



A B B A
FORGE



A REFORMED GOSPEL GUIDE

The Good News of Jesus Christ

Why we need a Savior. What Christ has done. How God saves.

*"Christ Jesus came into the world
to save sinners."*

1 TIMOTHY 1:15 / ESV

GRACE ALONE / FAITH ALONE / CHRIST ALONE

SOLI DEO GLORIA

THE WHOLE MESSAGE IN ONE SENTENCE

Grace from beginning *to end.*

God saves guilty, spiritually dead sinners by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, for His glory alone.

The Bible begins the gospel with God's holiness, our sin, and our helplessness. It then announces astonishing news: the Father sent the Son, Jesus Christ, who lived in perfect righteousness, died as a substitute for sinners, rose bodily from the grave, and freely gives forgiveness and eternal life to all who repent and believe.

THE FIVE SOLAS

+

SCRIPTURE

alone

+

GRACE

alone

+

FAITH

alone

+

CHRIST

alone

+

GOD'S GLORY

alone

THE JOURNEY OF REDEMPTION

From death to glory.

Twelve movements of God's saving work, from humanity's ruin to the believer's eternal restoration.

01

FALLEN IN ADAM

Guilty and corrupted in Adam.

02

SPIRITUALLY DEAD

Unable to make ourselves alive.

03

ELECTION

Chosen by grace in Christ.

04

GOSPEL CALL

Christ proclaimed to every hearer.

05

EFFECTUAL CALL

The Spirit opens the heart.

06

REGENERATION

God gives new spiritual life.

07

CONVERSION

Repentance and faith in Christ.

08

JUSTIFICATION

Declared righteous by faith.

09

ADOPTION

Received into God's family.

10

SANCTIFICATION

Progressively made holy.

11

PERSEVERANCE

Kept by God's preserving grace.

12

GLORIFICATION

Raised and perfected forever.

THE ORDER OF SALVATION / 01 OF 12

Conceived *in Sin*

OUR PROBLEM: ORIGINAL SIN

Sin is deeper than a collection of bad choices. In Adam, we enter the world guilty, corrupted, bent away from God, and entirely in need of mercy.

"Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me."

PSALM 51:5 / ESV

READ THE SCRIPTURES

- **Psalm 51:5** / David traces our need for mercy back to conception.
- **Romans 5:12, 18–19** / Adam brings condemnation; Christ brings righteousness and life.
- **Romans 3:10–12, 23** / No one is righteous by nature; all fall short of God's glory.
- **Jeremiah 17:9** / The fallen heart cannot serve as its own trustworthy guide.

THOMAS WATSON

Original sin is the inward fountain from which actual sins flow. We need a Savior who rescues the whole person.

Paraphrase / A Body of Divinity

THE ORDER OF SALVATION / 02 OF 12

Dead in Sin

02

OUR INABILITY TO SAVE OURSELVES

The natural person is not spiritually neutral. Apart from grace, we do not merely need advice or improvement. We need resurrection.

"And you were dead in the trespasses and sins"

EPHESIANS 2:1 / ESV

READ THE SCRIPTURES

- Ephesians 2:1-5 / The spiritually dead must be made alive together with Christ.
- Romans 8:7-8 / The flesh is hostile to God and cannot submit to His law.
- 1 Corinthians 2:14 / The natural person does not receive the things of the Spirit.
- John 6:44 / No one comes to Christ unless the Father draws him.
- John 3:19-20 / Fallen people love darkness rather than the light.

JOHN OWEN

A spiritually lifeless heart cannot generate spiritual life. The first movement of saving grace belongs to God.

Paraphrase / The Holy Spirit

THE ORDER OF SALVATION / 03 OF 12

Chosen in Christ

03

ELECTION AND PREDESTINATION

If spiritually dead sinners are saved, the decisive cause cannot be something God foresees in them. His saving choice is gracious, eternal, and centered in Christ.

"he chose us in him before the foundation of the world"

EPHESIANS 1:4 / ESV

READ THE SCRIPTURES

- **Ephesians 1:3-6** / God chose His people in Christ and predestined them for adoption.
- **Romans 8:29-30** / Those predestined by God are called, justified, and glorified.
- **Romans 9:15-16** / Salvation depends on God who shows mercy, not human effort.
- **2 Timothy 1:9** / God saves according to His own purpose and grace in Christ.

