Introduction to Salvation

• What is salvation?
• Why do we need salvation?
• God’s provision of salvation
• What are we saved for?
• Concepts of salvation

What is Salvation?

• Soteriology (salvation) = the work of Christ to remedy the human predicament and the appropriation of that work by human beings.
  – Objective soteriology = atonement (work of Christ).
  – Subjective soteriology = appropriation or application of that work.
• What do you think of when you think of salvation?
What is Salvation?

- Typical evangelical view = legal.
- What does this view leave out?

Why Do We Need Salvation?

- We need to be saved because we're lost.
- We need salvation because of sin.
  - Universal in humanity (Rom. 5:12).
  - Associated with something in fallen human nature (Rom. 6:6-7, 16-18; 7:18-20).
- Salvation has to be far-reaching because sin is far-reaching (Eph. 2:1-3, 12-13).

Why Do We Need Salvation?

- Far-reaching consequences of sin:
  - A = Alienation from God, others, creation, self.
  - B = Bondage to sin, Satan; bondage of will.
  - C = Condemnation (judgment upon us).
  - D = Depravity (corrupt nature).
  - E = Eternal death (eternal separation from God).
Why Do We Need Salvation?

- Consequences of sin are dealt with in salvation:
  - A = Alienation ⇛ Reconciliation (Rom. 5:10)
  - B = Bondage ⇛ Redemption (Rom. 8:2)
  - C = Condemnation ⇛ Justification (Rom. 5:18)
  - D = Depravity ⇛ Regeneration (Rom. 6:4-6)
  - E = Eternal death ⇛ Eternal life (Rom. 6:23)

God’s Provision of Salvation

- It’s the work of the triune God.
  - Provided by Father (Is. 43:11; Acts 3:23; John 3:17).
  - Accomplished by Son (Mk. 10:45; Rom. 5:1-11).
  - Applied by Spirit (John 3:3-6; 2 Thess. 2:13).
- Atonement by Christ
  - See handout on Driver’s book.
  - See handout on theories of atonement.
  - Which of these are most familiar to you?

What Are We Saved For?

- Protestants haven’t been good on this point.
- Saved for relationship with God and others (Gen. 17:7-8; 2 Cor. 5:18-20; Rev. 21:3).
- Saved for Christlikeness and holiness (Eph. 1:4; 2 Cor. 3:18).
- Saved for witness and service (Eph. 2:8-10; 2 Cor. 5:14-15).
- Saved to glorify God (1 Pet. 2:9-10; Eph. 1).
Concepts of Salvation

• Salvation isn’t just a Christian concept.

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Concepts of Salvation

• How is Christian salvation distinctive?

Concepts of Salvation

• See handout on theological perspectives.
  – Evangelical theology – influenced most by Reformed and Dispensational traditions, but not confined to these.
  – What is your tradition?
Concepts of Salvation

- Order of salvation
  - The order in which the events of salvation occur (who does what, and when).
  - See handout on “The Order of Salvation.”