

## A Study of the Ordo Salutis (Order of Salvation) and Man's Relationship with Sin

<b>G</b>	<b>Glorification</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• WCF Ch. XXXII</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• WCF-SC Q.37-38</li><li>• WCF-LC Q.82-87</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 Cor 15:20-23</li><li>• 1 Cor 15:50-54</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Phil 3:20-21</li></ul>
<p><b>Overview:</b> Raised from this world, or from the grave, into eternity.</p> <p><b>What happens at death to the body?</b> Returns to dust and sees corruption.</p> <p><b>What happens at death to the soul?</b> Immediately returns to God.</p> <p><b>In what sense is man glorified at death?</b> Soul passes into heaven and sin is no longer possible (perfect in holiness).</p> <p><b>In what sense is man not glorified at death?</b> The body remains in the grave and sees corruption (decay).</p> <p><b>When is glorification fully manifested?</b> When Christ returns, the new creation is established, man's eternal body and soul are reunited, and the final judgment is complete.</p>					

### Scripture References

**1 Corinthians 15:20-23** <sup>20</sup> But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. <sup>21</sup> For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54** <sup>50</sup> Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup> Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. <sup>53</sup> For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup> But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory.

**Philippians 3:20-21** <sup>20</sup> For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; <sup>21</sup> who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

### Westminster Confession of Faith, Shorter Catechism

#### Q. 37. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death?

A. **The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness,<sup>1</sup> and do immediately pass into glory;<sup>2</sup> and their bodies, being still united to Christ,<sup>3</sup> do rest in their graves, till the resurrection.<sup>4</sup>**

- 1. Hebrews 12:23** to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,
- 2. Luke 23:43** And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."
- 3. 1 Thessalonians 4:14** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.
- 4. Daniel 12:2** Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt. **John 5:28-29** <sup>28</sup> Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, <sup>29</sup> and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment. **Acts 24:15** having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.

#### Q. 38. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?

A. **At the resurrection, believers, being raised up in glory,<sup>1</sup> shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment,<sup>2</sup> and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoying of God<sup>3</sup> to all eternity.<sup>4</sup>**

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1. **1 Corinthians 15:42-43**<sup>42</sup> So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body;<sup>43</sup> it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power;
2. **Matthew 25:33-34, 46**<sup>33</sup> and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.<sup>34</sup> "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world...These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'"
3. **Romans 8:29** For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; **1 John 3:2** Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.
4. **Psalm 16:11** You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever. **1 Thessalonians 4:17** Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

### Westminster Confession of Faith, Larger Catechism

#### Q. 82. What is the communion in glory which the members of the invisible church have with Christ?

A. The communion in glory which the members of the invisible church have with Christ, is in this life,<sup>1</sup> immediately after death,<sup>2</sup> and at last perfected at the resurrection and day of judgment.<sup>3</sup>

1. **2 Corinthians 3:18** And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.
2. **Luke 23:43** And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."
3. **1 Thessalonians 4:17** Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

#### Q. 83. What is the communion in glory with Christ which the members of the invisible church enjoy in this life?

A. The members of the invisible church have communicated to them in this life the firstfruits of glory with Christ, as they are members of him their head, and so in him are interested in that glory which he is fully possessed of;<sup>1</sup> and, as an earnest thereof, enjoy the sense of God's love,<sup>2</sup> peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Ghost, and hope of glory;<sup>3</sup> as, on the contrary, sense of God's revenging wrath, horror of conscience, and a fearful expectation of judgment, are to the wicked the beginning of their torments which they shall endure after death.<sup>4</sup>

1. **Ephesians 2:5-6** Even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.
2. **Romans 5:5** And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. **2 Corinthians 1:22** And who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.
3. **Romans 5:1-2** Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. **Romans 14:17** For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
4. **Genesis 4:13** Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear." **Matthew 27:4** Saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." They said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." **Hebrews 10:27** But a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. **Romans 2:9** There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek. **Mark 9:48** Where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.

