

COMPLETELY DONE – 1

A look at the order of salvation – Called

Can a believer be secure in every season? Can a believer be hope-filled in every circumstance? The good news of the gospel is that everything necessary for sinners to be made right with God is completely done. All of what Christ has accomplished for us is applied to us in calling, justification, sanctification, & glorification—making us completely secure in this life & guaranteeing us eternal life in the next.

— —

OVERVIEW

God tells us what he has done. And he tells us that it's been completely done. (Eph. 1:3-10; John 19:30).

“When we think of the application of redemption we must not think of it as one simple and indivisible act. It comprises a series of acts and processes.”

—John Murray

“For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.” —Romans 8:29-30

I. GOD’S WORD

—GOSPEL CALL

So if you go to church and hear the preaching of the Word, or a friend shares the gospel with you, or you hear the message on a radio Christian radio station, this is an outward call (by God) to turn to him.

The gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ and all that he did in his life, death, resurrection, and ascension to accomplish salvation for humanity. Therefore, the gospel is not a human action or achievement but rather an objective, historical, divine achievement that remains true and unchanging regardless of human opinion or response. The gospel stands as the core message of the Bible, which in all its parts testifies to God's saving acts culminating in the person and work of Christ. This good news is the power of God for salvation for all who believe, providing hope for the lost and abiding comfort and strength for the believer. There is no salvation apart from Jesus Christ, for there is no other name given under heaven by which we must be saved. **(Sovereign Grace Statement of Faith 9.1)**

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. –Mark 1:1

We offer the gospel message freely, to all without discrimination.
It's a universal offer.

"God entreats, invites, commands, calls, he presents the overture of mercy and grace, and he does this to all without distinction and discrimination."
–**John Murray**

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." –**Matthew 28:19**

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."
–**Matthew 11:28**

"All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out." –**John 6:37**

"The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent." –**Acts 17:30**

"Almost everywhere Paul went, large crowds rejected him and rejected his message (Acts 13:46). The gospel will be an aroma of life to some and a fragrance of death to others (2 Cor. 2:15-16). Same gospel perfume, different noses." –**Kevin DeYoung**

Some respond to the gospel, and others don't.

II. GOD'S WORK

A. EFFECTUAL CALL

1. *Necessity*

Pelagius believed that original sin does not exist.

However, our sinful nature is baked into our being. It's part of who we naturally are.

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." –**1 Peter 2:9**

The Bible describes us as rebels against God (Psa. 107:11), dead (Eph 2:1-3), enemies of God (Rom 5:10). There is complete inability on our part.

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

2. *What does this calling effect?*

But the Effectual Call is a call from God himself, a heavenly calling (Hebrews 3:1)

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. –**Ephesians 2:8-9**

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. –Matthew 16:15-17

"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him." –**John 6:44**

“I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.” –Matthew 11:25-26

In contrast to the gospel call, effectual call doesn’t just make our embrace of Christ possible; it makes it certain. (Westminster Confession of Faith 10:1)

This call is more like a summons.

God commands the gospel to be proclaimed to all people everywhere, but all people are spiritually dead and unable to respond to this saving news. Therefore, God graciously and effectually calls to himself those he chose to save in Christ. Through the proclamation of the gospel, the Holy Spirit regenerates the elect and brings them into a living union with Christ, bestowing new spiritual life, opening their eyes to see God’s glory in Christ, and enabling them to respond to the gospel in faith and repentance. With a renewed heart and mind, we receive Christ and rely fully on him for salvation, turning from our sinful, self-seeking way of life to love and follow Christ in joyful obedience... **(Sovereign Grace Statement of Faith 9.2)**

B. REGENERATION

“The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” –John 3:8

He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.
–Titus 3:5-6

“Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.” –James 1:18

“Effective calling is thus God the Father speaking powerfully to us, and regeneration is God... working powerfully in us, to make us alive.”
–Wayne Grudem

III. OUR RESPONSE

—CONVERSION – FAITH & REPENTANCE

“There is no time lapse between God’s regenerating work and our experience of faith. It’s like opening an eye. No time lapses between the lid parting and light streaming in.” —**David Mathis**

“Conversion is our willing response to the gospel call, in which we sincerely repent of sins and place our trust in Christ for salvation.” —**Wayne Grudem**

“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.” —**Isaiah 55:7**

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.” —**Jeremiah 31:31-34**

“And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.” —**Ezekiel 36:26-27**

Only those who respond to the gospel in this way will be saved, yet even this response is a gift of God’s merciful grace, ensuring that he alone receives the glory for our salvation.
—(**Sovereign Grace Statement of Faith 9.2**)

This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." —**John 3:2**

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen. —**1 Peter 5:6-11**

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide..." —**John 15:16**