

## **Freedom Life School of Ministry Course Syllabus**

### **Soteriology – What is Salvation?**

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Course dates:

Weekly Zoom Meetings

### **Course Purpose:**

The pivotal experience of the church and the believer is the experience of Salvation. The purpose of this class is to understand what Salvation is. We examined Salvation as a series of events; election, calling, our response, regeneration, justification, sanctification, perseverance, and glorification. The intent of the course is to have students become familiar with each of the aspects of Salvation and how different Christian traditions view them. The student will become familiar with the terms associated with Salvation and develop a biblical basis for understanding Salvation.

**Required and Suggest Readings:** See Appendix A.

### **Suggested Texts:**

*Theology Notebook: Soteriology* (enclosed)

*Doctrine of Salvation* by Willian Lane Craig (enclosed)

Both textbooks are based on podcast series:

The Theology Program: The Theology Notebook-Soteriology from Bible.Org

<https://bible.org/series/soteriology>

Reasonable Faith Podcast with William Lane Craig: The Doctrine of Salvation

<https://www.reasonablefaith.org/podcasts/defenders-podcast-series-3/s3-doctrine-of-salvation>

### **Course Objectives (How will we get there?):**

Students will be able to:

1. Define Soteriology and its different aspects/components.
2. Articulate how different traditions understand Salvation.
3. Be familiar with the biblical texts associated with Salvation.
4. Outline his/her personal beliefs on Salvation and scriptural support.

### **Course Requirements and Grading:**

1. Reading Assignments (20%) – Students are to complete the assigned reading material for the course. The reading is to be done by the module due date in which the material

is presented, prior to the Zoom class meeting for the module so that the student is prepared for class discussions.

2. Lectures/Video Clips (20%) – Students are to view the associated lectures and video clips by the module due date in which the material is presented. This will be prior to the Zoom class meeting for the module. Transcripts of each video lecture are also provided for each module to aid the student’s note taking. Students are welcome to read transcripts in lieu of viewing the lectures if they prefer.
3. Written Assignments/Quizzes (20%) – Each module includes questions for the student to answer based on the content presented in the readings, lectures and video clips. Students are to complete the questions prior to the Zoom class meeting for the module so that the student is prepared for class discussions.
  - a. Details on the assignments and questions for each module are contained in your online dashboard.
  - b. Students will be able to provide responses to assignments and questions via uploading them through the dashboard within the applicable module.
4. Zoom Meeting Participation (20%) – There will be a Zoom class meeting for each of the 8 weeks of the course. Students are to attend, and participate in, each meeting unless previously excused by the course instructor. Students are expected to join each meeting prepared for class discussions by having viewed assigned lectures/video clips and completed readings & written assignments for the applicable module.
  - a. Excused absences from Zoom class meetings are to be limited to emergency situations and should be no more than two per student, if possible.
  - b. To receive an excused absence the student must submit a request to the course instructor via email at least 72 hours prior to the meeting (the preceding Saturday 6:30PM Eastern). If an emergency occurs (i.e., illness, family or ministry situation/crisis) less than 72 hours before class an explanatory email or text may be submitted to the course instructor.
5. Final Paper (20%) – The final paper will consist of 1 page. It will be an explanation of the student’s Soteriological beliefs. Students must cite secondary sources such as commentaries, Bible dictionaries, *Strong’s Concordance*, or Bible history resources (in print or online) and include these in a reference list at the end of your paper in APA or MLA format.
6. Weighting of Course Requirements for Grading: This is a Pass/Fail course. To receive a passing grade the student must accomplish an accumulative total of at least 80% of the course requirements which are weighted as shown below:

- Reading Assignments	20%
- Lectures/Video Clips	20%
- Written Assignments/Quizzes	20%
- Zoom Meeting Participation	20%
- Final Paper	20%

### **Course Modules:**

<u>Week</u>	<u>Chapters Covered</u>	<u>Topics Covered</u>
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1	Part I: Introduction	Introduction, The order of Salvation
2	Part II: Election	Election Conditional vs, Unconditional
3	Part III: Atonement	History, Substitution Theory
4	Part IV: Calling	Calling and Regeneration
5	Part V: Conversion	Conversion, Faith, Repentance
6	Part VI: Justification	Justification on Christian Traditions
7	Part VII: Sanctification	History, Perspectives,
8	Part VIII: Perseverance	Christian Traditions

