

12. Soteriology in Pauline Epistles

1. Purpose of the Lecture

- 1) To help students understand the essence and structure of salvation as taught in the Pauline gospel.
- 2) To systematically outline the doctrines of faith, grace, justification, sanctification, and glorification.
- 3) To help discern and refute the errors of legalism, works-based salvation, and universalism.

2. Introduction: The Centrality of Salvation in Pauline Theology

- Paul proclaims that the righteousness of God is revealed through the gospel (Rom. 1:16–17).
- Salvation is not based on human works or the Law but solely on God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

3. Key Components of Pauline Soteriology

1) Grace (χάρις)

- (1) Salvation is a free gift granted by God's unconditional grace (Eph. 2:8; Rom. 3:24).
- (2) It is unrelated to human merit or qualification and rests on God's sovereign will.

2) Faith (πίστις)

- (1) Justification comes through faith in Jesus Christ (Rom. 5:1).
- (2) Paul illustrates this principle through the example of Abraham (Rom. 4).

3) Justification

- (1) A legal declaration by which God declares the sinner righteous (Rom. 3:28).
- (2) This is granted not by works but by faith (Gal. 2:16).

4) Redemption (ἀπολύτρωσις)

- (1) Believers are set free from sin through the blood of Jesus Christ

(Rom. 3:24; Col. 1:14).

(2) It brings liberation from the power of sin and death.

5) Reconciliation (καταλλαγή)

(1) Humanity, once estranged from God, is reconciled to Him through Christ (Rom. 5:10–11).

6) Sanctification (ἀγιασμός)

(1) The believer, having been justified, is called to live a holy life through the Spirit (Rom. 6:19; 1 Thess. 4:3).

7) Glorification

(1) The final stage of salvation: the resurrection of the body and participation in God's eternal glory (Rom. 8:30).

4. The Order of Salvation (Ordo Salutis) in Paul's Theology

- 1) Predestination (Rom. 8:29–30)
- 2) Calling
- 3) Repentance and Faith
- 4) Justification
- 5) Adoption
- 6) Sanctification
- 7) Glorification

5. False Doctrines Refuted by Pauline Soteriology

1) Legalism

The Law cannot justify; salvation is not through the Law (Gal. 2:21; Rom. 3:20).

2) Works-based Salvation

No one can be declared righteous before God through their works.

3) Universalism

Paul clearly teaches that salvation comes through faith in Christ, not automatically to all people (Rom. 10:9–13).

6. Practical Implications of Pauline Soteriology

- 1) Salvation gives assurance and leads to a transformed life (sanctification).

2) Though salvation is by grace, grace is never a license to sin (Rom. 6:1–2).

3) Believers are to live in the Spirit and hold on to the hope of glory (Rom. 8).

7. Conclusion

1) For Paul, salvation is not merely a past event but a present reality and future hope.

2) We are justified by faith, sanctified through the Spirit, and will be glorified in the kingdom of God.