**Second Dimension – Christianity Experienced**

**Segment V – The Golden Chain of Redemption (Concepts 44-53)Progressive Bible Concepts - #45 “The initial Stirrings of Salvation”**

***The Work of Redemption “The Order of Salvation” ‘The Ordo Salutis’***

* “The s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of e\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in God’s p\_\_\_\_\_\_ of salvation.”

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**Our Lost Condition**

* T\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ D\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – the fallen condition of man.
* Definition - *Depravity* refers to the inherent c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ within human nature resulting from it’s sinful separation from God.
* Clarification – *Total* refers to the comprehensive extent of the effects of the depravity upon sinful man. Total means that man’s e\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (total) person has been affected by sin.
* Distinct from u\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ depravity, which means that man is as bad as he can be, total depravity rather means that man is hindered by sin in all aspects of his being

**Biblical Basis:**

* *“Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on earth, and that e\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ intent of the thoughts of his heart was o\_\_\_\_\_\_ e\_\_\_\_\_\_ c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” Gen 6:5*
* *“Behold I have found only this, that God made men upright, but they have sought out many d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” Eccles 7:29*
* *“The heart is more deceitful than all else and is d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sick; who can know (understand) it?” Jer 17:9*
* *“For all have sinned and f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the glory of God.”* Rom 3:23
* *“And He was saying, ‘That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts and fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. All these proceed from within and d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the man.” Mark 7:20-23*
* **Defile** – unclean, ‘un-sacred’, defile, pollute, commonplace, human verses divine
* *“There is none righteous, not one; there is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God; all have turned aside, together they have become useless; there is none who does good, there is not even one. Their throat is an open grave, with their tongues they keep deceiving, the poison of asps is under their lips. Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness; their feet are swift to shed blood, destruction and misery are in their paths, and the path of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes.” Rom 3:10-18*

**Exercise: Go back and underline the negatives – no, none, not one**

**Outward/Inward Call**

* *“Behold the sower out went to sow; and as he sowed, some seeds fell b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the r\_\_\_\_\_\_, and the birds came and devoured them.*
* *“And others fell upon the r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ places, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil. But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root they withered away.*
* *“And others fell among the t\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and the thorns came up and choked them out.*
* *“And others fell on the g\_\_\_\_\_\_ s\_\_\_\_\_\_, and yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, and some sixty, and some thirty.”*
* Roadside – “When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not u\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it, the evil one comes and s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ away what has been sown in the heart.”
* Rocky place – “This is the one who hears the word, and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no firm r\_\_\_\_\_\_ in himself but is only t\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, he falls away.”
* **Thorny ground** – “This is the one who hears the word, and the worry of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the word, and it becomes unfruitful.”
* **Good ground** – “This is the one who h\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the word and u\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it; who indeed bears fruit, and brings forth, some a hundredfold, and some sixty, and some thirty.”
* The seed is the g\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the word of the k\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* The sower is the L\_\_\_\_\_\_
* The soil is the h\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ condition of the listeners
	+ Roadside ground – h\_\_\_\_\_\_ heart – “No way”
	+ Rocky ground – s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ heart – “Oh sure! Everybody gets it…”
	+ Thorny ground – d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ heart – “Yes, but…”
	+ Good ground – r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ heart – “Absolutely, this is real…I am all in”

**Regeneration - OT**

***“Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the h\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.”* Ezek 36:26**

* Ezekiel 37:1-14 – OT Prophecy – Valley of Dry Bones *“The hand of the Lord was upon me, and He brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; and it was full of bones. He caused me to pass among them round about, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley; and lo, they were very dry. He said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord God, You know.” Again He said to me, “Prophesy over these bones and say to them, ‘O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.’ Thus says the Lord God to these bones, ‘Behold, I will cause breath to enter you that you may come to life. I will put sinews on you, make flesh grow back on you, cover you with skin and put breath in you that you may come alive; and you will know that I am the Lord.’”*
* *“So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And I looked, and behold, sinews were on them, and flesh grew and skin covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then He said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, ‘Thus says the Lord God, “Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they come to life.”’” So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they came to life and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.”*
* *“Then He said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel; behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off.’ 12Therefore prophesy and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, My people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel. 13Then you will know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves and caused you to come up out of your graves, My people. 14I will put My Spirit within you and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, the Lord, have spoken and done it,” declares the Lord.’”*

**Regeneration – Born Again - NT**

* *“Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; 2this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” 3Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus \*said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?” 5Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”*
* *“That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ 8The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit. Nicodemus said to Him, “How can these things be?” 10Jesus answered and said to him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things?If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?” John 3:1-12*

**Regeneration – Born Again**

* Definition - The work of God by which the principle of divine life is **p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** in man, and the governing **d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** of the soul is made holy.

***“The life of God in the soul of man.”***

* This is a work in the spirit and it is therefore never directly perceived by man, but can only be known by its e\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the human personality. “*Like the wind…”* - John 3:8.
* It is p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, not a p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, whereby we pass from death unto life.

**Born Again - Principles**

* Nicodemus was the quintessential r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of religion – man’s efforts to please God.
* Jesus destroys the notion of the a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of self generated spirituality (s\_\_\_\_\_\_-r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ) to qualify us for heaven.
* Rather Jesus clearly states the n\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the opposite – man must be born from above (heaven) and be given an altogether new n\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* It is spiritual in nature – “born of the Spirit” not d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from anything human (the flesh).
* Christian – “Christ in”; meaning “Christ l\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ w\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us” and the term he uses to describe this is “being born again”.
* The new birth implies that something went wrong the first time. Though man is physically alive, he is spiritually d\_\_\_\_\_\_ in his s\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Like physical birth, spiritual birth is an experience in which we are p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (verb is passive voice).
* This birth implies new l\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* This new life (spirit) is designed to r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the old life (flesh).
* It is the work of God and is like the wind – m\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Like falling in love, it is not always easy to pinpoint the exact moment we were born again.
* *“He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness (N\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_), but according to His mercy, by the washing of r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and renewing by the Holy Spirit.” Titus 3:5*
* *“In the exercise of His will, He brought us forth (b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) by the word of truth…”* James 1:18
* *“Bless be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has caused us to be born again to a l\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ hope.”* I Peter 1:3
* *“For you have been born again, not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is through the living and abiding word of God.”* I Peter 1:23
* How is man born again – only by an a\_\_\_\_ of G\_\_\_\_.
* *“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name; who were born not of b\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, nor of the will of the f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, nor of the will of m\_\_\_\_, but of God.”* John 1:12,13
* How does a person move forward in the Christian journey – n\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the l\_\_\_\_\_\_ of G\_\_\_\_ within you.
* S\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the old man (flesh); f\_\_\_\_\_\_ the new man (spirit).

**Quote – “Born o\_\_\_\_\_\_ – die t\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Born t\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, die o\_\_\_\_\_\_.”**

**Conclusion**

* *“How then shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation.” Hebrews 2:3a*
* *“Woe is me if I do not share the good news.” I Cor 9:16*

**Summary – Concept 45**

Man’s depravity, the inward call of the gospel, and regeneration serve as the introductory steps into the salvation experience.

**Next Week – Concept 46**

* Conversion – Faith and Repentance