

TTS Essentials – Session [8b]: The Redemption NOTES

Welcome back to TTS!

Thanks for coming – it's much appreciated.

Let's get the boring stuff out the way first!

- FIRST: About TTS itself.
 - **Remember the website:**
 - Notes, term details, directions, etc.
- SECOND: Looking ahead...
 - **The Sunday Foundations Sessions:**
 - Postponed for the foreseeable future...
 - **TTS Essentials:**
 - Meeting on Wed 8th Jan – are we free for this?
 - Finishing late-Jan / mid-Feb.
 - **TTS Virtues:**
 - End of January – OPEN INVITE!

[1] The Ordo Salutis – A Trinitarian Story of Our Joy

DISCUSS: Can we remember anything from last time?

LOOK: Heb 4:14-16

How this Triune work of redemption is applied to the Redeemed!

- In other words: it's how we got saved, but from God's perspective!
 - Scripture itself gives some thought to this:
 - **LOOK:** Rom 8:28-30
 - Theologians have a fancy phrase for this:
 - *Ordo Salutis* – the 'order of salvation'.¹
- The *Ordo Salutis* is like a pneumatological 'zip':
 - Sealing and fastening the believer for Christ.
 - Each tooth locking into the next.
 - One irreducible complex.

¹ The construction of *ordines salutis* is largely a post-Reformation habit, and there are many variations. Some models conflate categories (e.g. the Westminster Confession including regeneration within calling), whilst others prefer brevity. (E.g. Calvin's account – faith, justification, and sanctification.) The account described here approximates that given by William Perkins in *A Golden Chaine* [1592].

FIRST – it's impossible to even conceive of the *Ordo Salutis* outside of our union with Christ.

- **LOOK:** John 15:1-5
 - **DISCUSS:** What are your impressions? How does this describe our becoming Christians, and belonging to Christ?
- *“Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing”* [John 15:5]
 - **LOOK:** Eph 1:4 (chosen in Christ);
 - **LOOK:** Rom 6:5 (crucified and raised with Christ);
 - **LOOK:** 2 Cor 5:21 (made righteous with Christ);
 - **LOOK:** Col 1:27 (glorified in Christ).
- *“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”* [Rom 6:23]
 - Our Union with Christ is not just a poetic construct, nor is it a theological fancy – it's central to how Scripture describes our salvation.
 - **FIRST: it takes the focus away from man** – salvation not only FROM but IN God. (God is God...)
 - **SECOND: it describes the Christ-centredness of salvation** – the Son's gift and reward.
 - **THIRD: it's the key to unlocking the full bounty of salvation** – a recreated humanity, glorified in Christ.
 - **FOURTH: it's profoundly tender** – *“it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me”* [Gal 2:20]. The breath you breathe.

SECOND – we then looked at the big, meaty subject of our 'regeneration'.

- **DISCUSS:** What do you remember about this? (Or what do you think this means, if you weren't there last time?)
 - **LOOK:** John 3:1-8
 - Regeneration refers to being 'born again'.
 - It might happen consciously or unconsciously.
 - It might happen quickly or slowly.

BUT – either way, if you're a Christian, you're not the same!

“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” [2 Cor 5:17]

[1A] The Bondage of the Will

- **LOOK:** Luke 6:45
 - **This is how the Bible speaks about human choices:**
 - The heart as the rudder (or ‘seat’) of our emotions and desires.
 - **The external reflects the internal.**
 - What we *choose* to do/say reflects what we *desire* to do/say.
 - Our choices flow from the desires of our hearts.
 - “Man can do what he wills, but he cannot will what he wills” [Arthur Schopenhauer]
- **BUT LOOK:** Gen 6:5 / Jer 17:9 / Ecc 9:3 / Mark 7:21-23
 - Under Adam, our hearts are not good – they’re sinful.
 - **LOOK:** Rom 8:7-3 / 1 Cor 2:14 / John 6:65
 - “*There is no one who seeks God*” [Rom 3:11]
- **This is called the Bondage of the Will.**
 - “*For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures*” [Titus 3:3]
 - “This universal slavery to sin includes those who appear to be the best and most upright. ... The most excellent thing about men is their reason and their will, but it has to be acknowledged that this noblest part is *corrupt*. ... It is in the reason and the will that God is known. But no one *by nature* knows God. We must conclude therefore that man’s will is corrupt and man is *totally unable* by himself to know God or to please him.” [Luther – Bondage of the Will, 2]
 - “Long mine imprisoned spirit lay, fast bound in sin and nature’s night...” [Wesley]
 - **This is humanity, under Adam – lost, helpless, hopeless rebels.**

BUT DISCUSS: What is the end of salvation?

