

Salvation 101, part5

Equipping Hour

Sunday, September 12, 2021

The God-Centeredness of Salvation

“... The driving purpose for which God saves his people is in accordance with his ultimate purpose for all things — namely, to bring glory and honor to himself. Because believers receive such immense blessings at the hand of God’s saving grace, it is a common misconception to assume that God’s chief regard in salvation is to sinners themselves. The privilege of being chosen by God for salvation on the basis of nothing in oneself; of being provided a substitute of such worthiness and honor as the Son of God himself; of receiving the gift of the new birth apart from any works of one’s own; of being united to Christ, declared righteous apart from works, adopted into the family of Gods, and conformed into his image, progressively on earth and perfectly in heaven — the flood of gracious benefits that man enjoys in salvation tempts the student of Scripture to believe that God’s saving love terminates ultimately on man. Scripture, however, reveals that salvation is not man centered but God centered. God saves sinners for ‘the praise of his glorious grace’ (Eph 1:6).”¹

The God-Centeredness of Salvation in Scripture:

Exodus 2:23–25

23 Now it came about in the course of those many days that the king of Egypt died. And the sons of Israel sighed because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry for help because of their bondage rose up to God. 24 So God heard their groaning; and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. 25 God saw the sons of Israel, and God took notice of them.

Exodus 3:7–8

7 The Lord said, “I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, and have given heed to their cry because of their taskmasters, for I am aware of their sufferings. 8” So I have come down to deliver them from the power of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite.

¹MacArthur and Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 486.

Exodus 3:16

"Go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, "I am indeed concerned about you and what has been done to you in Egypt.

Exodus 9:16

"But, indeed, for this reason I have allowed you to remain, in order to show you My power and in order to proclaim My name through all the earth.

Exodus 14:4

"Thus I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will chase after them; and I will be honored through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord." And they did so.

Exodus 14:17-18

17 "As for Me, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and I will be honored through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. 18 "Then the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord, when I am honored through Pharaoh, through his chariots and his horsemen."

Psalm 106:8

Nevertheless He saved them for the sake of His name, That He might make His power known.

Isaiah 42:1-7

1 "Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations. 2 "He will not cry out or raise His voice, Nor make His voice heard in the street. 3 "A bruised reed He will not break And a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth justice. 4 "He will not be disheartened or crushed Until He has established justice in the earth; And the coastlands will wait expectantly for His law." 5 Thus says God the Lord, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and its offspring, Who gives breath to the people on it And spirit to those who walk in it, 6 "I am the Lord, I have called You in righteousness, I will also hold You by the hand and watch over You, And I will appoint You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the nations, 7 To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the dungeon And those who dwell in darkness from the prison.

Isaiah 42:8

"I am the Lord, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, Nor My praise to graven images.

Isaiah 43:25

"I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake, And I will not remember your sins.

Isaiah 48:9

"For the sake of My name I delay My wrath, And for My praise I restrain it for you, In order not to cut you off.

Isaiah 48:11

"For My own sake, for My own sake, I will act; For how can My name be profaned? And My glory I will not give to another.

Ezekiel 36:22–23

22 "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord God, "It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went. 23 "I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord," declares the Lord God, "when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight.

Daniel 9:18–19

18 "O my God, incline Your ear and hear! Open Your eyes and see our desolations and the city which is called by Your name; for we are not presenting our supplications before You on account of any merits of our own, but on account of Your great compassion. 19 "O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and take action! For Your own sake, O my God, do not delay, because Your city and Your people are called by Your name."

Ephesians 1:5

He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

Ephesians 1:6

to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

Ephesians 1:7

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace

Ephesians 1:9

He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him

Ephesians 1:12

to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.

Ephesians 1:14

who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

1 John 2:12

I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name's sake.

Trinitarian Accomplishment of Salvation

Trinitarian participation in the salvation of sinners:

The Father:

- planned redemption (Ephesians 1:3-10)
- elected believers (John 6:65)
- sent the Son to the earth (John 3:16)
- crushed the Son at the cross (Isaiah 53:10)
- raised the Son from the dead (Acts 2:24)
- sent the Holy Spirit (John 14:16)

The Son:

- obeyed the Father (John 6:38)
- died as a substitute (1 Peter 3:18)
- satisfied the wrath of God (Romans 3:25)
- rose from the dead (John 10:17-18)
- raises believers from the dead (John 6:40)

The Spirit:

- raised the Son from the dead (1 Peter 3:18)
- regenerates (John 6:63)
- indwells (Romans 8:9-11)
- sanctifies (2 Corinthians 3:18)
- seals believers (Ephesians 1:13)

Intra-Trinitarian relationships and purposes in the salvation of sinners:

John 6:37-40

John 10:14-15

John 10:29

John 17:1-3

John 17:6

John 17:9

John 17:24