

# SOTERIOLOGY

## *The Doctrine of Salvation*

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*As taught 14 May 2011 at Grace Baptist Church Wood Green*

### Overview of the Doctrines of Grace

*Total Depravity*

*Unconditional Election*

*Limited Atonement*

*Irresistible Grace*

*Perseverance of the Saints*

### On Total Depravity

**Man In Innocence**      *Genesis 1:26-31*

Man was created by God.      *"Creation or evolution, what does it matter?"*

Philosophical Problems

Man is the product of time, space, and chance. What's the point? Who cares?

Man is not the special creation of God. Man is not a personal being.

Man is no different for animals. Human worth is on par with the animals.

Animals are used as tools, why not men? What about animals' rights?

Why should we not abort children and euthanize the old and infirm?

On what final authority can we build ethics, law, and morality?

Theological Problems

Death is natural. It has always been from the beginning.

Death cannot be the righteous punishment for sin.

Jesus did not die in our place for our sins to satisfy the demands of justice.

Does sin even exist? If so, what is it? How can it be thought of in legal terms? What happens if someone sins?

Scriptural Problems

Jesus believes in creation, *Matthew 19:4-6; Mark 10:1-9.*

Man was created in the image of God.

Man is a spiritual creature.

He will never cease to exist.

*See Proverbs 1:23;11:13;14:29;15:4,13;16:18,19,32;17:22,27;18:14;20:27;25:28;29:23*

He has the capacity for rational thought.

He has a will, the capacity for self-determination.

He has desire and affection.

Man is a moral creature.      *Responsibility of Man*

He is accountable to God for his actions.

He is liable to God for his actions.

Adam was originally blameless and morally upright, *Genesis 2:25.*

Man is interdependent.

Interdependence Within The Trinity

Institution of Marriage      *Genesis 2:18*

Institution of Family      *Genesis 2:24, 25*

Man was created for the glory of God.

The glory of the LORD in creation      *Psalms 8*

How is God glorified in man?

God is glorified when we think right thoughts about Him.

God is glorified when we enjoy Him.

## Man In Covenant *Genesis 2:8, 9, 15-17*

There is a Natural Relationship between God and Man.

Natural relationship existed as "Potter" and "clay".

Communion with God is not a right of man.

Man duty bound by such relationship to keep the Law of God.

Transgression of Law would render man liable.

Keeping the Law granted no certain claims on basis of natural relationship.

There is a Covenantal Relationship between God and Man: Covenant of Works.

Two parties considered:

God: sovereign creator, right to enter or refrain from covenant.

Adam: creature, no right to enter or refrain from covenant.

Condition of the covenant of works *Genesis 2:15-17*

Condition stated: do not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Nature of test

There was nothing in and of the tree itself that was harmful.

Purely a test of the will. Will Adam submit his will to God's will?

Penalty for disobedience

*"In the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

Blessing of Obedience

Blessing of life is implied, for death comes only by disobedience.

Problem: Is there hope of eternal life with no possibility of sinning?

Some say "no". Why? Text indicates continued existence so long as Adam obeyed.

Some say "yes". This is their argument.

Life is the promised reward to those who keep the Law.

Lev 18:5; Ezek 20:11,13,20; Rom 10:5; Gal 3:12

Luke 10:25-28, *"What must I do to INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE?"*

Consider what Jesus Christ did:

He became man and lived under the Law.

He fulfilled all the commands of the Law for obedience.

He satisfied all the demands of the Law for disobedience.

He received the reward of His work.

Conclusion: He satisfied the covenant of works and received life.

He did what Adam was unable and received what Adam did not.

Sign of the covenant

The *Tree of Life* was also in the midst of the garden *Genesis 2:9*

Paradise, the place where Adam had fellowship with God.

## The Fall Of Man *Genesis 3:1-19*

Question: As Christians, should we speak of the "problem of sin", or "the problem of evil"?

Consider the following:

Not all evil is sin.

Murder, abortion, euthanasia, slander, theft, covetous, oppression

Verses suffering due to famine, pestilence, earthquakes, oppression

"Evil" is an attempt to move away from "responsibility".

How do we interpret *Isaiah 45:7, Authorized Version*

*"I form the light and create darkness; I make peace and create evil; I the LORD do all these things."*

What did Adam do?

Biblical Doctrine of Sin

The Origin of Sin

Sin originated in the angelic world.

We will limit our attention to the origin of sin amongst men.

The Methodology of Sin      *Genesis 3:1-6 James 1:12-15*

No man is tempted by God to sin.

God cannot be tempted by evil.

God does not tempt anyone.

Every man is tempted according to the lust in his own heart.

When his "desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin" and sin brings death.

Consider the first sin of Adam and Eve *Genesis 3:1-6*

Eve was tempted by the serpent, verse 1.

John 8:44 implies the serpent is the Devil.

Romans 16:20 uses similar language to Genesis 3:15.

2 Corinthians 11:3 speaks of the serpent deceiving Eve.

Revelation 12:9 Satan is the serpent that deceives the world.

The serpent enticed her according to her own desire, vs. 5, 6

She desired to be "wise", v 6.

Means, "you will be like God, knowing good and evil"

They knew the Law of God.

"Good" is keeping it, "evil" is breaking it.

Cannot be experiential knowledge, God cannot sin.

Must mean, "determining for yourself good ..."

The serpent proceeded as follows:

Called into question the Word of God;

Called into question the Character of God

The Essence of Sin

Sin is the result of man's free choice.

"Free Will" is not the same as "Free Agent".

See Genesis 3:1-6, Romans 1:18-32

Sin must be understood in relationship to the Law of God.

*"God has said, 'You shall not eat ...', she took of its fruit and ate."*

Sin consists of more than overt acts.

Matthew 5:22,28; Romans 7:7; Galatians 5:24

Sin includes guilt and pollution, L.B.

Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 8:5-8; Ephesians 4:17-19

*"Sin is lack of conformity to the moral Law of God, either in act, disposition, or state." Louis Berkhof*

*What were the consequences?*

Biblical Doctrine of Death

Sin & Death

Physical Death

Spiritual Death

Eternal Death

Biblical Doctrine of Original Sin

Private sin has corporate effects.

Illustrations:    Mother who drinks while with child

                          Father who gambles away pay

                          Moral failure of a pastor

                          Sin of King David with Bathsheba: death of their child, 2 Sam 11

                          Sin of David numbering the people, 2 Samuel 24:1-4, 10-17.

David illustrates the principle of Federal Headship.

Paul speaks of Adam as the Federal Head of the human race, Romans 5:12-21.

Adam's sin had universal consequences.

Original Guilt                Romans 5:18-21

Original Pollution        Job 14:4, Psalm 51:5

### Total Depravity

Does not mean:

Every man is left void of all knowledge of God;

Every man is left void of all knowledge of right and wrong;

Every man will indulge in every kind of sin.

See Romans 1:18-32

It does mean: *Romans 3:11-18*

Sin has corrupted man's body: physical death.

Sin has corrupted man morally: *no one is righteous*

Sin has corrupted man's mind: *none who understands*

Sin has corrupted man's will: *none who seek after God*

### Total Inability

Natural man cannot please God.

Of the wicked: Proverbs 15:8, 9, 26; 21:27; 28:9

Of the righteous: Isaiah 64:6

Of natural man: Romans 8:5-8

Natural man cannot change his disposition towards sin.

Jeremiah 13:23; 1 Corinthian 2:14