What’s the purpose of it all?

To glorify himself – immeasurable in power and splendour.

To conquer the rebellion – Satan, sin, death, and hell.

To be a Bridegroom for a Bride – new humanity, under new stars.
The Father all in all, through Christ, by the Spirit.

This is what God *will* achieve – how does he save us helpless rebels?

[1B] The Need for Regeneration

- **LOOK:** Titus 3:3-5 / Eph 2:3-4 / Ezek 36:25-27
 - **God regenerates us!**
 - Made alive – like Lazarus.
 - With a new heart – one capable of desiring God.
 - *“The Lord opened [Lydia’s] heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul” [Acts 16:14]*
- **What’s the result of God’s regeneration?**
 - We’re *“conformed to the image”* of Christ [Rom 8:29]
 - **A new humanity, born again – after the True Man’s likeness.**
 - Christ was *“faithful over God’s house as a Son”* [Heb 3:6]
 - **The True Man is faithful – so the Spirit unites us to him, and we’re *granted* faith.**
 - **LOOK:** Eph 2:8-9 / Phil 1:29 / John 6:29
 - (Re: Matt 11:27 + Acts 13:48)
- **THUS:** regeneration precedes faith!
 - It’s ‘monergistic’ – i.e. there’s only one ‘energy’ involved.
 - *“So it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God who shows mercy” [Rom 9:16] // “What do you have that you did not receive?” [1 Cor 4:7]*
 - *“The love of God does not find, but creates, that which is pleasing to it” [Luther – Heidelberg Disputation 1518]*

BUT DON’T MISS THIS:

“For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus... He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity” [Eph 2:10+15]

- This is what being born again means!
 - It’s humanity, recreated in Christ’s image.
 - It’s the beginning of God’s salvation.
 - **It’s our first glimpse of new starlight** – and it happens FOR the Father, it happens IN Christ, it happens BY the Spirit.
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[2] Justification: New Humanity At Peace With God In Christ

[2A] I want us to do some time-travelling... into the TARDIS!

- **When we exit, we meet a young monk. He looks distressed:**
 - “I’ve lived as a monk without reproach, but I still feel that I’m a sinner before God, and my conscience is extremely disturbed. I simply cannot believe that he’s placated or satisfied with me. I can’t stop thinking of Rom 1:17 – ‘The righteousness of God is revealed’. I hate the righteousness of God. Is it not enough that we’re crushed by every kind of calamity by the law, without God then adding pain by threatening us with his righteousness and wrath?!” [LW 34, pp.336-337 – paraphrased]
- **We leave the monk to his misery and re-enter the TARDIS.**
 - We pick up our Bibles and look up that passage he mentioned – **LOOK:** Rom 1:16-17.
 - We rematerialise one year later, to check on him.
- **He’s a totally different man! He tells us what’s happened:**
 - “At last, by the mercy of God, meditating day and night, I gave heed to the context of [those words in Rom 1:17], namely, ‘In it the righteousness of God is revealed, as it is written, “He who through faith is righteous shall live”’. There I began to understand that the righteousness of God is that by which the righteous lives by a gift of God, namely by faith. ... Here I felt that I was altogether born again and had entered paradise through open gates. There a totally other face of the entire Scripture showed itself to me... and I extolled my sweetest word with a love as great as the hatred with which I once hated the words ‘the righteousness of God’. Thus that place in Paul was for me truly the gate to paradise” [LW 34, pp.336-337]
- **DISCUSS:** who is the monk, and what is he describing?
 - Martin Luther’s ‘Tower Breakthrough’, c. 1516AD.
 - **Justification by faith alone.**

[2B] On Justification In General

- **DISCUSS:** What do we know about justification?
 - δικαιόω (*dikaioō* [dik-aye-ah-oh])
 - “[Let] the righteous still do right” [Rev 22:11]
- **Justification concerns our righteousness before a holy God.**
 - How do we come to be in right standing before him?
 - How do we go –
 - **FROM:** “There is no one who is righteous, not even one” [Rom 3:10]
 - **TO:** “[Let] the righteous still do right” [Rev 22:11]?

