

The Gospel of John

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Lesson #19

The Journey

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The Gospel of John

The "Ordo Salutis" is a Latin term which means "the order of salvation". It is a way of organizing the events in the process of salvation, in the order that they show up in an individual's life.

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The Ordo Salutis

ELECTION	
ATONEMENT	
OUTWARD CALL	
REGENERATION	
CONVERSION	
JUSTIFICATION	
ADOPTION	
SANCTIFICATION	
PERSEVERANCE	
GLORIFICATION	

Jonah 2:10
Salvation belongs to the Lord!

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

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Romans 8:28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ⁴

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• John 3:1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him."

• Who was Nicodemus? Why did he come to Jesus? Why did he come by night? Why does this prestigious man of stature and wealth come to Jesus and call him Rabbi? ⁵

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• Nicodemus was a member of the Sanhedrin, a 70-member ruling council first introduced in the book of Numbers.


• Numbers 11:16 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them, and bring them to the tent of meeting, and let them take their stand there with you."

• If Nicodemus lived in America today, he would be considered as "upper class" – he is reported to have been the 3rd richest man in Jerusalem. ⁶

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- We are not told many names of the members of the ruling council, the Sanhedrin, but we do know at least one other member in Jesus' day - Joseph of Arimathea.



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- Isaiah 53:9 And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.
- As for both Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea they are mentioned only sparingly in the gospels – like us neither played a big role in the kingdom but did play a small one.
- It is probable both knew Paul of Tarsus as Paul declared himself to be a “pharisee of the pharisees”.

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- Nicodemus belonged to the strictest religious sect of Judaism – the Pharisees were quite rigid in their beliefs and they actually once cared about scriptural integrity.
- We find out later that Nicodemus believed on Jesus as an O.T. Christian, but is mentioned only in John's gospel – he seems to have faded to the background afterward.
- Perhaps Jesus' miracles got his attention, and he then demonstrated an open mind by coming to Jesus for more information.

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1st Corinthians 1:26 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

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- The term Pharisee means “separated ones” – they were the legalists of Jesus’ day and were meticulous in keeping “the law” as well as lots of other manmade rules.
- Jesus said of them, “**Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. 24 You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!**”

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- To put it perhaps in clearer terms, a gnat was the smallest of the unclean creatures, and a camel would have been the largest.
- He told them, “**your focus on the smallest of matters so distracts you that you miss the most important ones.**”
- “This crowd thought nothing of condemning an innocent man, yet they were afraid to enter Pilate’s judgment hall lest they be defiled.” Warren Wiersbe

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- “At its heart legalism is a desire to appear holy. It is trying to be justified before men and not God.” David Wilkerson
- The “rules” of the legalists are almost never found in scripture – the “rules” are most often a restatement of the preferences of those in power.
- It is not wrong to have personal preferences, but it is wrong to use our preferences to measure others or insist they adopt ours.

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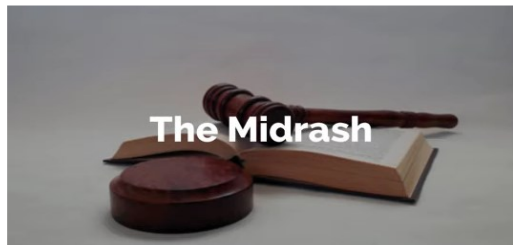
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“Legalism exists when people attempt to secure righteousness in God’s sight by good works. Legalists believe that they can earn or merit God’s approval by performing the requirements of the law. A legalist seeks to keep external laws without a truly submitted heart. And legalism adds human rules to divine laws and treats them as divine.”
Thomas Shreiner

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The Laws of the Pharisees



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