THOMAS WATSON

Election is the fountain of saving mercy: God's choice is free and gracious, never purchased by foreseen merit.

Paraphrase / A Body of Divinity

THE ORDER OF SALVATION / 04 OF 12

The Gospel Goes Forth

04

CHRIST PROCLAIMED TO ALL

God commands that the gospel be proclaimed openly. The outward call announces what Jesus accomplished and summons every hearer to repent and believe.

"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

ROMANS 10:17 / ESV

READ THE SCRIPTURES

- **Mark 1:14-15** / Jesus commands sinners to repent and believe the gospel.
- **Romans 10:13-17** / Faith comes through hearing the word of Christ.
- **Acts 17:30-31** / God commands all people everywhere to repent.
- **2 Corinthians 5:20-21** / Be reconciled to God through the sinless substitute.
- **John 3:16-18** / Whoever believes in the Son receives eternal life.

THOMAS WATSON

The free offer of Christ goes out sincerely to sinners. No hearer is invited to trust himself; all are called to Christ.

Paraphrase / A Body of Divinity



THE HEART OF THE GOOD NEWS

The Cross

Christ in our place.



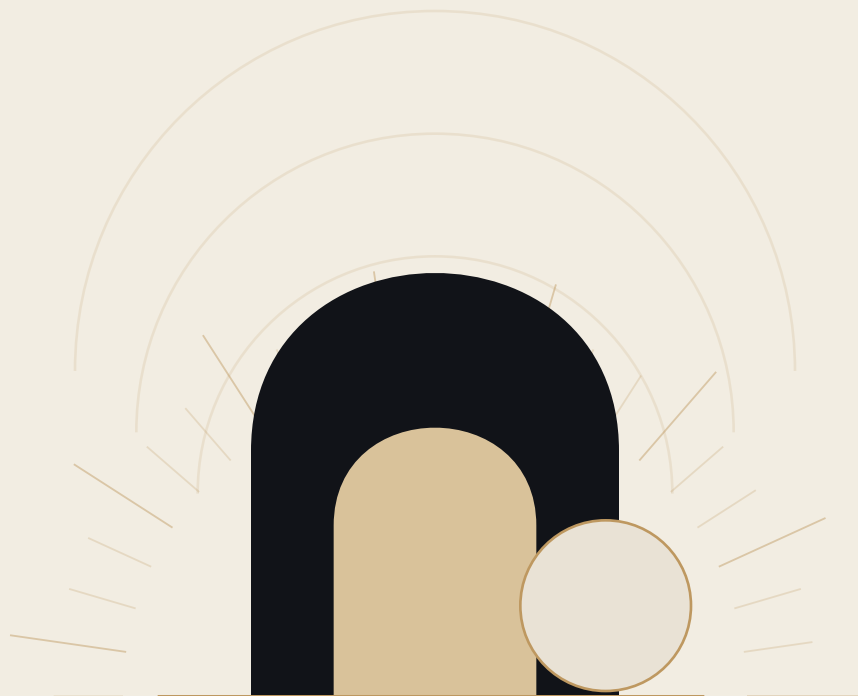
Christ bore the guilt and judgment His people deserved. He did not merely make salvation possible; He accomplished redemption.

ISAIAH 53:4-6 / ROMANS 5:6-8 / 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

THE GRAVE COULD NOT HOLD HIM

The Resurrection

Death defeated. Hope secured.



Jesus rose bodily from the grave. His sacrifice was vindicated, death was defeated, and the believer's living hope was secured forever.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-4 / ACTS 2:24 / 1 PETER 1:3

THE ORDER OF SALVATION / 05 OF 12

The Call That Awakens

05

THE SPIRIT OPENS THE HEART

The outward call can be resisted. When God effectually calls a sinner, the Holy Spirit works within so that the person willingly comes to Christ.

"The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul."

ACTS 16:14 / ESV

READ THE SCRIPTURES

- **Romans 8:30** / Those whom God predestined He also called and justified.
- **1 Corinthians 1:23–24** / To the called, Christ is the power and wisdom of God.
- **Acts 16:14** / The Lord opens Lydia's heart to receive the apostolic message.
- **John 10:27–29** / Christ's sheep hear His voice, follow Him, and are kept.

