

## **Dr. Dave Mathewson, New Testament Theology, Session 27, Salvation, Part 2 Resources from NotebookLM**

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

### **1. Abstract of Mathewson, NT Theology, Session 27, Holy Spirit, Part 2, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL**

**Dr. Mathewson's lecture explores the concept of salvation in New Testament theology, emphasizing justification and reconciliation.** He explains justification as God's declaration of righteousness based on Christ's death and resurrection, viewing it as both a present reality and a future expectation. **The lecture further explores reconciliation, highlighting the restoration of the broken relationship between God and humanity through Christ's sacrifice.** It underscores that God initiates reconciliation, dealing with sin to establish peace. **Moreover, Mathewson examines sonship/adoption, sanctification, and the idea of salvation as a new exodus, and, finally, union with Christ, all seen as crucial themes related to salvation.** Ultimately, the lecture uses various images to show the accomplishment of salvation through Christ, fulfilling Old Testament promises.

**2. 23 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Mathewson, NT Theology, Session 27 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (New Testament → NT Introduction → NT Theology).**



**Mathewson\_NTThe  
ology\_Session27.mp**

### 3. Briefing Document: Mathewson, NT Theology, Session 27, Holy Spirit, Part 2

Okay, here's a detailed briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from Dr. Mathewson's lecture on Salvation, Part 2:

#### Briefing Document: New Testament Theology - Salvation, Part 2 (Dr. David L. Mathewson)

##### Main Themes:

- **Justification:** Understanding justification as a legal declaration of righteousness rooted in God's future judgment, vindicating his people.
- **Reconciliation:** Exploring reconciliation as a relational term signifying the restoration of a broken relationship between God and humanity, achieved through Christ's death.
- **Sonship and Adoption:** Examining the concept of believers being adopted as God's children, mirroring the Old Testament adoption of Israel, and inheriting the blessings of salvation.
- **Sanctification:** Discussing sanctification as the process of being set apart and made holy, both in the present and as a future reality, facilitated by the Holy Spirit.
- **New Exodus:** Recognizing salvation as a new exodus, echoing the original deliverance of Israel from Egypt, where God redeems people from bondage to sin and brings them into His kingdom.
- **Union with Christ:** Highlighting the concept of salvation being accomplished through union with and identification with Jesus Christ.

##### Key Ideas and Facts:

1. **Justification as a Forensic Declaration:**
  - Justification is rooted in a legal context, meaning "declaring righteous," having a status of "not guilty," or "vindicated."
  - It assumes God's future judgment, where His people will be vindicated. As stated, "justification, and the language of justification assumes God's future judgment. It assumes that God's people will be vindicated in the final end-time judgment."

- Old Testament examples like Psalm 98 illustrate God's righteousness in the context of salvation. "The Lord has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations."
- Justification participates in the "already but not yet" tension, with the future verdict of vindication reaching back into the present through Christ's work.
- Justification is the opposite of condemnation; it's being declared innocent. "To be justified is to be not condemned, to be declared innocent or not guilty of sin, to be vindicated."
- God's justice is upheld in justification through Christ's sacrifice, dealing with sins. "God can justify those who are sinners without violating his own justice...God has done this without violating his own justice by dealing with sins in the person of Jesus Christ."

#### 1. **Reconciliation as Restored Relationship:**

- Reconciliation refers to restoring a broken relationship between parties, removing enmity and hostility.
- Reconciliation is linked to justification, resulting in "peace with God."
- It is solely God who initiates reconciliation through the death of Jesus Christ.
- Reconciliation is tied to the "new creation," reversing the alienation caused by sin. Greg Beale is quoted: "reconciliation in Christ is Paul's way of explaining Isaiah's promises of restoration from the alienation of exile."
- Ephesians 2 highlights a dual reconciliation: between God and humanity, and between Jew and Gentile.

#### 1. **Sonship and Adoption in the New Testament:**

- Mirroring the Old Testament adoption of Israel as God's son, the New Testament applies this to believers as God's adopted children. "Israel is my firstborn son."
- Romans 8 describes salvation in terms of adoption, confirmed by the Holy Spirit. "The spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him, we cry, Abba Father."
- Before Christ, people were seen as slaves, but with Christ, they are full-blown adopted sons and daughters of God.

#### 1. **Sanctification as Holiness and Being Set Apart:**

- Sanctification is the process of being set apart and made holy, drawing from Old Testament cultic terms.
- Believers are already sanctified by virtue of belonging to Christ. "To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people."
- Sanctification is associated with the work of the Holy Spirit.
- It encompasses all aspects of life, including sexuality.
- Sanctification is both a present reality and a future hope, with the ultimate goal of being holy and blameless before God.

