

## JOHN 6 AND THE ORDER OF SALVATION<sup>1</sup>

### 1. Online Bible School is for disciples and disciple-makers.

- a. We're going to be chewing on solid food, not milk.
  - (1) **Heb 5:14** 14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

### 2. John 6.

- a. **Jn 6:37** 37 All that the Father gives me [Jesus] 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 [Jesus] unless the Father who sent me draws him.
- c. **Jn 6:65** 65 ...This is why I [Jesus] told you [disciples] that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.

### 3. 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.
- b. The Order of Salvation is an important book on the Soteriology bookshelf in the theological library of your soul.

### 4. The Debate.

- a. Debate over the order of salvation centres on the question, who is responsible for a believer's salvation?
- b. Some Bible passages emphasise God's part in the process:
- c. Other Bible passages emphasise the believer's part in the process.
- d. Can these verses be reconciled in a coherent way?
- e. As an evangelist, I am finding this study extremely helpful.

### 5. Historical Views.

### 6. The Proposed Solution.

### 7. Total Depravity (see below).

### 8. Next Lessons.

- a. On June 16, we'll discuss the next three steps in the order of salvation: God's desire, unlimited atonement, and volition.
- b. On June 23, we'll discuss negative volition, unbelief, condemnation, wrath, and hell.

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<sup>1</sup> Or, *ordo salutis*.

## *Total Depravity*

### **1. Every aspect of our being has been damaged by the fall.**

- a. This includes our head, heart, and entire body.
  - (1) **Ps 53:1-3** 1 The fool says in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, doing abominable iniquity. There is none who does good. 2 God looks down from heaven on the children of man to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. 3 They have all fallen away. Together they have become corrupt. There is none who does good, not even one.
  - (2) **Is 1:5-6** 5 Why will you still be struck down? Why will you continue to rebel? The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. 6 From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but bruises and sores and raw wounds. They are not pressed out or bound up or softened with oil.
- b. See C. Larkin's drawing of the human body, soul, and spirit.

### **2. Our bodies are corrupt.**

- a. **Ge 2:17** 17 ...Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you [Adam] shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die [spiritually and eventually physically].
- b. **Ge 5:5** 5 ...All the days that Adam lived were 930 years, and he died.
- c. **Is 1:5-6** 6 From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but bruises and sores and raw wounds. They are not pressed out or bound up or softened with oil.
- d. **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.
- e. **Ro 1:24** 24 ...God gave [men] up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonouring of their bodies among themselves....
- f. **Ro 6:6** 6 ...Our old self was crucified with [Jesus] in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing....
- g. **Ro 6:12** 12 Let not sin...reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.
- h. **Ro 7:24** 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?
- i. **Ro 8:10-11** 10 ...If Messiah is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Messiah Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.
- j. **1 Co 15:42-43** 42 What is sown is perishable. What is raised is imperishable. 43 It is sown in dishonour. It is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness. It is raised in power.

### **3. Our souls are corrupt.**

- a. **Is 1:5-6** 5 Why will you still be struck down? Why will you continue to rebel? The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. 6 From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but bruises and sores and raw wounds. They are not pressed out or bound up or softened with oil.
- b. This includes our:

- (1) Imagination.
  - (2) Conscience.
    - (a) **Ro 1:32** 32 Though [men] know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.
  - (3) Memory.
  - (4) Reason.
    - (a) **Ro 1:21-22** 21 ...Although [men] knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools....
    - (b) **Ro 1:28** 28 ...Because [men] did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.
  - (5) Emotions.
- c. We use our volition for corrupt ends.

#### 4. Our spirits are dead/dormant/non-functioning.

- a. **Ro 8:5-16** 5 ...Those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law. Indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Messiah does not belong to him. 10 But if Messiah is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Messiah Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. 12 So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, Abba! Father! 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God....
- b. **1 Co 2:12-3:4** 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. 15 The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. 16 For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. 1 But I, brothers and sisters, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Messiah. 2 I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, 3 for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human

way? 4 For when one says, I follow Paul, and another, I follow Apollos, are you not being merely human?

## 5. In our depraved state, we can produce human good but not divine good.

- a. We can produce human good.
  - (1) **Is 64:6** 6 We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds [human good] are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
  - (2) Religious rituals are the foremost example of human good. This is what the Jewish leaders could never understand.
  - (3) Satan loves human good. Human good is his “ace trump.”
    - (a) “Satan’s doctrine (1 Tim. 4:1, 2; Rev. 2:24; cf. 1 Cor. 2:10-12) has always been one of moral perfection secured by self-effort or personal works (Isa. 14:14; Gen. 3:4-5).”<sup>2</sup>
  - (4) Human good as a way of salvation was rejected at the cross.
  - (5) Human good will be part of the unbeliever’s indictment at final judgment.
- b. We cannot produce divine good.
  - (1) **Ro 3:12** 12 No one does [divine] good, not even one.
  - (2) As unbelievers, we always walk in the flesh and never in the Spirit.
    - (a) **Ro 8:8** 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
  - (3) Faith alone in Jesus alone is the exact opposite of human good.
    - (a) **Jn 6:28-29** 28 ...[The crowd] said to [Jesus], What must we do, to be doing the works of God? 29 Jesus answered them, This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.
- c. Many biblical examples show the difference between human and divine good.
- d. See *The Gospel Diagram*.

## 6. Total depravity does not mean we are as depraved as we possibly could be.

- a. Even in our depraved state, we still:
  - (1) Are God’s image-bearers.
    - (a) **Ge 9:6** 6 Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.
  - (2) Are still able to seek or “grope for” God.
    - (a) **Ac 17:26-27** 26 ...[God] made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, 27 that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him [with his necessary help]. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us....
- b. No one continually/perfectly/successfully seeks God, but this does not mean no one seeks God at any time ever.
  - (1) **Ro 3:10-12** 10 ...As it is written: None is righteous, no, not one. 11 No one understands. No one seeks for God. 12 All have turned aside. Together they have become worthless. No one does good, not even one.

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<sup>2</sup> Lewis S. Chafer, *True Evangelism*.

- 7. Don't understate or overstate man's total depravity.**
  
- 8. Jesus became the one non-depraved man in order to die for all depraved men.**