

New Testament Theology

(NT2)

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Hamartiology/Soteriology

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New Testament Theology (NT2)

1. Introduction to New Testament Theology
2. Christology & Incarnation
3. Trinity (adding Doctrines of Father & Holy Spirit)
4. Ecclesiology (The Church)
5. Christian Anthropology (Being Human before God)
6. Hamartiology/Soteriology (Sin & Salvation)
7. Eschatology (Last Things) & Final Exam

Doctrine of Sin – Hamartiology

Hamartiology: from Greek *hamartia*, “missing the mark;” and *logia*, “the study of.”

What is sin? – Anything in a creature which does not express, or is contrary to, the holy character of the Creator.

“Sin” (with a capital) is our spirit of rebellion against God, placed in us as part of our humanity, inherited (or “imputed”) from our human ancestors. (The “plague of Sin.”)

But, “sins” are acts we commit which reflect our Sinful nature.

We are not Sinners because we commit sins; we commit sins because we are Sinners (“Original Sin”).

Original Sin: Sin is inherited from our original ancestors who rebelled against God, and so is a pervasive plague for all humanity over all time.

Doctrine of Sin – Hamartiology

In Adam, we ALL fell from grace (“Original Sin”).

As it is written:

"There is no one righteous, not even one; ¹¹
there is no one who understands, no one who
seeks God. ¹² All have turned away, they have
together become worthless; there is no one who
does good, not even one." Romans 3:10-12

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of
God... Romans 3:23-24

Doctrine of Salvation – Soteriology

Soteriology: study of religious doctrines of salvation, from Greek *soter*, “savior;” & *logia*, “the study of.”

What is Christian salvation?: The saving of the soul from sin & its consequences; especially, the means by which a person is forgiven of sin & reconciled to God.

Christian soteriology examines how an individual is miraculously saved by divine grace through faith in Jesus Christ, and so is reconciled to God.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God —⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-10

Christian Theories of Salvation

1. **Moral Transformation** – the belief that a person is saved from sinfulness by faithfully following the teaching of Jesus and the example he set of how to live.
2. **Christus Victor** – the belief that Jesus achieved salvation for us by defeating our spiritual enemies, the powers of evil, especially Satan.
3. **Ransom Theory of Atonement** – the belief that Satan had power over people's souls in the afterlife, but that Christ rescued people from that power.

Christian Theories of Salvation

4. **Satisfaction Theory of Atonement** – the belief that people needed salvation from divine punishment they rightfully deserved for their sins, but Christ's atonement satisfied the offense our sin caused against God's honor, doing away with the need for people to be punished. (*Anselm*)
5. **Penal Substitution** – the belief that human sin required punishment, but Christ took the penalty of God's judgment on Himself, thus saving all people who by faith in Christ receive the free gift of salvation. (*Reformers*)

What is Required for Us to Receive Salvation?

The Five *Solae* of the Reformation

1. *Sola gratia* – “by grace alone.”
2. *Sola fide* – “by faith alone.”
3. *Sola Scriptura* – “by Scripture alone.”
4. *Solus Christus* – “through Christ alone.”
5. *Soli Deo gloria* – “glory to God alone.”

- Is salvation accomplished by grace through faith alone without any reference to works of any kind?
- What about the “work” of deciding for and choosing Christ?

What is Required for Us to Receive Salvation?

Free Will – the belief that we have the freedom to make choices that are not determined by prior causes or by divine intervention.

Sovereign Predestination – the belief that all events are willed by God. Applied to soteriology, the belief God saves those whom He chooses (the *elect*) apart from human action or decision.

Prevenient Grace – the divine grace that precedes human decisions & which allows people to accept or reject the salvation offered in Jesus Christ.

Topic	<u>Calvinism</u>	<u>Lutheranism</u>	<u>Arminianism</u>
Human will	<u>Total Depravity</u> without free will permanently due to divine sovereignty	<u>Total Depravity</u> without free will until spiritual regeneration	Depravity does not prevent <u>free will</u>
Election	<u>Unconditional election</u> to salvation with those outside the elect foreordained to damnation (<u>double-predestination</u>)	Unconditional <u>predestination to salvation</u> for the elect	<u>Conditional election</u> in view of foreseen faith or unbelief
Justification	<u>Justification is limited</u> to those predestined to salvation, completed at Christ's death	<u>Justification</u> by faith alone, completed at Christ's death.	Justification made <u>possible for all</u> through Christ's death, but only completed upon <u>choosing faith</u> in Jesus
Conversion	Monergistic, through the inner calling of the Holy Spirit, <u>irresistible</u>	<u>Monergistic</u> , through the <u>means of grace</u> , <u>resistible</u>	<u>Synergistic</u> , resistible due to the common grace of free will
Preservation and apostasy	<u>Perseverance of the saints</u> : the eternally elect in Christ will necessarily persevere in faith	Falling away is possible, but God gives <u>assurance</u> of preservation.	<u>Preservation is conditional</u> upon continued faith in Christ; with the possibility of a final <u>apostasy</u> .

