

Faith Formation – Weeks Six and Seven

The Doctrine of Salvation

Humanity's Crisis

- God, in His holiness and justice, hates and must punish sin: Deut. 29:24-28; Rom. 1:18; Eph. 5:6
- All humans inherit a corrupt sinful nature and are therefore born under the wrath of God: Romans 3:10-12, 20; Eph. 2:1-3
- Since all humans are sinful and God alone is holy, there is no hope of salvation for anyone unless God first initiates with them: Eph. 2:4-7
- Since we are corrupt, we cannot be saved by means of good works: Eph. 2:8-10, Rom. 3:20

Salvation Is By Faith

Since we can't be made righteous through our own efforts, we need righteousness from somewhere or someone else if we are to be saved. God, in His grace provides this "other righteousness" from Jesus Christ. We receive this new holiness by faith alone in Jesus Christ: Romans 3:21-26

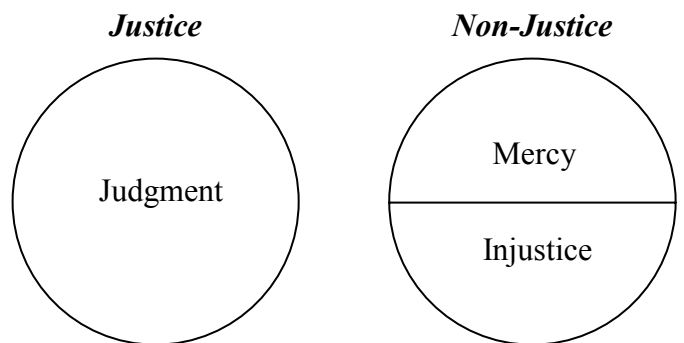
God's Grace

*God chose us for His own glory*¹

Read Ephesians 1:3-6

God's choosing of some people to be saved before the foundation of the world is called *Election*: Titus 1:1

God's determining that His elect will be saved is called *Predestination*: Eph. 1:11



Adoption means being received as a member of God's family and given privileges as His child: Gal. 4:4-6

¹ Graphic adopted from RC Sproul, *Chosen By God* (Wheaton: Tyndale, 1986), 38.

God called us

Calling is the effective work of the Holy Spirit which results in one's positive response to the proclamation of the Gospel: John 6:44, 65; 10:3, 27; Rom. 8:30; 1 Thess. 2:13.

God made us alive

Being born again and awakened to new life is called *Regeneration*:
2 Cor. 5:17; Titus 3:4-6.

God justified us

Justification means that God has pardoned our sins and covered us with the righteousness of Christ: Rom. 3:21-24.

God promises us eternal life

Glorification means that after physical death believers enter into eternal life in heaven with Christ: 1 Cor. 15:22-23; 51-52; 2 Cor. 5:8.

God keeps us

The entire process of salvation is predestined by God: Acts 13:48; 2 Thess. 2:13-14

God will complete this process in the life of the believer: Rom. 8:29-30; Phil. 1:6.

Therefore, as believers, we are secure in our eternal state and can never lose it: John 6:37,44; 10:27-29; Rom 8:38-39; Eph. 1:13-14

Assurance of one's salvation should be based on the promises of God, and on His mercy alone: Rom. 9:14-16; John 1:12-13

Our Response

Read John 3:14-16, then Numbers 21:4-9

After examining the predicament of the Israelites, and how it compares to faith in Christ, make some observations about the nature of belief:

Israelites	Us
Were helpless to save themselves	So are we!
They recognized their sin	Belief includes a recognition of one's sin
They admitted their sin	Belief is not only a turning <i>to</i> , but also a turning <i>from</i>
They were provided with a solution apart from themselves	Jesus is our only means to salvation
They were not required to stop complaining first, before help would come	Not by works
They had to look at the snake	One must trust in Jesus Christ alone to provide the provision of his righteousness

Application:

We cannot be saved by doing good deeds: Titus 3:4-5

We must individually place our faith in Christ alone for the forgiveness of our sins: John 1:12; Acts 4:12; Rom. 10:9