#### Q. 84. Will all men die?

A. Death being threatened as the wages of sin,<sup>1</sup> it is appointed unto all men once to die;<sup>2</sup> for that all have sinned.<sup>3</sup>

1. **Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
2. **Hebrews 9:27** And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment.
3. **Romans 5:12** Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.

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### Q. 85. Since death is the wages of sin, why are not the righteous delivered from death, seeing all their sins are forgiven in Christ?

A. The righteous shall be delivered from death itself at the last day, and even in death are delivered from the sting and curse of it;<sup>1</sup> so that, although they die, yet it is out of God's love,<sup>2</sup> to free them perfectly from sin and misery,<sup>3</sup> and to make them capable of further communion with Christ in glory, which they then enter upon.<sup>4</sup>

- 1. 1 Corinthians 15:26, 55-57:** The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ... "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Hebrews 2:15** And deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.
- 2. Isaiah 57:1-2** The righteous man perishes, and no one lays it to heart; devout men are taken away, while no one understands. For the righteous man is taken away from calamity; he enters into peace; they rest in their beds who walk in their uprightness. **2 Kings 22:20** Therefore, behold, I will gather you to your fathers, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace, and your eyes shall not see all the disaster that I will bring upon this place." And they brought back word to the king.
- 3. Revelation 14:13** And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!" **Ephesians 5:27** So that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.
- 4. Luke 23:43** And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." **Philippians 1:23** I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.

### Q. 86. What is the communion in glory with Christ, which the members of the invisible church enjoy immediately after death?

A. The communion in glory with Christ, which the members of the invisible church enjoy immediately after death is, in that **their souls are then made perfect in holiness,<sup>1</sup> and received into the highest heavens,<sup>2</sup> where they behold the face of God in light and glory,<sup>3</sup> waiting for the full redemption of their bodies,<sup>4</sup> which even in death continue united to Christ,<sup>5</sup> and rest in their graves as in their beds,<sup>6</sup> till at the last day they be again united to their souls.<sup>7</sup>** Whereas the souls of the wicked are at their death cast into hell, where they remain in torments and utter darkness, and their bodies kept in their graves, as in their prisons, till the resurrection and judgment of the great day.<sup>8</sup>

- 1. Hebrews 12:23** And to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect.
- 2. 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6, 8** For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ... So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. ... Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. **Philippians 1:23** I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. **Acts 3:21** Whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago. **Ephesians 4:10** He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.
- 3. 1 John 3:2** Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. **1 Corinthians 13:12** For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.
- 4. Romans 8:23** And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. **Psalms 16:9** Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.
- 5. 1 Thessalonians 4:14** For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.
- 6. Isaiah 57:2** He enters into peace; they rest in their beds who walk in their uprightness.
- 7. Job 19:26-27** And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!

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8. **Luke 16:23-24** And in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame." **Jude 6-7** And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day —just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

### Q. 87. What are we to believe concerning the resurrection?

A. We are to believe that at the last day there shall be a general resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust:<sup>1</sup> **when they that are then found alive shall in a moment be changed; and the selfsame bodies of the dead which were laid in the grave, being then again united to their souls forever, shall be raised up by the power of Christ.**<sup>2</sup> **The bodies of the just, by the Spirit of Christ, and by virtue of his resurrection as their head, shall be raised in power, spiritual, incorruptible, and made like to his glorious body;**<sup>3</sup> and the bodies of the wicked shall be raised up in dishonour by him, as an offended judge.<sup>4</sup>

1. **Acts 24:15** Having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust.
2. **1 Corinthians 15:51-53** Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. **1 Thessalonians 4:15-17** For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. **John 5:28-29** Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.
3. **1 Corinthians 15:21-23, 42-44** For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ... So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body **Philippians 3:21** Who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.
4. **John 5:27-29** And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment. **Matthew 25:33** And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left.

