

Hello. /Today we will begin the twelfth lecture on systematic theology.

/II. Types of conversion.

/A. National conversions.

/There were national conversions in Israel in the times of the Judges, in Judah in the times of the Kings, and also in Nineveh.

/B. External conversions.

/These are temporary conversions that have no fundamental change of the heart.

/Matthew 13:20-21 says, "The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away."

/Exodus 9 shows that Pharaoh seemingly repented, but there was no obedience.

/Pharaoh's repentance was not sincere nor was there a true conversion, but was merely an external conversion.

/C. True conversion.

/This is conversion with a change of the heart. /In Luke 15:17-20, the prodigal son sincerely repented and returned to his father. /The prodigal son's repentance was a true repentance.

/D. Repeated conversion.

/Basic repentance that is related to regeneration is not repeated. /However, there are times when the born again believer chases after his greed or sins as a result of his carelessness. /In such times, the believer must repent of his sins. /When the saved believer sins, God becomes angry and disciplines him.

/When the believer sins, his heart becomes unclean and hardened, and communication with God is blocked. /Revelation 2:5 says, "Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place."

/E. Necessity of repeated repentance.

/First, believers repent to lessen God's wrath. /When believers sin, they cover the glory of God and hence, God becomes angry. /However, God takes away the punishment when believers sincerely repent.

/Second, believers must repent to restore their relationship with God. /When believers sin, their hearts become unclean and communication with God is blocked. /When communication with God is blocked, there is no peace in the believers' hearts and they cannot receive God's grace. /Thus, believers must repent so that their hearts can become clean and continue to have a relationship with God.

/Third, believers must repent to receive God's grace and blessings. /When believers sin,

they cannot receive God's grace or blessings. /Thus, believers must repent and receive God's grace and blessings again.

✳ **The two elements of conversion are repentance and faith.**

/III. Repentance.

/A. The elements of repentance.

/1. An intellectual element. /This is recognition of one's sins before God. Romans 3:20.

/2. An emotional element. /This is remorse and despair for one's sins. Psalm 51:17.

/3. A volitional element. /This is a complete turning away from sin. Luke 19:8, 9.

/IV. Faith.

/A. Scriptural terms for faith.

/1. The Old Testament terms.

/a. Aman. This means, "to confirm, to regard as true, or to believe." /It means to accept a person's testimony to be true. This emphasizes the intellectual element of faith. /Genesis 15:6.

/b. Batach. /This means, "to trust, to be safe, to be courageous." /Judges 20:36.

/c. Kesel. /This means, "to trust, to have confidence, to hope." /Job 8:14.

/2. The New Testament terms.

/Pistis. /This means, "credibility, confidence, or trust." /This means to accept a certain testimony to be true, or to confide in another person. /Matthew 8:10.

/3. Terms related to faith.

/a. Belief. /Belief is used synonymously with faith, but in many cases, it is used to emphasize the intellectual side of faith.

/b. Faith. /Faith indicates joy and obedience that comes from the realization of the truth.

/c. Hope. /Hope indicates faith in the future, or confidence that the truth will be fulfilled in the future.

/B. The elements of faith.

/1. An intellectual element.

/This is proper recognition of the truth. /Believers can believe in the truth when he understands the truth through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. /Those who have recognized the truth through the Holy Spirit cannot conscientiously deny the truth. /John 17:3 says, "Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."

/2. An emotional element.

/This is joy in the truth considering the truth to be worthy. /Those who understand the truth through the Holy Spirit rejoice in the truth. /Thus, anyone who does not rejoice in

the truth or consider the truth worthy does not believe in the truth.

/Matthew 13:44-45 says, "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls."

/3. A volitional element.

/This is obedience to the truth. /Truth faith results in a volitional change that brings about obedience to the truth. /Therefore, faith without obedience to the truth is not true faith. /If anyone does not truly submit to God or obey by accepting Jesus Christ as Savior, he will not receive salvation.