[2C] Justification By Faith Alone

- **LOOK:** Rom 3:21-31
 - “They are **now** justified by his grace as a gift... effective through faith” [v.24-25]
 - “He **will** justify ... on the ground of faith” [v.30]
 - Re: Rom 1:17 – “the righteous will live by faith”
- **LOOK:** Gal 2:16 / Eph 2:8-9 / Phil 3:8-9
 - **The eschatological judgement has been brought forward – we are declared righteous NOW, by faith alone, just as we will be declared righteous THEN, by faith alone.**
 - Hence *Sola Fide* – justification by faith alone.

“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” [2 Cor 5:21]

- NOT an analytic justification – but a synthetic justification.
 - **Something NEW has been added to us.**
- NOT an infused righteousness – but an imputed righteousness.
 - **Something ALIEN has been given to us.**
 - From *imputare* – to reckon, to enter into the account.
- Let’s have the old monk teach us!
 - “Faith does not merely mean that the soul realises that the divine world is full of all grace, free and holy; it also unites the soul with Christ, as a bride is united with her bridegroom. From such a marriage, as Paul says (Eph 5), it follows that Christ and the soul become one body, so that they hold all things in common, whether for better or for worse. This means that what Christ possesses belongs to the believing soul; and what the soul possesses, belongs to Christ. Thus Christ possesses all good things and holiness; these now belong to the soul. The soul possesses lots of vices and sin; these now belong to Christ. Here we have a happy exchange and struggle. Christ is God and a human being, who has never sinned and whose holiness is unconquerable, eternal and almighty. So he makes the sin of the believing soul his own through its wedding ring, which is faith, and acts as if he done it (i.e. sin) himself, so that sin could be swallowed up by him. ... Now is not this a happy business? Christ, the rich, noble, and holy bridegroom, takes in marriage this poor, contemptible and sinful little prostitute, takes away all her evil, and bestows all his goodness upon her! It is no longer possible for sin to overwhelm her, for she is now found in Christ and is swallowed up by him, so that she possesses a rich righteousness in her bridegroom” [Luther – The Freedom of a Christian, 1520AD]

**Luther described this as: *articulus stantis aut cadentis ecclesiae!*
(The article [of faith] on which the Church stands or falls.)**

DISCUSS: Why? Why place so much importance on it?

- *“Blessed are those whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the one against whom the Lord will not reckon sin” [Rom 4:7-8]*
 - **Are you this person? How would you know?**
 - Because you’ve prayed enough?
 - Because you go to Church regularly?
 - Because you’re patriotic and traditional?
 - Because you have the right politics?
 - Because you have the right skin colour?
 - Because you freely chose to know God?
 - Because you were baptised and went to Mass?
 - Because you’re a charitable, good person?
 - Because you really get into worship?
 - Because you’re nice?!

LOOK: Rom 5:1-2

- *“My hope is built on nothing less / Than on Jesus’ blood and righteousness / I dare not trust the sweeter spring / But wholly lean on Jesus’ name! / On Christ the Solid Rock I stand / All other ground is sinking sand! / ALL other ground is sinking sand!”*
 - THIS is the article.
 - THIS is what people have died for. (LJG – 12th Feb 1554)
 - THIS is why you’re protestant.

AND SO, BEHOLD: the teeth are beginning to lock together!

The Spirit creates the new man in Christ – we’re united to him.

The new man believes – after the likeness of the faithful Son.

This Christ-shaped faith is then credited to us as righteousness.

This righteousness belongs to Christ, and we belong to him.

Now *“we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” [Rom 5:1].*

New humanity created by God in Christ.

New humanity desirous of God in Christ.

New humanity at peace with God in Christ.

God’s plan is coming together!

[3] Sanctification: New Humanity Made Priests and Stewards

LOOK: James 2:24

Ah. So... What's going on?

LOOK: James 2:14-26

DISCUSS: What is James arguing here?

Does it contradict what Paul is saying?