### Westminster Confession of Faith, Ch. 32, Of the State of Men after Death, and of the Resurrection of the Dead

1. **The bodies of men, after death, return to dust, and see corruption:**<sup>1</sup> **but their souls, which neither die nor sleep, having an immortal subsistence, immediately return to God who gave them:**<sup>2</sup> **the souls of the righteous, being then made perfect in holiness, are received into the highest heavens, where they behold the face of God, in light and glory, waiting for the full redemption of their bodies.**<sup>3</sup> And the souls of the wicked are cast into hell, where they remain in torments and utter darkness, reserved to the judgment of the great day.<sup>4</sup> Beside these two places, for souls separated from their bodies, the Scripture acknowledgeth none.
2. **At the last day, such as are found alive shall not die, but be changed:**<sup>5</sup> **and all the dead shall be raised up, with the self-same bodies, and none other (although with different qualities), which shall be united again to their souls forever.**<sup>6</sup>
3. The bodies of the unjust shall, by the power of Christ, be raised to dishonour: the bodies of the just, by His Spirit, unto honour; and be made conformable to His own glorious body.<sup>7</sup>

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- 1. Gen. 3:19** By the sweat of your face you will eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; For you are dust, and to dust you shall return. **Acts 13:36** For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers and underwent decay;
- 2. Luke 23:43** And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise." **Eccl. 12:7** then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.
- 3. Heb. 12:23** to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, **2 Cor. 5:1,6,8** For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens...Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord—...we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. **Phil. 1:23** But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better; **Acts 3:21** whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time. **Eph. 4:10** He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.
- 4. Luke 16:23–24** "In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom. "And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.' **Acts 1:25** to occupy this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place. **Jude 6–7** And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day, just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire. **1 Pet. 3:19** in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison,
- 5. 1 Thess. 4:17** Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. **1 Cor. 15:51–52** Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.
- 6. Job 19:26–27** Even after my skin is destroyed, yet from my flesh I shall see God; Whom I myself shall behold, and whom my eyes will see and not another. My heart faints within me! **1 Cor. 15:42–44** So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.
- 7. Acts 24:15** having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. **John 5:28–29** Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment. **1 Cor. 15:43** it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; **Philip. 3:21** Who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

“For Christians this present life is the closest they will come to Hell. For unbelievers, it is the closest they will come to Heaven.”

Randy Alcorn

## Resurrection and Glorification

Jesus was the first to be raised from the dead to a glorified existence no longer subject to death as the punishment for sin (Acts 26:23). When He returns to this world He will raise His servants to a resurrection life like His own (1 Cor. 15:20–23; 2 Cor. 5:1–5; Phil. 3:20–21). He will, indeed, raise the whole human race from the dead; but those who are not His will be raised for condemnation (John 5:29) and subject to the “second death” for their sins (Rev. 2:11; 21:8). Christians alive at His coming will at that instant undergo a marvelous transformation (1 Cor. 15:50–54).

There is a continuity between the mortal and the immortal body. Jesus was raised in the same body in which He died. Paul compares the mortal body and the resurrection body to a seed and the plant that grows from it (1 Cor. 15:35–44). While there is continuity, there is discontinuity as well. Our present bodies, like Adam's, are natural and earthly, subject to weakness and death. The resurrection body, like Christ's, will be spiritual, created and sustained by the Holy Spirit, and will belong to the eternal, imperishable, heavenly order (1 Cor. 15:45–54).

After His resurrection, Jesus' disciples could

recognize Him despite the differences in His new body. In the same way, Christians will recognize one another, and there will be joyful reunions when the separations caused by death are ended. This is apparent from 1 Thess. 4:13–18. In this passage Paul assured those who were grieving that they would see their Christian loved ones again.

Glorification is the work of transformation that removes all sin from us and makes us fit to be with God in perfect communion (1 Cor. 13:12). The saints will worship and serve God with a nature made whole and a heart set free. Our desire to be with God and enjoy His love will be fulfilled in the presence of the triune God (Job 19:26; Matt. 5:8; Rev. 22:3, 4).

Paul's description in Rom. 8:30 of the process whereby God saves His elect concludes with a striking past tense: “He also glorified” those who were saved. Literally, glorification is still in the future for everyone other than Jesus Himself. Paul's thought apparently is that our glorification has already been decided by God as part of His sovereign plan and can be spoken of as absolutely certain.

Source Reference: The Reformation Study Bible, 2005. Page 1666.