

Hello. /We will begin the fourteenth lecture on systematic theology. We will continue with “sanctification.”

/D. Claims of Antinomians.

/Antinomians claim that believers have been liberated from the law because Christ fulfilled the laws for believers. /Thus, they claim that believers of the New Testament period do not have to observe the laws.

/However, this is a false claim. /Christ requires believers to do good works. /Matthew 5:16 says, “let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

/Believers have been liberated from the condemnation and rituals of the law. /However, believers must keep the moral standards of the law. /For example, the law says that one must not worship idols. /It also says that one shall not murder. /It says that one must not commit adultery. /Believers observed these commands in the Old Testament, and believers of the New Testament times must observe these as well.

/V. Means of sanctification.

/A. Sanctification is accomplished by the grace of God.

/Sanctification is accomplished by the grace of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

/1. The works of God the Father.

/When the sanctification of believers is accomplished, it shows the work of God the Father. /God the Father chose believers to be his children even before creation. /Ephesians 1:3-6. /God the Father also gives new and holy lives to believers.

/Believers receive eternal life through faith, and this eternal life is life from God. /Colossians 3:3. /God the Father also works so that believers act according to God’s will.

/Hebrews 13:20-21 says, “May the God of peace...equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

/The Father God also disciplines believers when they sin. /Hebrews 12:7-8 says, “God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?”

/2. The works of God the Son.

/Believers cannot achieve sanctification without the works of God the Son. /The Son atoned for the sins of chosen believers. /Hebrews 10:10 says, “And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”

/Believers have been united with Christ through the Son. /Christ lives in believers, and believers are in Christ, and hence, believers can live holy lives. /God the Son allows believers to live holy lives in Christ.

/John 15:5 says, “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

/3. The works of the Holy Spirit.

/Believers cannot do good works without the works of the Holy Spirit. /The Holy Spirit guides believers to repent of their sins and believe in the gospel.

/1 Corinthians 12:3 says, “Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, ‘Jesus be cursed,’ and no one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Holy Spirit.”

/The Holy Spirit also allows believers to be born again as children of God. /John 3:5 says, “no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.” /The Holy Spirit also allows believers to bear holy fruit of the Holy Spirit.

/The fruit of the Holy Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

/B. What believers must do.

/Sanctification is accomplished by the works of God, but there are things that believers must do.

/1. Believers must repent and believe in Christ.

/When man repents and believes in the gospel, he receives forgiveness of sins from God and he believes a child of God.

/2. Believers must believe that the old self is dead, and they must completely abandon sin.

/Galatians 5:24 says, “Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.”

/3. Believers must live new lives in Christ.

/To live in Christ means to receive guidance from Christ. /Thus, believers must think good thoughts like Christ, speak good words like Christ, and do good works like Christ in order to live in Christ.

/4. Believers must strive to obey God’s word.

/Believers live holy lives when they believe and obey the word of truth. /John 17:17 says, “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.” /1 Peter 1:22.

/5. Believers must strive to pray.

/Prayer is an excellent way for believers to live holy lives. /1 Timothy 4:5 says that everything “is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.”

/VI. Results of sanctification.

/Sanctified believers walk with Christ. /They bear holy fruit of the Holy Spirit. /They have much love for others. /Thus, the characters of sanctified believers become like that of Christ. /Galatians 4:19; Ephesians 4:11-15.

/Chapter 8, The Eternality of Salvation.

/This is theologically known as “**Perseverance of the Saints.**”

/I. Definition.

/The “eternality of salvation” means that believers who have been saved through the forgiveness of sins and faith in the gospel can never lose their salvation. /It means that believers are eternally guaranteed their salvation.

/A. The forgiveness of sins, grace, eternal life, the status as a child of God, and the promise of heaven is guaranteed for eternity and can never be revoked. /John 10:28-29 says, “I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.”

/B. God continues his work of salvation and will at last complete it. /Philippians 1:6 says, “being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

/However, this does not mean that the faith of believers won’t regress or that believers won’t fall to sin. /If believers do not actively live by faith, their faith can regress, and they can fall to sin if they are careless.

/II. Biblical proofs.

/A. God’s purpose of salvation will never change.

/Because God’s purpose is eternally unchanging, God’s plans will never fail. /Because God chose us before creation, his plans will never fail but will be fulfilled.