**Suggested reading Schedule:**

**Session 1- Introduction**

Session 1

*Theology Notebook* pages 15-23

Additional/Optional reading

Definitions Soteriology

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/what-is-soteriology-and-why-is-it-essential-for-all-christians-to-know.html>

<https://e360bible.org/blog/soteriology-rich-theology-christian-faith/>

<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/bible-study/what-is-soteriology-and-why-should-every-christian-know-this-term.html>

Definitions Ordo Salutis

<https://www.monergism.com/topics/ordo-salutis>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ordo\\_salutis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ordo_salutis)

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/order-salvation>

Glossary/Dictionary of Theological and Soteriology terms

<http://www.theology.edu/soter03.htm>

<http://rebecca-writes.com/theological-terms-in-ao/>

Homework Question:

1. Can you explain how you see the Salvation process?

Suggested Questions:

2. What do you find most attractive about each view (liberal, catholic, Armenian, reform) and what do you find objectionable of each?
3. Can you define Ordo Salutis?

## **Session 2- Election**

*Theology Notebook* pages 24-52

*Salvation Lane* Craig Lectures 1-5

Additional/Optional reading

Unconditional Election

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unconditional\\_election](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unconditional_election)

<https://www.gotquestions.org/unconditional-election.html>

<https://evangelicalarminians.org/the-facts-of-salvationc-conditional-election/>

Conditional Election

[https://religion.wikia.org/wiki/Conditional\\_election](https://religion.wikia.org/wiki/Conditional_election)

<http://www.walkingwithgiants.net/theology/calvinism/conditional-election/>

<https://evangelicalarminians.org/the-facts-of-salvationc-conditional-election/>

Corporate Election

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corporate\\_election](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corporate_election)

<https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1111&context=honors>

Corporate Election

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corporate\\_election](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corporate_election)

<https://www.monergism.com/topics/election/election-individual-vs-corporate>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/corporate-election.html>

Homework Question:

1. Can you summarize the concept of conditional election, unconditional election and corporate election?

Suggested Questions:

2. Is there any objections you can think of for the doctrine of conditional election? For unconditional election?
3. Is man totally depraved? If not, can we achieve our own salvation? And if yes, is there any option but for a conditional election?
4. Is God fair if he destines people for Hell? Is he fair if he allows free will, yet in his foreknowledge, He knows they will reject God and still creates them?
5. Can reconcile God's sovereignty in election and man's will in election?

### **Section 3- Atonement**

*Theology Notebook* pages 53-90

Additional/Optional reading

<https://www.sdmorrison.org/7-theories-of-the-atonement-summarized/>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/history-theories-atonement/>

<https://andrewspringer.medium.com/five-views-on-the-atonement-of-christ-d71dddca9b84>

Homework Questions:

1. Can you provide in your own words a summary of each of the six theories of atonement discussed in the lecture.

Optional Questions:

2. How is the Recapitulation Theory and Moral Example Theory similar, and how are they different?
3. How is the Theory of Satisfaction different from the Moral Example and Ransom Theory in terms of the elements that emphasizes?
4. Theory of Government has being accused of being universalist (salvation for all with no need of faith), can you comment on this idea?
5. How does the Substitution Theory emphasize both the righteousness and the love of God?

#### **Session 4- Calling and Regeneration**

*Theology Notebook* 93-101

*Salvation* Lane Craig lectures 10

Additional/optional reading

<https://www.monergism.com/calling-and-regeneration>

<https://arminianperspectives.wordpress.com/2007/07/27/does-regeneration-precede-faith/>

Homework Question:

1. Can you state your belief on the doctrine of calling, can you resist God's calling?

Optional Questions:

2. How could God call those who have never heard the Gospel?
3. Do you think the natural man can respond to the call of the Gospel even though scripture refers to man as dead (Ep 2:1) and unable to understand the things of God (1 Co 2:14-15)?
4. Can you describe your calling and regeneration experience and how does it inform your view of the doctrine?

