

THE COVENANT AND SALVATION

COURSE OUTLINE

Part I Why God Saved Us

Lesson 1 – Why Do We Need to Study the Doctrine of Salvation If We Are Already a Christian? *Paul's admonition about other gospels. How our efforts to truncate the Gospel distorts how we understand the Christian faith and how we live. The worldview assumed by the Gospel. A snapshot overview of the full scope of salvation (ordo salutis and historia salutis). Use of the Westminster standards in exploring salvation.*

Lesson 2 – What is the Goal of our Salvation? *The Covenant of Works as intrinsic to salvation. Man as bearing the image of God and man as in communion with God. The chief end of man.*

REQUIRED READINGS:

WCF ch. 4, "Of Creation," WLC 15 & 17, WSC 9-10
WCF 7.1-2, "Of God's Covenant with Man"
WLC, WSC 1, "The Chief End of Man"

Lesson 3 – How Serious is Sin? *The seriousness of sin. The appropriateness of God as a righteous judge. Man's changed state as a result of Adam's sin. The promise of redemption.*

REQUIRED READINGS:

WCF ch. 6, "Of the Fall of Man, of Sin, and of the Punishment Thereof," WLC 21-30 & 149-153,
WSC 13-20 & 82-85.

Part II How God Saved Us

Lesson 4 – What is the Saving Work of God? *The Apostle Paul and the trifecta of salvation: atonement, resurrection, and Pentecost. What we lose if we lose sight of the unity of the atonement, resurrection, and Pentecost in the work of God.*

REQUIRED READINGS:

WCF ch. 8 "Of Christ the Mediator," WLC 36-57, WSC 21-28

Part III How God Applies Christ's Work to Us

Lesson 5 – How Is Christ's Work Able to Apply to Us? *Salvation as undergirded by the pactum salutis. Foreknowledge, Predestination, Election, and Union with Christ. Recognizing how union with Christ is of central importance to the Christian life.*

REQUIRED READINGS

WCF ch. 3, "Of God's Eternal Decree," WLC 12-14, WSC 7-8

ADDITIONAL READINGS

Murray, "Union with Christ," pp. 161-173

Lesson 6 – What Was Involved in Our Coming to Christ? *The decision we made to follow Christ, put into the broader perspective of how God's was working throughout our entire salvation. Regeneration, Effectual Calling, Faith, and Conversion.*

REQUIRED READINGS

WCF ch. 9, "Of Free Will,"

WCF ch. 10, "Of Effectual Calling," WLC 58-60, 67-69, WSC 29-32

WCF ch. 14, "Of Saving Faith," WLC 72-73, WSC 86

ADDITIONAL READINGS

Murray, "Effectual Calling," pp. 88-105

Stephen Smallman, *Spiritual Birthline: Understanding How We Experience the New Birth* (Wheaton IL: Crossway, 2006).

Stephen Smallman, *What is True Conversion?* (Phillipsburg NJ: P&R Publishing, 2005)

Lesson 7 – What Are the Objective Results of Christ's Work? *Salvation in its objective aspect (our positional relationship before the Lord) restores our communion with God. Justification, adoption and their benefits to the believer.*

REQUIRED READINGS

WCF ch. 11, "Of Justification," WLC 70-71, WSC 33

WCF ch. 12, "Of Adoption," WLC 74, WSC 34

Lesson 8 – What Are the Subjective Results of Christ's Work? *Sanctification, Repentance, Mortification, Vivification, and How We Live to Christ in growing conformity to His image. Definitive, progressive, and completed sanctification. The internal work of grace in mortification, repentance, and vivification. The contributions of the external means of grace to our sanctification.*

REQUIRED READINGS

WCF ch. 13, "Of Sanctification," WLC 75-78, WSC 35

WCF ch. 19, "Of the Law of God," WLC 91-100, 102, 122; WSC 39-42

WCF ch. 15, "Of Repentance unto Life," WLC 76, WSC 87

ADDITIONAL READINGS

Joseph A. Pipa and J. Andrew Wortman, *Sanctification: Growing in Grace* (Greenville SC: Southern Presbyterian Press, 2001).

Mark Jones, *Antinomianism* (Phillipsburg NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing, 2013)

John Owen, *The Mortification of Sin*, (Carlisle PA: Banner of Truth Trust, 2004)

Lesson 9 – How Do We Know We Have Assurance of Our Salvation? *The Role of Good Works, Perseverance, and Assurance. The necessity of perseverance and how God enables this. Assurance as it grows out of our sanctification, grounded in our election and union with Christ.*

REQUIRED READINGS

WCF ch. 16, "Of Good Works"

WCF ch. 17, "Of the Perseverance of the Saints," WLC 79

WCF ch. 18, "Of the Assurance of Grace and Salvation," WLC 80-83, WSC 36

Lesson 10 – The Goal of Our Salvation Completed. *Restoration, vindication, and glorification. The ultimate hope of the Christian.*

REQUIRED READINGS:

WCF ch. 32, "Of the State of Men after Death..." WLC 84-88, WSC 37-38

WCF ch. 33, "Of the Last Judgment," WLC 89-90

ADDITIONAL READINGS

Richard B. Gaffin, Jr. *Resurrection and Redemption* (Phillipsburg NJ: P&R Publishing, 1978).

Robert A. Peterson, *Hell on Trial: The Case for Eternal Punishment* (Phillipsburg NJ: P&R Publishing, 1995)