedience, Jesus’ sacrificial death on the cross in his/her place, and Jesus’ rising from the dead to claim salvation and victory for him/her. Saving faith is produced in the elect by God and is always accompanied by progressive sanctification and ongoing repentance from sin.

**Acts 17:30** “... [God] commands all people everywhere to repent …”

**Matthew 4:17** From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

**Acts 16:30-31** Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved ...”

**Mark 1:15** … “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

**James 2:18** But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

**Q87. What is turning from sin called?**

Turning from sin is called repentance.

In light of the gospel, repentance is to turn away from sin, including self-reign, and we turn instead to Jesus Christ as our Savior and the Lord of our lives.

* **Repentance**

**Luke 13:5** “… unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

**Matthew 4:17** From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

**Luke 24:46-47** and [Jesus] said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem."

**Mark 6:12** So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent.

**Acts 2:38** And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins …”

**Acts 17:30-31** "... [God] commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

**Romans 12:1-2a** I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,

Far too many people have attempted to turn to God without turning from sin. They have conceived of and believed a deception that Jesus comes to them in such a way that he accompanies them down the path of their choosing. That Jesus doesn’t require them to completely abandon all of their previous priorities, that he will patiently walk with them and slowly ween them off their idols. They believe that they can continue to serve their idols while they claim Jesus as Lord.

**Philippians 3:7-11** But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

**Matthew 5:23-24** “So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”

**1689 London Baptist Confession**: “This faith may exist in varying degrees so that it may be either weak or strong. Yet even in its weakest form, it is different in kind or nature (like all other saving graces) from the faith and common grace of temporary believers. Therefore, faith may often be attacked and weakened, but it gains the victory. It matures in many to the point that they attain full assurance through Christ, who is both the founder and perfecter of our faith.”

**Q88. What does it mean to trust only in Jesus Christ?**

It is to believe (trust) in the deity and work of Jesus Christ, rather than trusting one’s own assumed worth, works, will, or ability**.**

* **Trust in Christ Alone**

**1 Timothy 2:5** For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus

**2 Timothy 2:13** if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

**1 Peter 1:3-7** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

**John 1:1, 14** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God … And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**1689 Confession of Faith**: “By this faith Christians believe to be true everything revealed in the Word, recognizing it as the authority of God himself. They also perceive that the Word is more excellent than every other writing and everything else in the world, because it displays the glory of God in his attributes, the excellence of Christ in his nature and offices, and the power and fullness of the Holy Spirit in his activities and operations. So they are enabled to entrust their souls to the truth believed. They respond differently according to the content of each particular passage—obeying the commands, trembling at the threatenings, and embracing the promises of God for this life and the one to come. But the principal acts of saving faith focus directly on Christ—accepting, receiving, and resting upon him alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life, by virtue of the covenant of grace.”

**2 Timothy 2:15** Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.