Five Articles of Remonstrance (Arminianism- 1610)

1. Conditional election (*human choice*).
2. Unlimited atonement (*salvation open to all*).
3. Total depravity (*Original sin*).
4. Total depravity and resistible grace (*free will to resist*).
5. Possibility of apostasy (*salvation revocable*).

In Defense of Free Will

*Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, people of Israel?
32 For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord. **Repent and live!** Ezekiel 18:31-32*

*He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. ¹⁶ **Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.** Mark 16:15-17*

*If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. ¹¹ As Scripture says, “**Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.**” ¹² For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³ for, “**Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.**” Romans 10:9-13*

In Defense of Free Will

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that **whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.** ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ **Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.***

John 3:16-19

*And **he died for all**, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.*

2 Corinthians 5:15

*This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ **who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.***

1 Timothy 2:3-5

Five Points of Calvinism (“TULIP”)

1. Total depravity (*Original sin*).
2. Unconditional election (*God’s election*).
3. Limited atonement (*particular redemption*).
4. Irresistible grace (*effectual calling*).
5. Perseverance of the saints (*salvation irrevocable*).

In Defense of Sovereign Predestination

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart... Jeremiah 1:5

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. Philipians 2:12-13

When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. ¹¹ He told them, “The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables ¹² so that, “they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!”” Mark 4:10-12

In Defense of Sovereign Predestination

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. Ephesians 1:3-6

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. Romans 8:28-30

In Defense of Sovereign Predestination

No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. 1 Corinthians 2:7-8

*When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and **all who were appointed for eternal life believed.*** Acts 13:48

*For it is **by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.**¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, **which God prepared in advance for us to do.*** Ephesians 2:8-10

In Defense of Sovereign Predestination

What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! ¹⁵ For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”

¹⁶ It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God’s mercy. ¹⁷ For Scripture says to Pharaoh: “I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” ¹⁸ Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.

¹⁹ One of you will say to me: “Then why does God still blame us? For who is able to resist his will?” ²⁰ But who are you, a human being, to talk back to God? “Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, ‘Why did you make me like this?’” ²¹ Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use?

²² What if God, although choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath—prepared for destruction? ²³ What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory — ²⁴ even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles?

Romans 9:14-25

Calvin's Predestination

Calvin acknowledged the Bible as teaching some are “elected” or “predestined,” but he insisted we could only be sure of our own salvation and so could never judge whether or not another person was saved.

The point of predestination is to remind us that God is free and gracious. There is nothing we can do to earn God's favor; our salvation comes from God alone.

Properly understood the doctrine of predestination is to be held in harmony with the doctrine of God's love for all humankind and His desire that all should be saved. It then frees us from the speculation of who is saved and who is not, leaving us relying wholly on God's divine wisdom and grace.

“For the preaching of Christ is to be heard, and it is to be believed; and it is to be held as beyond doubt that if you believe and are in Christ, you are elected.”

Second Helvetic Confession

Is Our Salvation Irrevocable? Yes...

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one. John 10:27-30

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39

Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. **19 They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.** 1 John 2:18-19

Is Our Salvation Irrevocable? No...

Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. ²² All men will hate you because of me, **but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.** Matthew 10:21-22

"Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. ³³ **But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.** Matthew 10:32-33

Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. ²⁷ No, **I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.**

1 Corinthians 9:26-27

Is Our Salvation Irrevocable? No...

Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.

² By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:1-2

But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation-²³ **if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel.**

Colossians 1:22-23

See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. ¹³ But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. ¹⁴ **We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first.**

Hebrews 3:6-14

Is Our Salvation Irrevocable? No...

It is impossible for those who have once been **enlightened**, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵ who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, ⁶ **if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.**

Hebrews 6:4-6