

JOHN 6 AND GOD'S DESIRE TO SAVE ALL

1. John 6 and the Order of Salvation.

- a. **Jn 6:37** 37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.
- b. **Jn 6:44** 44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.
- c. **Jn 6:65** 65 ...This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.

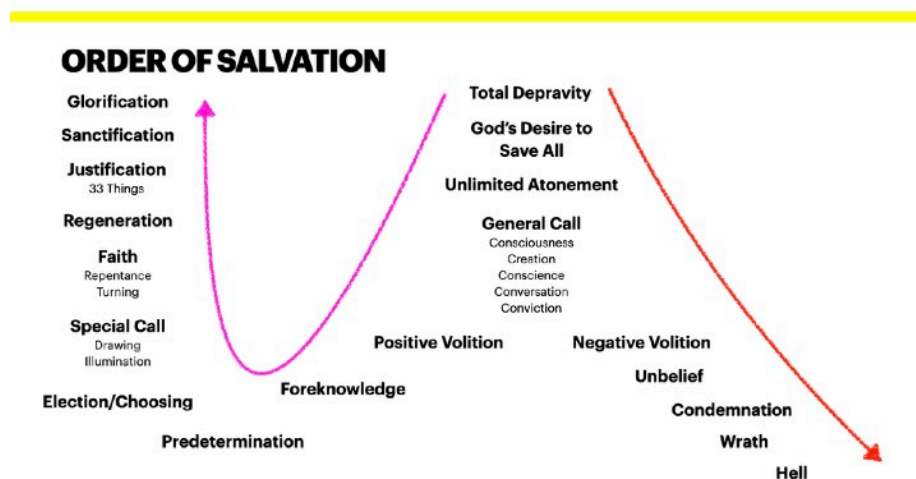
2. The Concept.

- a. The order of salvation or *ordo salutis* is the temporal or logical sequence in which the various elements of salvation take place in the believer's life, from total depravity to glorification.

3. The Debate.

- a. Debate over the order of salvation centres on the question, who is responsible for a believer's salvation?
 - (1) Some Bible passages emphasise God's part in the process.
 - (2) Other Bible passages emphasise the believer's part in the process.
- b. Can these verses be reconciled in a coherent way?

4. The Proposed Solution.



5. Total Depravity.

- a. Every aspect of our being has been damaged by the fall.
 - (1) See C. Larkin's drawing of the human body, soul, and spirit.
- b. Our bodies are corrupt.
 - (1) **Ro 1:24** 24 ...God gave [men] up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonouring of their bodies among themselves....

- (2) **Ro 3:13-18** 13 Their throat is an open grave. They use their tongues to deceive. The venom of asps is under their lips. 14 Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness. 15 Their feet are swift to shed blood. 16 In their paths are ruin and misery, 17 and the way of peace they have not known. 18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.
- (3) **Ro 7:24** 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?
- c. Our souls are corrupt.
- (1) **Is 1:5** 5 Why will you still be struck down? Why will you continue to rebel? The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.
- (2) This includes our:
- (a) Imagination.
(b) Conscience.
(c) Memory.
(d) Reason.
- (3) Emotions.
- d. Our spirits are dead/dormant/non-functioning.
- (1) **1 Co 2:12-14** 12 ... We have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. 13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. 14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.
- e. In our depraved state, we can produce human good but not divine good.
- f. Total depravity does not mean we are as depraved as we possibly could be.
- (1) Even in our depraved state, we still:
- (a) Are God's image-bearers.
(b) Are still able to seek or "grope for" God.
- (2) No one continually/perfectly/successfully seeks God, but this does not mean no one seeks God ever at any time.
- g. Don't understate or overstate man's total depravity.

6. Read quotes of Calvin and Sproul.

7. God's Desire.

- a. As you read the Bible, substitute the verb or noun "will" with "desire."
- (1) The primary Greek word involved is:
- (a) θέλω: "to have a desire for someth., *wish to have, desire, want τὶ someth....to have someth. in mind for oneself, of purpose, resolve, will, wish, want, be ready...to take pleasure in, like*" (BDAG, 447-48).
- (b) θέλημα: "what one wishes to happen, objective sense, *what is willed...what one wishes to bring about by one's own action, since one has undertaken to do what one has willed...what one wishes to bring about by the activity of others, to whom one assigns a task*" (BDAG, 447).
- (c) This root is used 272 in the NT.

- (2) Principles.
 - (a) Calvinist Bible translators usually use the term “will” when “desire” is much better. They do this to support their theological perspective.
 - (b) Don’t superimpose the Calvinist concept of “will” on these Hebrew and Greek terms.
 - (c) Substituting “will” for “desire” will greatly help your theology.
 - (d) There’s a huge difference between desiring something to happen and firmly determining something to happen.
 - 1) It’s like the difference between an open hand and closed fist.
- b. God desires all people to be saved.
 - (1) God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked.
 - (a) **Eze 18:21-23** 21 ...If a wicked person turns away from all his sins that he has committed, keeps all my statutes, and does what is just and right, he shall surely live. He shall not die. 22 None of the transgressions that he has committed shall be remembered against him. For the righteousness that he has done he shall live. 23 Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares Lord Yahweh, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live?
 - (b) **Eze 18:31-32** 31 Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, house of Israel? 32 For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares Lord Yahweh. So turn and live.
 - (c) **Eze 33:11** 11 ...As I live, declares Lord Yahweh, I have no pleasure (רצפ) in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, house of Israel?
 - (2) God desires all to be saved.
 - (a) **1 Ti 2:4** 4 [God] desires (θέλω) all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
 - (3) God doesn’t wish that any should perish.
 - (a) **2 Pe 3:9** 9 The Lord is not slow to fulfil his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing (βούλομαι) that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.
- c. Principles.
 - (1) God’s desire to save all fits everything we know about God from the Bible.
 - (2) God’s desire to save all leads directly to unlimited atonement.

8. John 6 and God’s Desire to Save All.

- a. **Jn 6:37** 37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.
 - (1) The Father wants to give all to Jesus, but he doesn’t.
- b. **Jn 6:44** 44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.
 - (1) The Father desires to draw everyone, but he doesn’t.
- c. **Jn 6:65** 65 ...This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.
 - (1) The Father wants to grant everyone to come to Jesus, but he doesn’t.
- d. What prevents the Father from doing these three things in all cases?

- (1) It is God's desire not to get everything he desires.
- (2) By choice, God doesn't get everything he desires.

9. Application.

- a. Our God is inclusive! This is something to be proud of.
- b. Because God desires all to be saved, we must, too.
- c. God's love and concern for totally depraved humanity should melt our heart. The lostness of people should deeply affect us.
- d. #AllLivesMatter