/B. The redemption and mediation of Christ are complete.

/The redemption of the cross of Christ is complete. /Christ also continually intercedes for believers.

/Romans 8:34 says, “Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died-- more than that, who was raised to life-- is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.”

/C. God protects believers with his power.

/God always protects his loving children and hence, they will never lose salvation. /1 Peter 1:5 says, “who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.”

/D. Believers received eternal life.

/The eternal life that believers received from God is eternal life in God. /This eternal life cannot fall away or be revoked. /Believers received eternal life and became children of God, and as a result they will never perish.

/III. Objections to the doctrine of perseverance.

/Romans Catholicism, Socinianism, Arminianism, and the Lutheran Church object to the eternality of the salvation of believers.

/A. They claim that the eternality of salvation stirs up self-indulgence and negligence in believers.

/They claim that if saved believers cannot lose their salvation, believers will feel free to commit sins and self-indulge. /However, this claim is wrong.

/God prohibited believers from being self-indulgent and negligent. /Romans 13:13-14.

/God punishes believers when they self-indulge and are negligent.

/B. They say that there are warnings against apostasy in the Bible.

/They quote Matthew 24:12; Colossians 1:23; Hebrews 2:1; 3:14; 6:11; and 1 John 2:19 to back up this claim.

/However, these Bible verses are not about apostasy, but are warnings of regression of faith.

/C. They claim that incidents of apostasy are recorded in the Bible.

/They quote Romans 9:6; 1 John 2:19; Revelation 3:1. /However, these verses refer to formal believers who have not been saved, not true believers.

/D. They say that some believers have perished like Judas Iscariot.

/Yet, Judas Iscariot was not born again, and he only followed the Lord externally. John 6:70, 71. /People who have not been born again can serve in the church and act as if they have been saved. /Matthew 7:21-23.

/E. They claim that there are many warnings of destruction of believers.

/The Bible verses that they claim are warnings are not warnings for born again believers, but are warnings for those who have not been born again.

/Chapter 9, Means to Receiving Grace.

/There are ways for us believers to receive grace.

/I. Believers receive grace through the word of God.

/A. The word of God is the way to salvation.

/God saves sinners through the evangelization of his word. /1 Corinthians 1:18 says, "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

/It also says that there is wisdom and power for salvation in God's word. /2 Timothy 3:15. /It also says that faith comes from hearing God's word. /Romans 10:17.

/B. The word of God is the way to becoming holy.

/Believers grow in faith through obedience to God's word. /1 Peter 2:1-2 says, "Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation."

/Believers overcome temptations of the devil with God's word. /God's word is the sword of the Spirit. /We believers also change to be holier when we obey God's word. /John 17:17.

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/II. Believers receive grace through Christian ceremonies.

/"**Baptism**" is the ritual of the sprinkling of water. /It is a sign that our sins have been washed away. /It signifies Christ cleansing us of all our sins. /We received forgiveness of sins through the redemption of the cross.

/"**Communion**" involves bread and wine. /The bread symbolizes the body of Jesus Christ. /Wine symbolizes the blood that Christ shed on the cross. /We received forgiveness of sins through faith in the body and blood of Christ and His death on the cross. /We will study baptism and communion further in our studies of ecclesiology.

/II. Believers receive grace through prayer.

/Prayer is a means of communication with God, and it is a crucial means to receiving grace. /Prayer is a privilege for believers, and it is also an obligation.

/Matthew 7:7 says, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

/Prayer is **conversation** with God. /Believers converse with and communicate with God through prayer. /We also receive answers from God when we pray.

/When we pray, we must first **confess our sins and ask for forgiveness**. /When we pray, we must first discover our sins and pray prayers of repentance before God. /1 Kings 8:47; Daniel 9:3-15; Matthew 6:12.

/We must also **give thanks** to God through prayer. /We must think about God's grace when we pray, and we must pray prayers of thanksgiving.

/Next, we must seek **God's help** through prayer. /Humans are weak and thus, it is difficult to obey God's will. /We must seek **wisdom and power** to obey God's will.

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/It is also correct for us to base our prayers on the merit of Jesus Christ, pray in the Holy Spirit, and pray to the Father.

/We will conclude the fourteenth lecture on systematic theology. /Thank you.