



## WHY DO WE BELIEVE *THAT* ? Introduction to Reformed Theology

### Class 19

## THE *ORDO SALUTIS*, PART 1

Education Year 2024-2025

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## Review – The Atonement

- Glossary and Scripture Passages concerning the Atonement
- Review of Isaiah 53:4-12
- Development and Perversion of the Doctrine
- Rome's doctrine and The Council of Trent



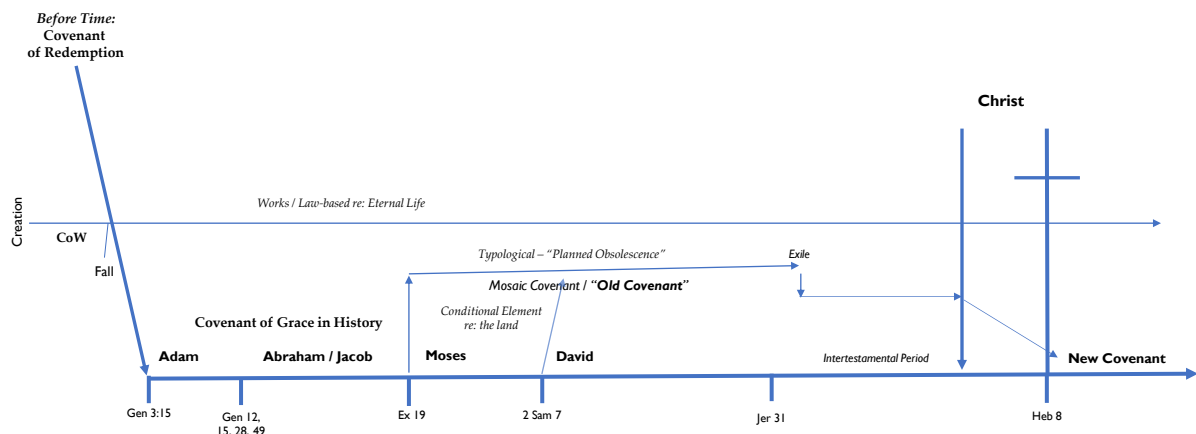
## Introduction to the *Ordo Salutis*

- How do we understand the *application* of the atonement of Christ, subjectively, to us according to the Word of God?
  - The answer is the *Ordo Salutis*, “The Order of Salvation”
- *Historio Salutis* – the history of salvation (drama of redemption)
- *Via Salutis* – the way of salvation (by grace alone through faith alone on account of Christ alone)
- Review of Covenant Theology
  - Covenant of Redemption
  - Covenant of Grace



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## Covenant Theology



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## Definition of the *Ordo Salutis*

- Berkhof
  - The *ordo salutis* describes the process by which the work of salvation, wrought in Christ, is subjectively realized in the hearts and lives of sinners. It aims at describing in their logical order, and also in their interrelations, the various movements of the Holy Spirit in the application and work of redemption. The emphasis is not on what man does in appropriating the grace of God, but on what God does in applying it.<sup>1</sup>
- Hoeksema
  - By the *ordo salutis* we understand the arrangement or the order in which the various benefits of salvation in Christ are applied to the elect sinner. This order must not be understood in a purely temporal sense, as if the benefits of salvation were granted to the sinner in a definite order of time.<sup>2</sup>

1. Berkhof, *Systematic Theology*, 415-416.  
 2. Hoeksema, *Reformed Dogmatics*, 446.



## The *Ordo Salutis*

- It is a logical order: what follows depends on that which preceded.
  - Reversing would cause problems.
- It is the working of the Holy Spirit, not man's work.
- This is *our* subjective understanding and experience, not God's
  - His decree is known from before creation.
  - We are to think about the *ordo* theologically: that is from God's point of view.<sup>1</sup>
  - Bavinck

If Christ continues his prophetic, priestly, and royal activities in heaven, it follows that also the order of salvation, with all its attendant benefits, has to be viewed theologically. Just as God is the creator and governor of all things, asserts and maintains himself in Christ against sin, and in him brings to light all his attributes of righteousness and grace, omnipotence, and wisdom, so it is he who also by the Holy Spirit applies the benefits of Christ, brings about in them his own work, and advances his own honor.<sup>2</sup>

1. Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics*, 3.485.  
 2. Ibid., 491.



## Need for the Covenant of Redemption

- Bavinck

A bond was already forged between the mediator and those who were given him by the Father in eternity, in election, and more precisely in the pact of salvation (*pactum salutis*). Then, in the divine decree, a mystical union was concluded between them, and substitution occurred. Christ became human and acquired salvation for his people in virtue of that pact.

