

## Class 3 Logic in Salvation and the Christian Life

### 1. Salvation and Logic

Overview of Salvation and Logic: I think it is most vital that if a Christian is to understand Christianity's relationship to logic, this understanding must begin with an understanding of the logical God, then proceed to understanding salvation, which God provides to people. If we come to grips with logic in a transcendent and absolute way by rightly understanding logic as it relates to God (a subject that we discussed in class 2), then to understand the interventive and postulated necessity of applied logic in any practical way must be rooted in logic as it relates to salvation.

The Importance of Understanding Logic in Salvation: The importance of understanding logic in any true grasp of salvation must be conceived in a twofold fashion. First, salvation is explained ONLY in the Bible. The Canon of Scripture explains not only REDEMPTIVE HISTORY, but the Bible also explains the means by which a person can come to know God in a saving fashion. Logic is required to rightly interpret the Bible; thus, logic is required to understand the biblical teaching of salvation. We must say at this point that we are not insisting that a sinner must first understand all aspects of the doctrine of salvation. Rather, the new believer begins the process of learning the doctrines and teachings of the Bible as part of his or her discipleship. However, there is required a certain true knowledge of certain basic and fundamental doctrine gospel teachings in order to be saved. In this vein of thought Paul said several important truths that highlight the importance of logic in salvation:

1. Logic and the necessity of gospel truth to genuine faith: *"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of Christ"* (Romans 10:17).
2. Logic and the necessity of preaching for the salvation of sinners: It is for this purpose that the Bible says in Romans 10, *"How will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard?"* (Romans 10:14). This strongly implies mental understanding of gospel truth, which in turn requires the implementation of logic.
3. Logic and the cross as the only means of justifying sinners while maintaining justice: *"God publicly demonstrated as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness...for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus"* (Romans 3:25-26)."

The Scope of Logic and Salvation in Human Experience: So, how does logic work in the experience of one who has been saved? What role does logic play in the work of God's saving grace throughout the process of salvation? Let us consider the various categories of salvation and how logic serves to assist the process. We will consider the five categories of salvation and the role logic plays in each.

- 1) The mind as the gateway to the soul and the role of logic in salvation  
This part of my talk deals with salvation as experienced by those being saved.

The Implantation of the Truth and the Power of the Word: The New Testament portrays the conversion of sinners as involved the implantation of gospel truth in the inner life of a person. We see this in Jesus' parable of the sower, and we see this in James 1:21. The penetration of the inner life by the Word of God is a powerful image and truth. Hebrews

4:12 explains that this requires internal and innate life, power, and energy of the Word of God.

Heart and Life Transformation: There is a warfare that goes on in the life of the sinner on whom the sovereign and gracious salvation of God is at work in the person of the Holy Spirit. Ultimately there must be a transformation of nature and human essence for salvation to occur. This is why the New Testament portrays regeneration/conversion as dying and rising again. This is a hard work, and it is impossible for a human being to make this happen in himself.

Christ Alone by Grace Alone through Faith Alone: The question remains, “How does this saving process occur in the human life and experience?” That is the primary question. By the way, this question may be considered as the essential issue that caused the Reformation. Medieval Roman Catholicism claimed to believe in the atonement of the cross and the necessity of grace to be saved. The disagreement came as to how a sinner accesses the merits of Christ in the atonement, and how does God operate to save the sinners that He saves? This is the pivotal question. The Reformers believed that salvation is manifested as having been received when regeneration is shown in conversion through faith. They argued that the saved are those who put their trust in Christ alone for their salvation.

Saving Faith Logically Considered: But still we ask, “How does a person come to the place where they exercise faith in Christ alone?” We give two responses. These two responses are: 1) regeneration must occur before conversion can be experienced; and 2) the means by which regeneration occurs is when the gospel truth pierces and transforms the mind, resulting in understanding and acceptance of the truth of the gospel.

The Mind is the Gateway to the Soul: Thus, we see that the mind is the gateway into the inner life of a person. A person’s affections cannot be changed until the mind is convinced. When understanding and acceptance of a truth occurs in the mind, then the truth sinks down to the affections of the heart. There the truth under the power of God’s grace awakens the affections to embrace these truths with joy and love. When this happens the will of the person is putty; the choice of Jesus is made when the mind and the affections have been transformed.

This is why we preach the Bible, and this is why logic must be involved in salvation. One cannot be saved without the truths of the gospel being understood, and the understanding cannot occur until a person mentally grabs onto the truths in the mind.

#### Overview of the Mind and Categories of Salvation

Because logic is essential and integral to the saving experience of Christians, we need to give a brief outline overview of logic’s role in salvation as EXPERIENCED by the Christian.

##### a. The mind and regeneration

We have already discussed this in the talk tonight.

b. The mind and sanctification

Sanctification has two parts: 1) Positional sanctification, and 2) Progressive sanctification.

At this point I want to consider Progressive Sanctification and the place logic has in this saving experience. We have in view the mind and the understanding as the primary aspects of logic.

- (1) The mind, logic, and personal fellowship with Jesus.
- (2) The mind, logic, and worship
- (3) The mind, logic, and obedience
- (4) The mind, logic, and service

The main point being made here is that the Christian life is a life of Progressive Sanctification, and logic as used in the mind is vital to this stage of Christian experience. We must not put aside logic as we live the Christian life.

c. The mind, the promise of the kingdom, and promised glorification in heaven

The promises of God to believers in Christ require a logical grasp of their meaning and integration in the concepts of KINGDOM and GLORIFICATION. In the main, we are referencing the following:

1) The already, not yet principle

There is a sense in which there is a simultaneous “now and not-now” reality to our salvation that the Christian must readily see, understand, and embrace logically.