#### **Session 5- Faith and Repentance**

*Theology Notebook* 103-111

*Salvation Lane Craig Lecture* 11

Additional/Optional reading

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/faith-and-repentance>

<https://theologymix.com/biblical-studies/relationship-faith-repentance/>

Homework Questions:

1. Can you define faith and repentance and how they relate to each other?

Optional Questions:

2. Can you have knowledge and agreement but no trust? Give an example and can you provide scripture to support your view?
3. Can you have knowledge and disagreement? Give an example and can you provide scripture to support your view?
4. Is there a difference between repentance and confession? Can you do one without the other? Explain.
5. What do you think of the Lordship and Free Grace views? Do you agree with either or with elements of either view? Explain.

## **Section 6- Justification**

*Theology Notebook* 113-126

*Salvation Lane Craig Lecture* 12, 13, 16, 17

Additional/Optional Reading

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/dictionary/index.cfm?id=34424>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justification\\_\(theology\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justification_(theology))

<https://reformed.org/justification/>

Homework Questions:

1. Can you explain the different understandings of Justification according to the Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant views?

Optional Questions:

2. How can you reconcile James 2:14-28 with justification by faith?
3. Reading Romans 4:1 to Romans 5:2 how can you support or contradict the catholic doctrine that Justification is a process?
4. Can you outline the role of works in the Catholic doctrine of justification vs the Protestant doctrine of justification.

## **Section 7- Sanctification**

*Theology Notebook* 127-139

Additional/Optional Reading

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/the-doctrine-of-sanctification/>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/models-of-sanctification/>

<https://www.monergism.com/topics/sanctification>

Homework Questions:

1. Can you summarize the different views on santification discussed in the lecture?

Optional Questions:

2. The Wesleyan view of sanctification teaches that one can become perfect (sinless). Can you support that statement or not, can you use scripture to justify your answer?
3. In what ways can you surrender to God and the Holy Spirit in your life?
4. How can love be a motivation for pursuing a life of Holiness?
5. (optional) Question for reflection; What are the predispositions of your character that can cause you to stumble? Can you surrender them now to God? (You do not need to share if you do not feel comfortable, this question is designed for personal reflection and prayer).

## **Section 8- Perseverance**

*Theology Notebook* 141-159



Salvation Lane Craig Lectures 18, 19, 20, 21

Additional/Optional Reading

<https://www.gotquestions.org/perseverance-saints.html>

<https://www.padfield.com/2005/perseverance-saints.html>

Homework Questions:

1. In this debate of conditional vs unconditional security what is your position? What do you think is the most compelling argument and or scriptures?

Optional Questions:

2. If you were to defend the opposite side what scripture and or arguments will you use?
3. If you were to argue that a person cannot lose their salvation, can you support the idea that such a person can sin all they want? Yes or no and why?
4. If you were to argue that a person can lose their salvation what stops me from living in the insecurity that perhaps I am not saved, or that any sin big or small can condemn me eternally?

## **Final Paper**

Part One: Please write a one-page paper outlining your soteriological beliefs about, election, atonement, calling, regeneration, faith and repentance, justification, sanctification, perseverance.

Part Two: Discussed your beliefs on the doctrine of election, chose one of two:

a. Option one

If you are inclined to believe on unconditional election, please include and explain scripture that support your position. Please try to select scripture that is specific for salvation.

Please address the potential obstacles to your position raised by arguments from the second lecture against God' partiality, God's character, personal responsibility, free will and scripture that may speak against your position like Rev 3:20, Det 30:19-20, Rm 10:9-10, Is 55:6-7, Ez 18:30-32.

b. Option two:

If you are inclined to believe on conditional election, please include and explain scripture that support your position. Please try to select scripture that is specific for salvation.

Please address objections to your position raised by arguments God's omniscience, limitations of free will, my effort on salvation (works) and scripture that speaks against your position for example Rom 8:28-30, Rm 9:6-23, Ep 1:3-6.