#### 1. **New Exodus as Deliverance from Bondage:**

- Salvation is portrayed as a new exodus, echoing the original deliverance of Israel from Egypt.
- God delivers people from bondage to sin and brings them into His kingdom and inheritance.
- Revelation fulfills the new exodus to its consummation in the new creation.

#### 1. **Union with Christ as the Basis of Salvation:**

- Salvation is accomplished through union with and identification with Jesus Christ.
- Paul frequently uses the phrase "in Christ" to express this union. "For he chose us in him, in Christ, before the creation of the world, to be holy and blameless in his sight."
- Union with Christ means being under the influence and control of Christ, belonging to His sphere.

### Quotes:

- "Justification, and the language of justification assumes God's future judgment. It assumes that God's people will be vindicated in the final end-time judgment."
- "The Lord has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations."
- "To be justified is to be not condemned, to be declared innocent or not guilty of sin, to be vindicated."
- "God can justify those who are sinners without violating his own justice...God has done this without violating his own justice by dealing with sins in the person of Jesus Christ."
- "reconciliation in Christ is Paul's way of explaining Isaiah's promises of restoration from the alienation of exile."
- "Israel is my firstborn son."
- "The spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him, we cry, Abba Father."
- "To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people."
- "For he chose us in him, in Christ, before the creation of the world, to be holy and blameless in his sight."

### Implications:

- The lecture emphasizes the rich tapestry of metaphors and concepts used in the New Testament to describe salvation, highlighting its multifaceted nature.
- It underscores the importance of understanding salvation within the context of the Old Testament, seeing it as a fulfillment of God's promises.
- The lecture demonstrates the central role of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection in achieving justification, reconciliation, adoption, sanctification, and the new exodus.
- It encourages a holistic view of salvation, encompassing not only legal and relational aspects but also the transformative work of the Holy Spirit and the ultimate hope of a new creation.

## 4. Study Guide: Newman, Synoptic Gospels, Session 27, Holy Spirit, Part 2

### Salvation in the New Testament: A Study Guide

#### Quiz

Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each.

1. What does justification assume, according to the lecture?
2. How does Mathewson define justification in relation to condemnation?
3. Explain how the Reformed tradition understands justification, including imputation.
4. Why is God's justification of sinners *not* a breach of justice?
5. What does reconciliation refer to, in basic terms?
6. In 2 Corinthians 5:18-21, what does Paul say God does *not* do, as part of reconciliation?
7. According to Greg Beale, what Old Testament book does reconciliation connect with?
8. What dual reconciliation do we find in Ephesians 2:13-17?
9. In the Old Testament, who was adopted as God's son?
10. What is the basic idea behind the concept of sanctification?

#### Quiz Answer Key

1. Justification assumes God's future judgment and that God's people will be vindicated in the final end-time judgment. It also has its background in the Old Testament of references to God's righteousness.
2. Mathewson defines justification as the opposite of condemnation, meaning to be declared innocent or not guilty of sin, to be vindicated. It means that God will not count sins against us.
3. The Reformed tradition understands justification as not only negatively not having our sins counted against us but positively having Christ's own righteousness imputed to us. It stems from the idea that we are united with Christ and that his perfect obedience is credited to us.

4. God's justification of sinners is not a breach of justice because God dealt with sins justly in the person of Jesus Christ, by offering him as a propitiation and atonement for sins. God can declare people righteous without violating his own justice.
5. Reconciliation refers to two parties that are at odds or at enmity with each other, where the relationship between them has been broken. Reconciliation is the restoration of that relationship, removing the hostility and establishing a peaceful connection.
6. In 2 Corinthians 5:18-21, Paul says that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ by *not* counting people's sins against them. This is a crucial aspect of how reconciliation takes place, as God addresses the root cause of the broken relationship.
7. According to Greg Beale, reconciliation connects with the Old Testament book of Isaiah, specifically Isaiah 65, and its promises of restoration from the alienation of exile. Beale argues that reconciliation is part of the inaugurated end-time promises of a new creation from the Old Testament.
8. In Ephesians 2:13-17, we find a dual reconciliation: first, reconciliation between God and humanity, and second, reconciliation between humanity and humanity, specifically Jew and Gentile. This highlights the comprehensive nature of reconciliation, addressing both our relationship with God and our relationships with each other.
9. In the Old Testament, Israel was adopted as God's son, especially in the Exodus, as exemplified in Exodus 4:22 where God refers to Israel as his firstborn son.
10. Sanctification at its basic level refers to being holy or set apart. It is a cultic or religious term that deals with the sphere of purity and holiness and suggests being holy, being set apart, or being holy at its basic level.

## Essay Questions

1. Discuss the already/not yet tension in justification, drawing on relevant Scripture passages and Mathewson's explanation.
2. Analyze the relationship between justification and reconciliation as presented in the lecture, highlighting how they are distinct yet interconnected aspects of salvation.
3. Explain the concept of union with Christ and how it relates to the believer's experience of salvation, drawing on examples from Ephesians and other Pauline epistles.
4. Explore the theme of the New Exodus in the New Testament, and how it connects to the Old Testament account and the concept of redemption from slavery to sin.
5. Outline the progression of sanctification as both an already/present reality and a not yet/future reality in the life of a believer, citing scripture references used in the study guide.



