

Core Seminar: **Systematic Theology II**

God's Plan of Redemption

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REMAINING SESSION DATES

- Wednesday, Feb. 26:
 - *The Plan of Redemption — Justification, Adoption, Sanctification, and the Perseverance of the Saints*
- Wednesday, Mar 12:
 - *The Plan of Redemption — Death and Glorification*
- Wednesday, Mar 26:
 - *No class (Pastor Matthew on vacation)*
- Wednesday, April 09:
 - *Eschatology — The Last Days, The Second Coming, The Final Judgment, and New Heavens and New Earth (pt 1)*
- Wednesday, April 23:
 - *Eschatology — The Last Days, The Second Coming, The Final Judgment, and New Heavens and New Earth (pt 2)*

~ *Spring Semester Ends April 30* ~

GOD'S PLAN OF REDEMPTION

I. INTRODUCTION

- 1) Election (*God's choice of people to be saved*)
- 2) The Gospel Call (*proclaiming/hearing the message of the Gospel*)
- 3) Regeneration (*being born again*)
- 4) Conversion (*faith and repentance*)

- 5) Justification (*right legal standing; righteousness of Christ imputed*)
- 6) Adoption (*membership in God's family*)
- 7) Sanctification (*growth in obedience and knowledge; increased conformity to Christ*)
- 8) Perseverance (*continuing in the faith; abiding in Christ*)
- 9) Death (*going to be with the Lord*)
- 10) Glorification (*receiving a resurrection body*)

II. ADOPTION

(Eph. 1:4-5; Gal. 4:6; Rom. 8:14-17, 23; 1 John 3:1-3; John 1:12; Heb. 2:10-11)

“that saving blessing wherein believers, by virtue of their communion with the true Son of God, share in his sonship by grace, are given the right to be called and received as beloved children of the Father, and inherit the immeasurable rights and privileges secured by the only begotten Son, Jesus. By adoption, the redeemed become sons and daughters of Yahweh God Almighty; they are introduced into and given the privileges of God's family.”

1. God predestined the believer's adoption in the Messiah

2. The Messiah's redemptive work on the cross was for our adoption

3. The Spirit assures the believer that he or she is God's child

4. We await the final stage of adoption in heaven

Jonathan Edwards: "God makes His servants His children: all that serve Him, He adopts them and gives them a right to the glorious privileges of the sons of God. He calls them no more servants, but He calls them children. He manifests Himself to them, makes them His intimate friends, His heirs and joint-heirs with His Son. He showers His love upon them and embraces them in His arms, and dwells in their souls and makes His dwelling with them, and gives Himself to them to be their father and their portion. In this life He will frequently refresh them with the spiritual dews of heaven. He will shine upon them with beams of light and love. But hereafter He will make them perfectly happy, and that forevermore. Was there ever so good a Master as this?"*

III. SANCTIFICATION

(Rom. 6:11-14, 8:13; Col. 3:5; Eph. 4:17-24; Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 3:18; 1 Pet.2:2; 1 John 1:8; James 3:2; Phil. 3:12; John 17:17; 1 Thess. 5:23; Phil: 2:12-13)

Of Sanctification

"We believe that Sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of his holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means — especially, the word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer."

1. Sanctification is positional (begins at regeneration)

Wayne Grudem puts it this way: "once we have been born again, there is a moral change that happens in us such that we cannot continue to sin as a habit or pattern of life (1 John 3:9), because the power of new spiritual life within us keeps us from yielding to a life of sin."

** Jonathan Edwards "Christian Liberty: A Sermon on James 1:25," in Sermons and Discourses 1720-1723, The Works of Jonathan Edwards, Vol. 10, Ed. Wilson H. Kimnach (New Haven: Yale, 1992), 630. Edwards was 18 years old when he preached this sermon.

2. Sanctification is progressive (increases throughout life)

3. Sanctification is never completed in this life

4. Sanctification is both our work and God's work

Of the Perseverance of Saints

We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to the Messiah is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

1. All who are truly born again will persevere to the end

2. Only those who persevere to the end are truly born again

3. Those who finally fall away may give external signs of conversion

IV. PERSEVERANCE

(John 6:38-40, 10:27-29; Eph. 1:13-14; John 8:31; Col. 1:22-23; Matt. 7:21-23; 1 John 2:19)