

The *ordo salutis* or order of salvation.

From Wayne Grudem's Systematic Theology

This act of election is, of course, not (strictly speaking) part of the *application* of salvation to us, since it came before Christ earned our salvation when he died on the cross. But we treat election at this point because it is chronologically the *beginning* of God's dealing with us in a gracious way. Therefore, it is rightly thought of as the first step in the process of God's bringing salvation to us individually.

Other steps in God's work of applying salvation to our lives include our hearing the gospel call, our being regenerated by the Holy Spirit, our responding in faith and repentance, and God forgiving us and giving us membership in his family, as well as granting us growth in the Christian life and keeping us faithful to himself throughout life. At the end of our life we die and go into his presence, then when Christ returns we receive resurrection bodies, and the process of acquiring salvation is complete.

Various theologians have given specific terms to a number of these events, and have often listed them in a specific order in which they believe that they occur in our lives. Such a list of the events in which God applies salvation to us is called the *order of salvation* and is sometimes referred to by a Latin phrase, *ordo salutis* which simply means "order of salvation." Before discussing any of these elements in the application of salvation to our lives, we can give a complete list here of the elements that will be treated in the following chapters:

"The Order of Salvation"

- 1. Election** (God's choice of people to be saved)
- 2. The gospel call** (proclaiming the message of the gospel)
- 3. Regeneration** (being born again)
- 4. Conversion** (faith and repentance)
- 5. Justification** (right legal standing)
- 6. Adoption** (membership in God's family)
- 7. Sanctification** (right conduct of life)
- 8. Perseverance** (remaining a Christian)
- 9. Death** (going to be with the Lord)
- 10. Glorification** (receiving a resurrection body)

We should note here that items 2–6 and part of 7 are all involved in "becoming a Christian." Numbers 7 and 8 work themselves out in this life, number 9 occurs at the end of this life, and number 10 occurs when Christ returns.

The Sovereignty of God In Salvation

Sovereign Election – What does the Bible say?

The Bible plainly declares that God chooses who will be saved. This is called “*election*” and refers to God’s electing certain individuals to salvation and that this happened before He ever created the world. This is taught in many places in the Bible.

John 15:16 - 16 "You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you. NASB

Ephesians 1:3-6 - 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. NASB

Titus 1:1-2 - 1:1 Paul, a bond-servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness, 2 in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago, NASB

2 Timothy 2:10 - 10 For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory. NASB

2 Thessalonians 2:13 - 13 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. NASB

1 Peter 1:1-2 - 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen 2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in fullest measure. NASB

Matthew 11:27 - 27 "All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son, except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father, except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.

This teaching in the Bible is closely related to the idea of “*predestination*”, another concept clearly presented in the Bible. In fact, “*predestination*” is a Biblical word which refers to the fact that God has set the destiny of His chosen people from before the beginning of time. This is presented in many places in Scripture.

Acts 13:48 - 48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. NASB

Romans 8:28-30 - 28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren; 30 and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. NASB

Romans 9:22-25 - 22 What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction? 23 And He did so in order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory, 24 even us, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles. NASB

Therefore when we speak about the doctrine of “*election*” or “*predestination*,” we must realize that this is a Biblical doctrine which occurs many places in the Bible. Rarely does anyone deny this teaching, but there is much controversy over the *nature* and *basis* of it.

- Who does God choose and why?
- On what basis does God choose? Is it because of some foreseen act or faith of people, or is it because of His own free and sovereign purpose?

These questions and more will be addressed here...

http://www.heavenlight.org/salvation/Sovereign_Election.pdf