“So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead” [v.17]

- **Faith alone saves, but not the sort of faith that stands alone.**
 - **LOOK:** Eph 2:8-10
 - **What we're handling here is the Doctrine of Sanctification** – having *declared* us righteous (by imputation), God now *makes* us righteous (by infusion).
- **Justification and Sanctification are therefore distinct, but deeply connected.**
 - The *sylogismus practicus* – if we're truly aliens, we'll necessarily act like aliens!
 - “[As] Christ cannot be torn into parts, so these two which we perceive in him together and conjointly are inseparable – namely, righteousness and sanctification. Whomever, therefore, God receives into grace, on them he at the same time bestows the spirit of adoption (Rom 8:15), by whose power he remakes them *into his own image*. ... The sun, by its heat, quickens and fructifies the earth, by its beams brightens and illuminates it” [Inst. III.XI.6]

[3A] Like Chesterton, we have to swerve to avoid two pitfalls.

- **ON THE ONE HAND: perfectionism.**
 - “This is the glorious privilege of every Christian, yea, though he be but a babe in Christ. But it is only of grown Christians it can be affirmed, they are in such a sense perfect, as, secondly, to be freed from evil thoughts and evil tempers. ... It remains, then, that Christians are saved in this world from all sin, from all unrighteousness; that they are now in such a sense perfect, as not to commit sin, and to be freed from evil thoughts and evil tempers” [Wesley – *A Plain Account of Christian Perfection* XII, 1777AD]
 - **LOOK:** 1 John 1:8 + 1 Tim 1:15
 - *Simil iustus et peccator.*
- **ON THE OTHER: pessimism.**
 - **LOOK:** 1 Cor 10:12-13
 - “And this is what some of you used to be” [1 Cor 6:11]

[3B] The Via Media – The Tertium Usis Legis (Third Use of the Law)

- Between these two extremes, Calvin described the third use:²
 1. **Forensic:** the Law inspects us – finds us wanting.
 2. **Civil:** the Law protects us – keeps us safe.
 3. **Moral:** the Law sanctifies us – makes us holy.
- The Spirit uses God’s Law in the Christian life.
 - Beholding is becoming – we learn who God is, and we change.
 - “Trust and obey...”

[3C] The Antinomy at the Heart of Sanctification

- **LOOK:** Phil 2:12-13 / Ps 121 (re: 1 Thess 4+5)
 - It is something we’re active in, but God is sovereign over.
 - “Then [we learn] what it means for him to act with us: this is obviously when, by the continuous supply of his aid, he assists, increases, and strengthens that power which he has granted us, both for the completion of each particular work and for final perseverance through life. Or if you like to maintain that fine image of Paul’s, it is when he invigorates by his own heavenly warmth the olives which have already been made fertile and waters them with dew, so that they may bear fruit. ... What is there in that which we can claim for ourselves? But after we have begun to be guided by the Spirit of holiness, we are now olives which are green and lively, drawing their vigour from the good root. ... [Is] that our own doing or may we boast of it in even the smallest measure? [No,] it is entirely derived from the root. Moreover, the root itself is [ours] not by nature but by grace; and even it is still not sufficient, unless God supplies from heaven continual power for life” [Calvin – *Bondage of the Will*]
- **Of course, this might make us wonder – can we lose our salvation?**
 - If we’re working it out, what if we stop working it out?
 - BUT – if God is doing it, how can we stop?
 - **LOOK:** John 6:39 / Heb 7:25 / Rom 8:38-39
 - The question isn’t “*Can we lose our salvation?*”
 - The question is “**Does the Father give good gifts?**”
 - (What about people who fall away? Warning passages? Re: NOTES.)³

² Found in Inst. II.VII.6-12.

³ First, about those we know who have fallen away. Speaking of them who were once part of the fellowship of saints, John says: “*They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us*” [1 John 2:19]. Even Jesus’ parable of the sower assumes that some seeds fall on rocky ground with shallow soil. They sprout for a time but then fall away, for they were never truly rooted [Matt 13:5-6]. How do we apply this ‘God’s-eye’ perspective to those whom we know personally? To begin, we don’t know the fate of any one person. Only God knows who are truly his. (“*Man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart*” [1 Sam 16:7].) More importantly, those we know who have fallen away still draw breath; their journey is not over, and God might yet call them to him! Even if they’ve passed from this life, we have no way of knowing what happened in their final moments. Remember what Augustine said of his mother’s prayers – we believe in a God who is capable of doing far more than we can ever ask or imagine [Eph 3:20]. If we believe that God is God (even in matters

- **Overlaps with a vital aspect of sanctification: Assurance.**
 - **LOOK:** Matt 7:21-23 / 2 Cor 13:5
 - **DISCUSS:** How can we be sure that we are his?
 - In Church history, there's again been two pitfalls:
 - Antinomianism / Legalism.
 - What is the middle ground?
 - **LOOK:** Heb 12:1-2 – *sursum corda!* Look to Christ!

