

Ordo Salutis? What Is It And Why Does It Matter?

- I. Definition
 - A. “A theological term referring to a list of the events in which God applies salvation to us in the specific order in which they are believed to occur in our lives.” Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*
 - B. “...the process by which the work of salvation, wrought in Christ, is subjectively realized in the hearts and lives of sinners. It aims at describing in their logical order, and also in their interrelations, the various movements of the Holy Spirit in the application of the work of redemption.” Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology*
 - C. The problem with the discussion is that we are attempting to understand the parts of a unified, ongoing process; not a series of consecutive events.
- II. Why Does This Matter?
 - A. The picture given us of salvation in the Scriptures is both incredibly simple and mind-boggling complex, both at the same time. A small child can, by God’s grace, come to understand the person and work of Jesus unto salvation. And still, an adult well advanced in years with superior intellect can never begin to grasp the depth of Jesus or His work on behalf of His people.
 - B. It is always a worth-while endeavor to can insight and understanding into the work of salvation that has been purchased on our behalf by the blood of Jesus. This accomplishes for us three things:
 - 1. A greater love and worship toward the God who has saved us
 - 2. A better ability at explaining our salvation to others
 - 3. A increased opportunity at mutual encouragement with those who have been saved as we have been
- III. The Order As Taught In This Series
 - A. Election (which would include the issues of foreknowledge and predestination), the gospel call, regeneration, conversion (faith and repentance), justification, adoption, sanctification, perseverance, death/glorification.
 - B. A special word of emphasis
 - 1. “We should think, then, not of an *order of salvation* with successive steps or stages, but rather of a marvelous work of God’s grace—a *way of salvation*—within which we may distinguish various aspects. These aspects, however, are not all of the same sort; they should not therefore all be placed in the same category.” Anthony A Hoekema *Saved By Grace*
 - 2. Salvation is an ongoing, interrelated process; it is not a series a consecutive events.
 - 3. Examples: faith and repentance as it relates to conversion, regeneration, sanctification, perseverance, etc.
 - 4. During this series, though we will be isolating the aspects of salvation, keep in mind that it is all a unified act of God’s grace, completely interconnected and inseparable from His ongoing kindness and mercy to the recipient.