He could do this precisely because he already was in communion with them and was their guarantor and mediator. And the whole church, comprehended in him as its head, has objectively been crucified, has died, been resurrected, and glorified with him. All the benefits of grace therefore lie prepared and ready for the church in the person of Christ. All is finished: God has been reconciled; nothing remains to be added from the side of humans. Atonement, forgiveness, justification, the mystical union, sanctification, glorification and so on—they do not come into being after and as a result of faith but are objectively, actively present in Christ.



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## The *Ordo Salutis*

1. *Foreknowledge*

**Not usually part of the *ordo* since they are part of God's decree from before time.**

2. *Election - Predestination*

3. Effectual Calling and Regeneration

**These parts happen subjectively at the same time: two sides of the same coin.**

4. Faith and Repentance

5. Justification

6. Adoption

7. Sanctification

8. Glorification



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### The Logical Order of the Elements of our Salvation (*Ordo Salutis*) according to Scripture

	<i>Rom 8:29-30</i>	<i>Heb 11:6</i>	<i>Eph 2:1-10</i>	<i>Gal 2:15-20</i>	<i>Rom 10:14-17</i>	<i>Eph 1:3-14</i>
Foreknowledge	Foreknowledge					
Election	⇓					Predestined
Calling & Regeneration	Calling		Made alive		Calling	Heard the word
Faith & Repentance	⇓	Faith	Faith	Faith	Faith	Believed
Decree of Justification	Justification	⇓	⇓	Justification		⇓
Adoption				⇓		Adoption
Sanctification / Good works	⇓	Good works	Good works	Sanctification		⇓
Perseverance						
Glorification	Glorification					Inheritance
<i>Continued</i>	<i>Rom 8:8-17</i>	<i>John 3:3</i>	<i>John 3:16</i>	<i>1 John 2:29</i>	<i>1 John 5:1, 4</i>	<i>Acts 2:37-38</i>
Foreknowledge						
Election						
Calling & Regeneration	Spirit dwells in you	Born again		Born again	Born of God	Cut to the heart
Faith & Repentance	⇓		Believe		Believes	Repent
Decree of Justification				⇓		
Adoption	Adoption	⇓	⇓			
Sanctification / Good works	⇓			Practice righteousness		
Perseverance						
Glorification	Heirs	See the Kingdom	Eternal life			



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## Is the *Ordo* Biblical?

### Romans 8:29-30

For those whom he **foreknew** ① he also **predestined** ② to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.<sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also **called** ③, and those whom he called he also **justified** ⑤, and those whom he justified he also **glorified** ⑧.

### Hebrews 11:6

And without **faith** ④ it is impossible to **please him** ⑦, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

1. Foreknowledge
2. Predestination
3. Effectual Calling / Regeneration
4. Faith / Repentance
5. Justification
6. Adoption
7. Sanctification
8. Glorification



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## Is the *Ordo* Biblical?

### Ephesians 1:3-5, 13-14

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, <sup>4</sup> even as he **chose us in him** <sup>②</sup> before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup> he **predestined** <sup>②</sup> us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will... <sup>13</sup> In him you also, **when you heard** <sup>③</sup> the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and **believed** <sup>④</sup> in him, were **sealed with the promised Holy Spirit** <sup>⑤⑥⑦</sup>, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our **inheritance** <sup>⑧</sup> until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

1. Foreknowledge
2. Predestination
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## Is the *Ordo* Biblical?

### Romans 8:11-17

<sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead **dwells in you** <sup>③</sup>, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will **also give life** <sup>③</sup> to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. <sup>12</sup> ¶ So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you **put to death** <sup>④</sup> the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the **Spirit of adoption** <sup>⑥</sup> as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then **heirs** <sup>⑧</sup>-- heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be **glorified** <sup>⑧</sup> with him.

1. Foreknowledge
2. Predestination
3. Effectual Calling / Regeneration
4. Faith / Repentance
5. Justification
6. Adoption
7. Sanctification
8. Glorification



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## The *Ordo* in our Confessions

- The idea of the *ordo salutis* is interwoven into the Reformed confessional documents even though the term comes later in Reformed theology.
  - CD I.7 – the idea is built in
    - ...And so he decided to give the chosen ones to Christ to be saved, and to call and draw them effectively into Christ's fellowship through his Word and Spirit. In other words, he decided to grant them true faith in Christ, to justify them, to sanctify them, and finally, after powerfully preserving them in the fellowship of his Son, to glorify them. ...
    - Quotes Romans 8:30 at the end of the article.
  - CD I.RE 2 – “The Golden Chain of Salvation” and quotes Romans 8:30