/James 2:26 says, "As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead."

/C. Different kinds of faith mentioned in the Bible.

/1. Historical faith.

/There is no moral or spiritual change but simply knowledge and understanding of the biblical truth, and this faith accepts the biblical truth only as historical facts that one is not personally linked to.

/Matthew 7:26 says, "But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand."

/2. Miraculous faith.

/One believes that one can currently perform miracles or perform miracles in the future. / He also believes that miracles can be performed in his behalf. /Miraculous faith can come from true faith.

/However, one can have miraculous faith without true faith. /The Roman Catholic Church today claims that it has been guaranteed miraculous faith. /However, there is no scriptural proof of this.

/3. Temporal faith.

/This is a temporary liking for the truth through the stimulation of the conscience or emotions, but is not in a state of regeneration. /Temporal faith abandons the truth when hardships and persecutions come.

/4. True saving faith.

/“True saving faith” can be defined as a conviction of the truth of the gospel in man’s heart formed through the work of the Holy Spirit, and it is sincere trust in the promises of God in Christ.

/D. The origin of faith.

/1. Faith is a gift from God.

/Ephesians 2:8 says, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God."

/2. Faith comes from God's word.

/When man comes into contact with God's word, God works so that faith is formed in him. /Therefore, it is crucial for believers to read Scripture and hear Scripture through others.

/Romans 10:17 says, "Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ."

/3. Prayer is an important method in growing in faith. /It is important that man pray to God for faith. /It is also important that those who already have faith pray to God for greater faith. /Mark 9:24 says, "Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, 'I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!'"

/E. Results of faith.

/1. There is confidence.

/We gain confidence by proof of the Holy Spirit. /When we have confidence, we will never doubt. /Therefore, anyone who lacks conviction of the truth of the gospel does not believe in the gospel.

/Anyone who believes in the gospel must have confidence in the promise and forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ, confidence of eternal life, confidence that he is a child of God, and confidence of the inheritance in heaven.

/2. There is peace and rest in heart.

/Anyone who believes in the gospel enjoys peace and rest in God. /Romans 5:1, 11. /Believers who have been saved by faith have peace of forgiveness of sins, joy in having become children of God, and hope of eternal heaven.

/3. There is fruit of good works.

/Believers must bear good fruit. /Ephesians 2:10. /Saved believers must do good works in order to please God. /Believers must also do good works to receive blessings.

/F. Faith and Assurance.

/Roman Catholicism and seventeenth century Arminianism claim that believers cannot be sure of their salvation. /Their claims are wrong.

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/Let's discuss the correct view on this. /True faith is trust in God, and awareness of an assurance and guarantee of salvation. /The faithful God does not abandon a saved believer forever.

/When believers sin, God punishes severely, but God does not send believers to hell.

/Chapter 4, Justification.

/I. Definition of justification.

/When the sinner believes in the gospel, God forgives the sinner and declares him righteous. /Justification is God's declaration as Judge. /Justification is the opposite of condemnation.

/II. Difference between justification and sanctification.

/A. Justification removes the guilt of sin so that the sinner does not receive punishment from God. /Sanctification removes the pollution of sin so that one could obtain the holy image of God.

/B. Justification takes place outside of the sinner and it is God's declaratory grace. /Sanctification takes place inside the sinner, in the heart, and it is the grace of becoming more holy.

/C. Justification is completed once and for all when the sinner believes in the gospel. /Sanctification is a continual process that takes place after the sinner believes in the gospel until the point of death.

/D. Justification is founded on the merits of Christ, and it is particularly the work of the Father God. /Sanctification is also founded on the merits of Christ, but it is particularly the work of the Holy Spirit.

/III. Characteristics of justification.

/A. It removes the guilt of sin.

/According to God's justice, the sinner must receive punishment. /Genesis 2:16; Romans 5:12-14. /Therefore, in order for the sinner to receive salvation, his punishment must first be removed.