## Glossary of Key Terms

- **Justification:** A legal or forensic term signifying God's act of declaring a sinner righteous or innocent in His sight; being acquitted of sin.
- **Reconciliation:** The restoration of a broken relationship, specifically between God and humanity, removing enmity and establishing peace.
- **Imputation:** The theological concept of crediting or reckoning something to someone, particularly Christ's righteousness being credited to believers.
- **Propitiation:** An act that appeases or satisfies God's wrath, particularly Christ's sacrifice satisfying God's justice for sin.
- **Atonement:** The act of making amends or reparation for sin, particularly Christ's death covering or canceling out the penalty for sin.
- **Sanctification:** The process of being made holy or set apart for God's purposes, both as an initial act and as an ongoing transformation.
- **Election:** God's sovereign choice of individuals or groups to be recipients of his grace and salvation.
- **Redemption:** The act of buying back or rescuing someone from bondage, particularly Christ's payment for the release of believers from sin and its consequences.
- **New Exodus:** The New Testament portrayal of salvation as a parallel to the Old Testament Exodus, where God delivers his people from bondage (sin) to freedom and inheritance (eternal life).
- **Union with Christ:** The intimate and inseparable connection between believers and Christ, where they share in his life, death, and resurrection.

## 5. FAQs on Newman, Synoptic Gospels, Session 27, Holy Spirit, Part 2, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

### Justification and Reconciliation: A New Testament Perspective

- **What is justification, and how does it relate to God's future judgment?**
- Justification is a legal or forensic term that means to declare someone righteous or not guilty. It assumes God's future judgment, where God's people will be vindicated. It means having a status of innocence, being vindicated from sin. The language of justification points to a future verdict of not guilty rendered in the present through Christ's death and resurrection. This means that believers can be declared righteous *now*, in advance of the final judgment, based on their faith in Jesus Christ.
- **How does justification relate to the forgiveness of sins, according to the text?**
- Justification is closely tied to the forgiveness of sins. It means that God will not count our sins against us. This stems from the fact that Jesus' death on the cross dealt with sin, providing forgiveness, so it is no longer counted against us. We are declared innocent or not guilty because of Jesus' sacrifice.
- **What does the text say about whether Jesus' righteousness is imputed to believers?**
- While there is no explicit text saying Jesus' righteous life is imputed to us, theologically it is correct to say that it is. Since we are united with Christ and He is our head, His obedience can be seen as ours as well. Since God has entered into covenant with His people, and Jesus, as the true son of David and the true Adam, has offered the perfect obedience that no one else could, His obedience is fulfilled in us through our union with Him.
- **Why is justification considered just, even when declaring sinners "not guilty"?**
- Normally, declaring a guilty person innocent would be a breach of justice. However, in the New Testament, God can justify sinners without violating His own justice. This is because God dealt with sins justly through the death of Jesus Christ, who served as a propitiation and atonement for sins. Because Jesus paid the penalty for our sins, God can declare believers righteous without compromising His own justice.

- **What is reconciliation, and how does it relate to justification?**
- Reconciliation is a relational term referring to the restoration of a broken relationship between two parties who were at odds. It involves removing enmity and restoring peace. Reconciliation is related to justification; since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God, restoring a relationship that was once characterized by hostility.
- **How does the New Testament portray God's role in reconciliation?**
- God is the one who takes the initiative in reconciliation. He sent Jesus Christ to reconcile people to Himself. This reconciliation is achieved by not counting people's sins against them and dealing with sin through Christ's death, removing the barrier to a peaceful relationship.
- **According to the source, how does the concept of "sonship and adoption" relate to salvation?**
- In the Old Testament, Israel was adopted as God's son, especially in the Exodus. The New Testament applies this language of sonship and adoption to God's new people, the church. Salvation is described in terms of God adopting believers as His children through the Holy Spirit, allowing them to call God "Abba Father." This adoption is seen as a new Exodus, where God redeems people from slavery to sin and makes them His adopted sons.
- **What is sanctification, and how does it relate to salvation and holiness, according to the text?**
- Sanctification is a cultic or religious term that relates to purity and holiness, of being set apart. By virtue of belonging to Christ, we have already been set apart. We have already been sanctified, set apart, or made holy. The Holy Spirit sanctifies us in the present, placing us in the sphere of being holy. Though we have already been sanctified, it is also a future reality, in which God will one day perfect us and completely set us apart from sin and make us holy in His presence. It is understood as one of the blessings of salvation that God provides for His people in Christ in fulfillment of the New Testament.