

Digging Deep: Exploring the Joy of Systematic Theology
Class 23: The Doctrine of Salvation, part 2
Contested Words & Union With Christ

"... this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."

John 17. 3

I. Two Sets of Contested Words

1. "Elect"/"predestined"

- Not "if", but "how". On what basis does God elect/predestine/chose?
 - Sovereign, free grace & mercy
 - Foreseeing/foreknowing the faith of the individual

For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.

Romans 9. 15-16

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 among many brothers.

Romans 8. 29

2. "All"/"world"

- All people without exception
- All people without distinction

... God our Savior, ⁴who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2.4

For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Romans 10.13

Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened, as it is written, "God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that would not see & ears that would not hear, down to this very day."

Romans 11. 7-8

*Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!*

Romans 11.33

II. Union with Christ & the Ordo Salutis

Election/predestination
 General Call
 Effectual Call
 Regeneration
 Repentance & Faith (or Conversion)
 Justification
 Sanctification
 Adoption
 Progressive Sanctification
 Glorification

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ 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 among many brothers.

Romans 8. 28-29

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us **in Christ** with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us **in him** before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons **through Jesus Christ**, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us **in the Beloved**. ⁷ **In him** we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things **in him**, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ **In him** we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope **in Christ** might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ **In him** you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed **in him**, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1. 3-14

1. Union with Christ, past

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 among many brothers.

Romans 8. 29

2. Union with Christ, present

For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Romans 5.19

⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

Romans 6. 6-8

3. Union with Christ, future

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1.3-5

4. He in us & us in Him

In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

John 14.20

To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Colossians 1.27

Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? — unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

2 Corinthians 13.5

... if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

Romans 8.10

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.

Galatians 2.20

5. The benefits of union with Christ

Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

1 Timothy 3.16

... for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

John 17.19

he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

Colossians 1.18