JOHN OWEN

The Spirit does not drag an unwilling heart to Christ; He renews the heart so that Christ becomes its desire.

Paraphrase / The Holy Spirit

THE ORDER OF SALVATION / 06 OF 12

Born Again

06

NEW LIFE BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

Regeneration is God's sovereign act of giving spiritual life to the spiritually dead. The new birth is not a reward for self-improvement; it is mercy.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

JOHN 3:3 / ESV

READ THE SCRIPTURES

- **John 3:3-8** / No one sees the kingdom without the Spirit's new birth.
- **Ezekiel 36:25-27** / God promises cleansing, a new heart, and His Spirit.
- **Titus 3:3-7** / God saves through regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit.
- **1 Peter 1:3** / God causes believers to be born again to a living hope.

JOHN OWEN

Regeneration is a real, inward work of the Holy Spirit. Spiritual life begins entirely in God's mercy and grace.

Paraphrase / The Holy Spirit

THE ORDER OF SALVATION / 07 OF 12

Repentance and Faith

07

TURNING FROM SIN TO CHRIST

The regenerated sinner turns from sin in repentance and to Jesus Christ in faith. Neither earns salvation; both receive what Christ has accomplished.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith."

EPHESIANS 2:8 / ESV

READ THE SCRIPTURES

- **Acts 20:21** / The apostolic call is repentance toward God and faith in Jesus.
- **Ephesians 2:8-9** / Salvation is by grace through faith, not from works.
- **Philippians 1:29** / Believing in Christ is granted by God.
- **2 Timothy 2:25** / God grants repentance leading to knowledge of the truth.
- **John 1:12-13** / Those who receive Christ are born of God and become His children.

JOHN OWEN

Saving faith abandons every rival ground of righteousness and rests in Christ. True faith and repentance belong together.

Paraphrase / The Doctrine of Justification by Faith

THE ORDER OF SALVATION / 08 OF 12

Declared Righteous

08

ACCEPTED THROUGH CHRIST ALONE

Justification is God's once-for-all legal declaration. He pardons the believer's sins and counts the believer righteous through Christ, received by faith.

"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

ROMANS 5:1 / ESV

READ THE SCRIPTURES

- **Romans 3:21-28** / God justifies by grace through redemption in Jesus Christ.
- **Romans 4:4-8** / God justifies the ungodly and counts righteousness apart from works.
- **Romans 5:1** / Those justified by faith have peace with God through Christ.
- **2 Corinthians 5:21** / In Christ, sinners receive the righteousness of God.
- **Philippians 3:8-9** / The believer rests in righteousness received through faith.

JOHN OWEN

Believers are accepted before God through Christ's righteousness credited to them and received by faith alone.

Paraphrase / The Doctrine of Justification by Faith

THE ORDER OF SALVATION / 09 OF 12

Abba, Father

09

WELCOMED INTO GOD'S FAMILY

The Judge who justifies also becomes Father to the believer. Adoption brings a new family, a new inheritance, and confident access to God through Christ.

"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God;"

1 JOHN 3:1 / ESV

READ THE SCRIPTURES

- **Romans 8:14-17** / The Spirit of adoption enables believers to cry, 'Abba! Father!'
- **Galatians 4:4-7** / The Son redeems His people so they receive adoption.
- **1 John 3:1-2** / The Father's love is seen in calling believers His children.
- **Ephesians 1:5** / God predestined His people for adoption through Jesus Christ.

THOMAS WATSON

Adoption is the wonder that pardoned rebels become beloved children and heirs of the God they once resisted.

Paraphrase / A Body of Divinity

THE ORDER OF SALVATION / 10 OF 12

Made Holy

10

GRACE THAT TRANSFORMS

Justification changes our standing; sanctification changes our life. The grace that pardons also transforms. Good works are fruit, never the purchase price.

"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image"

2 CORINTHIANS 3:18 / ESV

READ THE SCRIPTURES

- **Romans 6:1-14** / Union with Christ breaks sin's claim to rule the believer.
- **Philippians 2:12-13** / Believers pursue obedience because God works within them.
- **2 Corinthians 3:18** / The Spirit transforms believers into Christ's image.
- **Ephesians 2:10** / Those saved by grace are created in Christ for good works.

