

# The Order of Salvation – All of Grace

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The order of salvation explains the way the Holy Spirit applies salvation which Christ accomplished to the sinner's heart and life. Biblical preaching not only speaks of a rich Saviour and a poor sinner, but also how a rich Saviour and a poor sinner come together. The order of salvation consists of a series of acts and processes including calling, regeneration, repentance, faith, justification, sanctification, glorification.

## **Biblical Texts to consider concerning the order of salvation**

### **Romans 8:28-30**

How can all things work together for good? Because God's ultimate purpose is to make His children like Christ. While there are differences among the children of God, these things are always true of them: they have been foreknown, predestined, called, justified, and glorified.

### **Ephesians 1:3-14**

Paul says the gift of salvation is doxological. Moreover, it is a gift of the Triune God. Also, these blessings of salvation (forgiveness, redemption, adoption, sanctification) are in union with Christ. While Paul is not giving a chronological order of salvation as in Romans 1, he does indicate that believing follows upon calling, and receiving the Holy Spirit is the experience of those who believe in Christ (vs. 13-14).

### **John 1:12-13**

John says that receiving Christ by faith results in the privilege of adoption. But this faith is the result of the sovereign work of God in the new birth.

## **Spiritual Lessons to make concerning the order of salvation**

1. Believing that there is an order in the application of salvation does not mean that God is not the surprising God
2. The blessings of salvation come through union with Christ. Union with Christ is a saving bond between the believer and Christ whereby the riches of Christ are received and enjoyed. The Bible gives several pictures of this when it speaks of the Head and the body (Eph. 1:22-23; 4:15-16; Col. 1:18), and the vine and the branches (John 15)
  - a. Federal union (1 Cor. 15:22; Rom. 8:1)
  - b. Mystical union (Eph. 5:32)
  - c. Spiritual union (Eph. 5:20; 1 Cor. 12:13)
  - d. Faith union (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 10:14)
  - e. Living union (Gal. 2:20)

f. Transforming union (2 Cor. 3:18). Matthew Henry: "We should not rest contented without an experimental knowledge of the transforming power of the gospel, by the operation of the Spirit, bringing us into a conformity to the temper and tendency of the glorious gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

→ Union with Christ gives great comfort (Lord's Day 1)

→ Union with Christ protects in temptation.

→ Union with Christ seeks communion with Christ