

# Soteriology 101

## Week 7 – Order of Salvation and External Call

*Ordo salutis* (Latin)


*“To speak of logical order or priority [of salvation] is not to unnaturally foist ‘human logic’ on the text of Scripture. Instead, it is to read out of the text the divine logic and order that the Spirit of God Himself has plainly revealed. This is the goal of a biblical ordo salutis.” – MacArthur and Mayhue*

*“It is not empty logic to affirm divine order in the application of redemption. There is a divine logic in this matter and the order which we insist upon should be nothing more or less than what the Scriptures disclose to be the divine arrangement.” – John Murray*

*“The repentance that saves is a believing repentance and the faith that saves is a repentant faith. Thus, repentance and faith are two sides of the same coin, and together they constitute conversion. And because one must logically turn from something before he can to something else, repentance is placed before faith.” – MacArthur and Mayhue*

### Order of salvation

1. **Foreknowledge / Predestination / Election** – God’s choice of some unto salvation (Romans 8:29)
2. **Effectual call / Regeneration** – the new birth (Rom. 8:30; 1 Cor. 2:14; John 6:65, 3:3)
3. **Conversion** – repentance and faith (Rom. 3:28; Gal. 2:16; Phil. 3:9; Mark 1:15; Acts 2:38, 16:31)
4. **Justification** – declaration of right legal standing (Romans 4:5, 2 Corinthians 5:21)
5. **Adoption** – placed into the family of God (John 1:12, Galatians 3:26)
6. **Sanctification** – progressive growth in holiness (2 Corinthians 3:18)
7. **Perseverance** – remaining in Christ (Matthew 24:13, 1 John 5:13)
8. **Physical death** – absent from the body and at home with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:6-8)
9. **Glorification** – receiving a resurrection body (Philippians 3:21)

 **External call:** The **proclamation** of the gospel by which all sinners are **called** to turn from their sin and trust in Christ for salvation. (Matthew 22:14)

- **Necessity:** Proclaiming the gospel is **imperative** to people being saved. (Rom. 10:13-17, 8:7, 1:19-21; 1 Cor. 1:18-21; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23,25; Rom. 1:16)
- **Elements**
  1. God's **holiness**, man's **sinfulness**, and the work of Christ in **accomplishing** redemption. (Matt. 5:48; Rom. 3:23, 6:23; Matt. 13:49-50; Rom. 5:6; 1 Cor. 15:4)
  2. Call to **repent** and **believe**. (Acts 20:21)
    - a) **Acknowledge** sin and guilt before God. (Luke 15:18)
    - b) **Abandon** all hope of attaining forgiveness by good works. (Hebrews 6:1)
    - c) **Forsake** a life ruled by sin and self. (Luke 9:23)
    - d) Put all **trust** in the righteousness of Christ alone for being accepted by and reconciled to God. (Romans 10:9)
  3. Promise of **forgiveness** of sins and **eternal** life. (Acts 2:38, John 5:24, John 17:3)
- **Characteristics**
  1. **Universal** call. (Mark 16:15, Acts 17:30)
  2. **Sincere** offer. (Ezekiel 33:11)

*“The external calling is a calling in good faith, a calling that is seriously meant. It is not an invitation coupled with the hope that it will not be accepted. When God calls the sinner to accept Christ by faith, He earnestly desires this; and when He promises those who repent and believe eternal life, His promise is dependable. This follows from the very nature, from the veracity, of God. It is blasphemous to think that God would be guilty of equivocation and deception, that He would say one thing and mean another, that He would earnestly plead with the sinner to repent and believe unto salvation, and at the same time not desire it in any sense of the word.”*

– Louis Berkhof

3. Not **efficacious**. (John 6:64)

## **Takeaways**

1. Salvation is entirely of the Lord, including your ability to repent and believe.
2. A detailed understanding of the order of salvation is no substitute for a personal saving faith in Christ.
3. For the external call God uses the “foolishness of preaching”, and all believers get to participate.