JOHN OWEN

Holiness grows from union with Christ and the Spirit's power. We fight sin because grace has made us alive.

Paraphrase / Of the Mortification of Sin in Believers

THE ORDER OF SALVATION / 11 OF 12

Kept by Grace

11

PRESERVED BY GOD'S POWER

True believers persevere because God preserves them. Beneath our unsteady grip on Christ stands Christ's stronger, unwavering grip on us.

"I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand."

JOHN 10:28 / ESV

READ THE SCRIPTURES

- **John 10:27-29** / No one can snatch Christ's sheep from His hand.
- **Philippians 1:6** / God will complete the good work He began in His people.
- **1 Peter 1:3-5** / Believers are guarded by God's power through faith.
- **Romans 8:31-39** / Nothing can separate God's people from His love in Christ.

JOHN OWEN

The believer's endurance rests on God's covenant faithfulness. Christ keeps those whom the Father has given Him.

Paraphrase / The Doctrine of the Saints' Perseverance

THE ORDER OF SALVATION / 12 OF 12

Raised in Glory

12

PERFECTED IN CHRIST FOREVER

At Christ's return, believers will be raised imperishable, freed from sin forever, and made like Christ in a renewed creation.

"Behold, I am making all things new."

REVELATION 21:5 / ESV

READ THE SCRIPTURES

- **Romans 8:30** / Those whom God justifies He also glorifies.
- **1 Corinthians 15:42-57** / The dead are raised imperishable; death is swallowed in victory.
- **Philippians 3:20-21** / Christ transforms our lowly bodies to be like His glorious body.
- **Revelation 21:1-5** / God dwells with His people; death and sorrow pass away.

THOMAS WATSON

The Christian's future is not escape into nothingness, but resurrection, perfect holiness, and unending joy with God.

Paraphrase / A Body of Divinity

THE GOSPEL INVITATION

Come to *Jesus Christ.*

You are not called to clean yourself up before coming. You are called to come because you cannot save yourself.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BELIEVE?

Saving faith is more than agreeing that Christianity is true. It is receiving and resting on Jesus Christ – His person and His finished work – as your only sufficient Savior.

- 01 **CONFESS** Acknowledge your sin and your inability to save yourself.
- 02 **TURN** Repent of sin and abandon every rival hope of righteousness.
- 03 **REST** Trust Jesus Christ alone – crucified, risen, and sufficient.

"God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

LUKE 18:13 / JOHN 6:37 / ACTS 16:31

THE GOSPEL AT A GLANCE

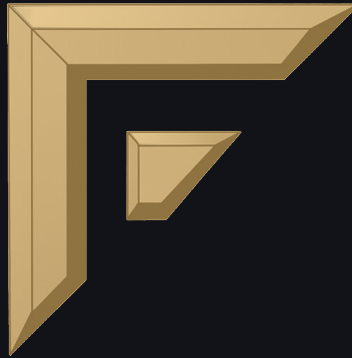
From death to glory.

#	STAGE	GOD'S SAVING WORK	SCRIPTURE
01	Fallen in Adam	Guilty and corrupted in Adam	Ps 51:5; Rom 5:12
02	Spiritual Death	Unable to make ourselves alive	Eph 2:1-5
03	Election	Chosen graciously in Christ	Eph 1:4-5
04	Gospel Call	Christ proclaimed to all	Mark 1:15
05	Effectual Call	The Spirit opens the heart	Acts 16:14
06	Regeneration	God gives the new birth	John 3:3-8
07	Conversion	Repentance and faith in Christ	Acts 20:21
08	Justification	Declared righteous through faith	Rom 3:24-28
09	Adoption	Received into God's family	Rom 8:15-17
10	Sanctification	Progressively made holy	2 Cor 3:18
11	Perseverance	Kept by God's preserving grace	John 10:28
12	Glorification	Raised and perfected forever	1 Cor 15:52

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Westminster Confession of Faith, chapters 6, 8, and 10-18; Westminster Shorter Catechism, questions 20-38; Canons of Dort I-V; Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Days 2-7 and 23-24. Historical reflections are clearly identified as paraphrases, not direct quotations.

THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST



A B B A

FORGE



Grace from beginning to end.

For the unbeliever: come to Christ. For the believer: never graduate from the gospel.

SOLI DEO GLORIA

TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY

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