/Those who have been made righteous through faith in the gospel does not receive punishment from God because of the redemption of Jesus Christ. /Romans 4:7-8 says, "Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him." /Isaiah 53:5, 6; 1 Peter 2:24.

/B. The righteousness of Christ is passed on.

/In order for the sinner to enjoy a relationship with God, he must not only receive forgiveness of his sin, but also have a righteous life. /Anyone who has been made righteous by faith has received the removal of punishment for his sin, and he has gained a righteous life in Christ.

/1 John 5:11 says, "And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son."

/Believers receive eternal life when they believe in the gospel. /This eternal life is life in Christ, and thus, it is a holy and righteous life. /Christ's righteousness was passed on, which means that man received the righteous life.

/C. Justification is only received through faith.

/God has the right to suggest “a condition for the forgiveness of sins.” /God promised to forgive the sins of those who believe in the gospel. /Mark 1:15; John 3:16.

/The forgiveness of the sins of sinners was made possible by the redemption of Christ, and it is by God’s grace that sinners believe in the gospel and receive righteousness.

/Faith is not an advantage in receiving salvation. /Faith is an article given to us to receive salvation by God’s grace.

/D. Justification is completed once and for all.

/Justification is not a continual or repetitive process, but is completed once and for all of eternity when one believes in the gospel.

/IV. The elements of justification.

/A. The negative element.

/Those who have been called righteous receive the remission of all punishment for sins of the past, present, and future. /Romans 8:33-34. /Believers have received forgiveness of sins concerning salvation. /Thus, the promises of forgiveness of sins, eternal life, having become a child of God, and the promise of the inheritance of heaven will never be taken away.

/However, when believers sin, they cover the glory of God and hence, God becomes angry and punishes. /Therefore, believers must strive to stay away from sin, and if they happen to sin, they must immediately repent.

/B. The positive element.

/God gives eternal life to those who have been made righteous. /God also allows them to be his children. /These are positive elements of justification. /John 1:12.

/God gives rights and duties to his children. /God’s children become God’s sons and receive the inheritance of heaven. /1 Peter 1:4.

/V. The sphere in which justification occurs.

/A. Active justification.

/This takes place in the court of God. /Romans 8:33-34.

/B. Passive justification.

/There is peace and conviction of forgiveness of sins in the heart and conscience of the sinner. /Romans 5:1.

/Chapter 5, Union Between Christ and Believers.

/Believers have been united with Jesus Christ in life. /This union is not a physical union but a spiritual union. /1 Corinthians 6:17 says, “But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.”

/I. Symbols of union.

/A. Union of the vine and the branches.

/Believers have been united with Christ in life so that they would bear fruit of faith in Christ. /John 15:5.

/B. Union of the Head and the body.

/Christ is the Head and we believers are His body, and hence, believers must receive the guidance of Christ. /1 Corinthians 6:15.

/C. Union of husband and wife.

/This means that believers have been united in faith and love in Christ and love. /Thus, believers must believe and love the Lord, and remain pure. /Ephesians 5:31-32.

/D. Union of the building and its foundation.

/Believers unite in Christ and build the church, and the church grows more and more. /Ephesians 2:20-21.

/II. Scriptural proofs for union.

/A. God the Father was in Jesus.

/God the Father was in Jesus, who came in a physical body. /John 14:10-11.

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/B. Christ is in believers, and believers are in Christ.

/John 6:56. /Therefore, believers have a relationship with Christ in Christ, and they receive the wisdom and power of Christ to obey God's will.

/C. Believers receive eternal life in Christ.

/1 John 5:11. /Believers received eternal life in Christ, and hence, they have been united with Christ.

/D. The church is the body of Christ.

/Christ is the Head of the church, and as the body of Christ, believers have formed an organic union with Christ.

/E. Believers have been united with the Lord in spirit.

/1 Corinthians 6:17.

/Here we will conclude the twelfth lecture on systematic theology. /Thank you.