[3D] The Christian Life – Lived in Christ

- **When I last covered the Christian life in full (at TTS Foundations), I'm not sure I did it justice.**
 - More like a 'potted' account of what Christians do.
 - I.e. Christians pray / Christians suffer / Christians evangelise / Christians go to Church, etc.
- **BUT – remember what we established before!**
 - *“Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing”* [John 15:5]
 - The Christian life is not a collection of tasks.
 - The Christian life is a life lived IN Christ.
 - All that we do is an expression of that union.
 - **LOOK:** 1 Pet 2:9
 - Developing in Christlike virtue and godliness.
 - Putting Jesus on display, becoming conformed to him.
 - **LOOK:** 1 Cor 12:12-13
 - United to Christ by the Spirit – TOGETHER.
 - The very body of Christ, acting in the world.
 - **LOOK:** 1 Pet 4:12-13
 - We are sharing IN Christ's sufferings

of salvation), this gives us *more* reason to be hopeful, not less. If it were dependent on us to bring the lost sheep back to the shepherd, or even to stay the path ourselves, we would fail. But Jesus says: 'the sheep will hear my voice' [John 10:4].

Second, about the warning passages in Scripture. Paul, for example, *“solemnly warns”* the Thessalonians that the Lord is an *“avenger”* in matters of purity [1 Thess 4:1-6]. Yet this same Paul, in the next chapter, tells them that God has *“not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation”* [1 Thess 5:9]. What's going on? Why warn us to fight the good fight, and to run the race, if the outcome is predestined? There are many perspectives here – but in short, these 'warning passages' perform a vital function. To those who truly belong to Christ, they serve to keep us on the right path. Remember Acts 2:22-24 – the crucifixion of Christ was predestined, but God used human means to bring about that predestined result. So too here: the salvation of God's elect is predestined, but God uses these warning passages as his means of preserving us. For those who (like the prodigal son) truly belong to the Father, but are not currently walking with Christ, they can also act like an alarm clock – waking us up to the eternal consequences of our earthly lives.

- *“I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death” [Phil 3:10]*
- **LOOK:** John 15:9
 - A tender, intimate union with Christ – re: prayer, *etc.*
 - *“I need thee every hour / Most gracious Lord / No tender voice like thine / Can peace afford”*

I don't want us to lose this central point:

New humanity created by God in Christ.

New humanity desirous of God in Christ.

New humanity at peace with God in Christ.

New humanity conformed to Christ's image.

What's his design in preserving & sanctifying us? LOOK: Rev 1:6
“We are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works”

[5] Glorification: New Humanity, In & For Christ, To God's Glory

Where's it all going? Where's it all headed? – **LOOK:** Rom 8:30

The Last Stage: Our Glorification.

- *“As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have born the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven” [1 Cor 15:48-49]*
- *“For if we have been united with him in death like his, we will certainly be united in a resurrection like his” [Rom 6:5]*

God's end in salvation:

To glorify himself – immeasurable in power and splendour.

To conquer the rebellion – Satan, sin, death, and hell.

To be a Bridegroom for a Bride – new humanity, under new stars.

The Father all in all, through Christ, by the Spirit.

LOOK AT WHAT HE'S DOING!

A new humanity, chosen in Christ by the Father.

A new humanity, found in Christ in his LD+R.

A new humanity, created in Christ by the Spirit.

A new humanity, faithful after Christ's likeness.

A new humanity, now at peace with God because of that faith.

A new humanity, conformed to Christ's likeness, ready to serve.

A new humanity, raised in Christ's resurrection.

A new humanity - no longer rebels, dwelling with God and desiring him and glorifying him forever, in Christ, on a new earth, under new stars. The Father at last made all in all, through Christ, by the Spirit.

"For we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified" [Rom 8:28-30]

→ [[ICA]] ←

For now – there's boldness, there's repentance, there's the Spirit of him who raised Christ from the dead etc.