## The *Ordo* in our Confessions

- WCF 3.6 – Contains the elements of the *ordo* in the proper order:
 

As God hath appointed the elect unto glory, so hath he, by the eternal and most free purpose of his will, foreordained all the means thereunto. Wherefore they who are elected being fallen in Adam are redeemed by Christ, are effectually called unto faith in Christ by his Spirit working in due season; are justified, adopted, sanctified, and kept by his power through faith unto salvation. Neither are any other redeemed by Christ, effectually called, justified, adopted, sanctified, and saved, but the elect only.
- WCF 10-13 – Has a logical flow to it.
  - 10 – Effectual Calling
  - 11 – Justification
  - 12 – Adoption
  - 13 – Sanctification



## Union with Christ and the *Ordo*

- WLC 66: **What is that union which the elect have with Christ?**

Answer: The union which the elect have with Christ is the work of God's grace, whereby they are spiritually and mystically, yet really and inseparably, joined to Christ as their head and husband; which is done in their effectual calling.

- Various aspects of our union

- **Eternal:** By God's Decree
  - The Covenant of Redemption
  - John 10:17-18, 29
- **Historical:** Participation in Christ's life, death, and resurrection
  - Colossians 2:11-14
- **Subjective:** We can experience and enjoy this union
  - Ephesians 1:3; Philippians 4:19



## Union with Christ and the *Ordo*

- Our union with Christ is intimately connected with the *ordo*.

- Elected in Christ – Eph 1:4
- We are called in Christ – Phil 3:14
- Died and rose again in Christ – Rom 6; Eph 2; Col 2
- We are justified in Christ – Gal 2:17; Rom 8:1; 2 Cor 5:21
- We are sanctified in Christ – Rom 6:4;
- We die in Christ (not part of the *ordo* really) – Rev 14:13; 1 Thess 4:14, 16
- We are resurrected and glorified in Christ – 1 Cor 15:22; Rom 8:16-17



## Union with Christ and the *Ordo*

- Sinclair Ferguson, *The Holy Spirit*

“... the model we employ for structuring the Spirit’s ministry should be that of union with Christ. Every facet of the application of Christ’s work ought to be related to the way in which the Spirit unites us to Christ himself, and viewed as directly issuing from personal relationship with him. The dominant motif and architectonic principle of the order of salvation should therefore be union with Christ in the Spirit.”<sup>1</sup>

“The blessings of salvation become ours through the Spirit, exclusively, immediately, simultaneously, and eschatologically in Christ. In Pauline terms, it is only ‘in him’ that the blessings of redemption become ours; and it is only by the Spirit that we are ‘in Christ.’”<sup>2</sup>

1. Ferguson, *The Holy Spirit*, 100.  
2. Ibid. 102.



## Foreknowledge

- God’s perfect and complete knowledge of all things.
  - ...strictly speaking—one cannot speak of foreknowledge in the case of God: with him there are no “distinctions of time.” He calls the things that are not as if they were and sees what is not as if it already existed.<sup>1</sup>
  - Acts 2:23
 

...this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.
- Not the Arminian, “God foresees faith.”
- An aspect wherein we can say that God loved us in Christ
  - The Covenant of Redemption – I Peter 1:20-21
 

He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

1. Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics*, 2.196.



# Foreknowledge

- Concerning the counsel of God:

The different meanings [of the counsel of God] here are as follows: “Purpose” indicates that in the work of salvation God does not act arbitrarily but according to a fixed plan, an unalterable purpose. “Election” makes clear that this purpose of salvation is not all-inclusive but that “God’s purpose of election (Rom. 9:11) is elective, so that not all but many are saved. *“Foreknowledge” pertains to the persons who in this elective purpose of God are the object, not of God’s bare foreknowledge, but of his active delight.* “Foreordination,” finally, refers more to the means God uses to bring his “known ones” to their appointed destiny.<sup>1</sup>

1. Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics*, 2.345-346.



# Foreknowledge

- Romans 8:29

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. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

- Ephesians 1:4-5

...even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,...

- 1 Peter 1:2

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.



## Predestination / Election

- Predestination includes both election and reprobation
- Election: “God’s eternal purpose to save some of the human race in and by Jesus Christ.”<sup>1</sup>
  - Discussed Election and Reprobation at length in classes I2 and I3.

1. Berkhof, *Manual*, 91.



## Next Class – March I2

- No Class next week due to Mid-Winter Break
- Continue with the *Ordo*: Calling

