

Soteriology: Introduction to Soteriology ©

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This is Introduction to Soteriology. Magsimula tayo sa Covenant of Redemption. Iyon ang kasunduan ng Trinity sa eternidad, meaning sa labas ng time and space - sa labas ng ating universe - at ang pagpapatupad nito ay ang paksa ng Covenant Theology. Sentro dito ang paghihirang, pagtutubos at paghihiwalay ng bayan ng Diyos.

Ang bayan ng Diyos ay chosen by the Father, purchased by the Son and sealed by the Holy Spirit.

Chosen by the Father

Basahin natin ang Deutrenomy 7:7-8, *For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.*

Basahin naman natin ang Exodus 19:5-6, *Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel. Ito ang sinabi ng Diyos kay Moses while Moses was at the Mount of Sinai.*

Sa New Testament, 1 Peter 2:9-10, ang sabi ni Peter sa mga believers na nagkalat doon sa kanilang lugar, *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of the darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.*

At sa Hebrews 13:15 ito ang nakasulat, *Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.*

Sa mga talatang ito, sinsabi sa atin na He was the Father who chose for Himself a people at tinawag Niya ang Kanyang bayan para maging priests sa Kanya, and a holy nation, a separate nation, a unique nation for Himself. Ano ba ang ibig sabihin ng priesthood ng believer? Dito sa Hebrews 13:15 niliwanag na tayo ang mga mag-o-offer ng sacrifices of praise to God, that is the fruit of our lips. So during assemblies kapag nagkakatipon-tipon ang mga believers, ang mga anak ng Diyos, we are to express our praises and thanksgiving to God. Thanking Him for all the goodness that we have received from Him.

Ito naman ang theme of God's covenant with His people. Sinasabi sa Leviticus 26:9-13, *For I will look on you favorably and make you fruitful, multiply you and confirm My covenant with you. You shall eat the old harvest and clear out the old because of the new. Ito ang pinaka-theme ng covenant Theology, ng kasunduan ng Diyos with His people: I will set My tabernacle among you, and My soul shall not abhor you. I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people. Ang sinasabi ng Lord dito, I will be your God, you will be My people and I will walk among you.*

Sa Ezekiel 37:27, yun din ang sinabi ng Lord, *My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their God and they shall be my people. The nations also will know that I, the Lord, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore.* Ito na naman, I will be their God and they will be My people and I will dwell among them.

Sa Revelation 21:3-4, And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, *Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.* Sinabi sa Old Testament sa bayan ng Israel at sa New Testament, sinabi rin ito ng Lord sa church.

This is the theme throughout the Bible. The Bible is the story of God and His people.

Purchased by the Son

After being chosen by God, ang role naman ng Anak ng Diyos ay ito: to come and to redeem God's people. Bakit?

Sa John 17 at sa Genesis 3, mapag-aalaman natin na the Father chose who will belong to the Son. Matutunghayan natin sa mga passages na ito na the Father made the choosing. At ang mga hinirang ng Diyos Ama ay ibinigay Niya sa Anak. And they gave His people the freedom to choose. May kalayaan sila na pumili, mag-desisyon ng kanila. Kaya ano ang nangyari?

Nagdesisyon nga sila. Ang sabi sa Isaiah 53:6 *all we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, everyone, to his own way.* So God gave us freedom. We exercised our freedom to choose and we decided, we are not going to trust God's word, instead, I will believe the serpent at iyon ang ginawa natin. We have turned, everyone, to his own way and ang gusto natin ay magsarili na lang tayo. Iyon ang sinabi kasi ni Satan, that we will be like God, makakapagsarili na tayo kaya hindi na tayo accountable sa God dahil god na rin tayo. We can be on our own, we can define what's good and what's bad for us. We can define what's right and what's wrong. We will be like God.

Sabi ng Bible sa Luke 19:10, *Christ has come to seek and to save that which was lost.* May hinirang ang Ama, ibinigay Niya sa Anak ang Kanyang mga hinirang at binigyan sila ng freedom to make their own choices. Ang nangyari, because they have this free will, they turned away their backs away from God kaya they got lost. Kaya ang second part ng covenant of redemption was the Son will purchase back the lost people of God.

Sa John 10, Christ introduced Himself as the good Shepherd at sinabi Niya, the good Shepherd lays down His life for His sheep. Kaya iyon ang ginawa ng ating Panginoon dito sa mundo. He purchased us back kasi we have gone astray.

Sinabi ni Christ during His high priestly prayer sa John 17:1-9, *Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given Him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given Him. I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours.* Bago tayo naging tupa ni Cristo, ng ating Panginoon ay we belong to the Father. So we were chosen by the Father, then He allowed us to fall into sin with the rest of mankind, then the Lord Jesus

Christ received us from the Father. Napag-alaman Niya kung sino ang mga lost sheep Niya so He said He has come to seek and to save that which was lost.

John 10:14-16, sinabi ni Christ, *I am the good Shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father;* so intimate talaga ang knowledge na iyon because ang love for us by God is intimate kaya alam ng Lord kung sino tayo, alam ng Lord kung sino ang pinili o hinirang Niya at alam din ni Cristo kung sino ang mga ibinigay sa Kanya ng Ama. Sabi Niya, . . . *and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold . . .* Ang kausap Niya at that time ay mga Judio, . . . *I must bring them also,* He was referring to us gentiles, . . . *and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.* Tandaan natin ito as we go on sa ating systematic theology sa sinabi ng ating Panginoong Jesus, *there will be one flock, one shepherd.*

Sinabi naman ng Lord sa Matthew 11:27, *All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.* So hindi lahat ay nakakarinig ng pahayag ng Diyos. Pinipili lang ni Jesu Cristo kung kanino Niya ipapahayag ang Ama. Ang sabi Niya, . . . *the one whom the Son wills to reveal Him.* It is up to God kung sino ang makakilala sa Ama.

Kaya sa John 15:15-17 sinabi ng Lord sa Kanyang mga disciples, *You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit.* Mahalagang intindihin natin, who is doing the choosing? It is God the Father who chose us, to begin with, and the Son decides to whom he will reveal the Father.

Sealed by the Spirit

Ito naman ang role ng Holy Spirit. Ang sabi sa 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, *Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.* Iyon ang ginawa ng Holy Spirit - iyon ang role niya - Siya ang pledge ng Ama sa atin.