2) The top-down principle

Salvation is also logically understood to be a work of God in the life of the Christian (thus, top-down), all the way through till death comes. This must be logically recognized in all forms of Christian experience, while at the same time the use of means must be implemented.

3) The joy and completion in eternity emphasis

The divine promise to believers in Christ focuses on eternity, heaven, and glorification. Thus, Christians live logically with joy and struggle at the same time; this is logical in view of this principle.

Throughout the Christian life the Christian must live logically in view of biblical promise applied in the gospel, seeking understanding and faithful application for life.

2) Christian Logic in Holy Contemplation (Theology, Scripture, and Life)

I want to spend some time thinking with you about HOLY CONTEMPLATION (we may call this HOLY THINKING) in the Christian life. Why would I want to talk about this in a talk on logic as it relates to the Christian life?

- Thinking determines both feeling and doing.
- The Lord has taught us to think correctly to engage Christ’s life.
- There is a proper method that must be applied for this to occur.
  - False thinking leads to false beliefs

- False thinking leads to false behavior
- a. Christian logic and theological contemplation
  - i. The theological core of the gospel
  - ii. The theological integration of truth in the gospel
  - iii. Contemplative theological limitations
  - iv. Use of logic in thinking about and forming convictions on biblical teaching
- b. Christian logic and the study of Scripture
  - i. Logic and understanding the meaning of the Canon of Scripture
  - ii. Logic and understanding a biblical text
- c. Christian logic and the application of truth to life
 

One of the most common problems that leads people astray is the wrong application of truth to life. Therefore, I want to take some time to address this issue from a logical perspective.

  - i. Logically considering the application of promises in Scripture
    - a. Certainties
      - i. To whom is the promise made?
      - ii. In what context is the promise given?
      - iii. For what purpose is the promise presented?
    - b. Limitations
      - i. Is there a limitation to people?
      - ii. Is there a limitation to context and time?
    - c. Core point
      - i. What is the main point?
      - ii. Why did God put this in the Bible?
      - iii. How does this point relate to overall biblical teaching?
  - ii. Logically considering the application of commands in Scripture
 

The sub-points given under “promises” must be considered here.

    - a. Certainties
    - b. Limitations
    - c. Core point
  - iii. Logically considering application of teaching in Scripture
    - a. The Canonical teaching
      - i. What is the clear teaching of the Bible?
      - ii. How does the Bible handle this?
      - iii. What questions are left open by the Bible?
    - b. Textual meaning
      - i. What is the clear meaning of the text?
      - ii. How is this meaning formatted?
    - c. Gospel application
      - i. How does the teaching relate to the gospel?
      - ii. How does the teaching relate to salvation?
      - iii. Keep the gospel clear and true.
  - iv. Logically considering the application of biblical narratives in Scripture
    - a. Don’t turn a story into a command.
    - b. Don’t add to what the Bible says the main point is.

(How should logic work in the life of the Christian in terms of the new life we have in Christ and in Christian discipleship?)

- i. Logic and biblical teaching
- ii. Logic and Bible study
- iii. Logic and theological contemplation from the Bible
- iv. Logic and application of biblical truth
  - a. Logical discernment of certainties
  - b. Logical discernment of limitations
  - c. Logical commitment – the heart and the mind together
- v. Logic and moral reasoning
  1. Logic and moral foundations
  2. Logic and ethical implementation of moral foundations
  3. Logic and moral redemption
- vi. Logic and Christian discipleship
  1. Logic and obedience
  2. Logic and life investment
  3. Logic and impact on others
  4. Logic and personal growth
  5. Logic and worship

#### Some Final Thoughts about Logic in Salvation and the Christian Life

Our goal in this talk: Our goal in this talk is to rightly consider logic as integral to our biblical understanding of salvation and the Christian life. We are not elevating logic and the mind above every other aspect of the human person. But we are asserting that without a proper understanding of the use of the mind and logic, salvation and the Christian life will not be rightly perceived. In this final section, I want to give some closing thoughts.

1. The gospel engages the entire human life, not just the mind; thus, salvation is not only about logic.
2. However, the gospel by necessity includes logical understanding and response, because:
  - a. To be saved one must have right gospel information,
  - b. One must agree with that gospel information,
  - c. One must put faith in the truth of the gospel
3. The heart cannot be touched until the mind is engaged...some clarifications:
  - a. This does not limit God in how He touches the heart and life.
  - b. The principle explained about logic is the normal means by which the Holy Spirit works.
4. Just because the mind considers the truth, this is not enough; the mind is the gateway, not the destination. The destination is the heart, and the goal is the transformation of life.
  - a. Thus, the affections of the heart must be awakened.
    - i. Affections and beauty
    - ii. Affections and desire
    - iii. Affections and attraction
    - iv. Affections and love
    - v. Affections and relationships

- b. Thus, the will of the heart must be changed.
  - i. The changed will stops desiring wrong.
  - ii. The changed will begins to desire the right.
  - iii. The changed will is drawn to Jesus:
    - 1. For worship
    - 2. For love
    - 3. For obedience
  - iv. The changed will seeks to follow the Lord:
    - 1. In values
    - 2. In teachings
    - 3. In holy conformity
    - 4. In having impact
    - 5. In steadfastness

5. Some cautions:

- a. Be cautious of theologies and churches that emphasize emotion over mind and will.
- b. Be cautious of theologies and churches that emphasize mind over emotion and will.