

SALVATION:

WHAT ARE WE SAVED FROM?

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ADULT FORUM—CHRIST CHURCH GEORGETOWN

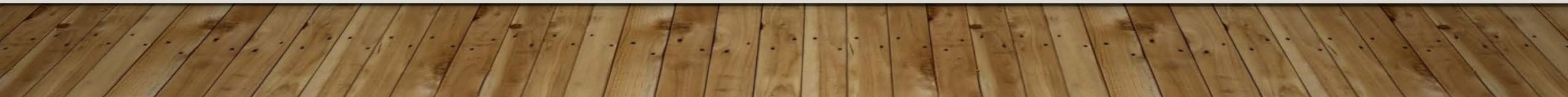
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# TODAY'S OUTLINE

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- Meaning of salvation
  - Some distinctions
  - What we are saved from, and how
  - Incarnation and deification
  - Atonement and justification
  - Comments and questions
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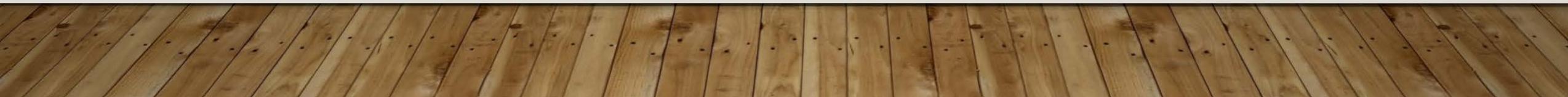


# OPENING QUOTATION

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“Being baptized, we are illuminated; illuminated, we become sons; being made sons, we are made perfect; being made perfect, we are made immortal.”

--Clement of Alexandria (ca. 200 A.D.)





# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE “SAVED”?

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- Key sense: “deliverance” or “freedom”
- Complex set of related terms, including:
  - Salvation
  - Redemption
  - Justification
  - Sanctification
  - Reconciliation
  - Election

# SOME KEY DISTINCTIONS: WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

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- Past event, current process, or future condition
- Individual or communal
- Known, unknown, or guessed at
- Selective or universal





# CENTER OF OUR “SALVATION” LANGUAGE IN THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

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- “...Thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation [offering] of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world...” (Eucharistic Prayer Rite I)
- “In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.” (Eucharistic Prayer B in Rite II)



# DELIVERANCE FROM ....?

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- Alienation from self, others, and God
- Evil rulers, slavery
- Weakness and corruption of earthly/bodily existence
- Death, ultimate extinction
- Meaninglessness, ignorance, absurdity, false beliefs.



# HOW DOES GOD SAVE US?

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- We cannot redeem ourselves
- God's self-sacrificial love, through and in Jesus Christ
- Focus is on the cross as a sign of God's self-emptying and willingness to suffer for us



# HOW GOD SAVES

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"The Taking of Christ"  
--Caravaggio



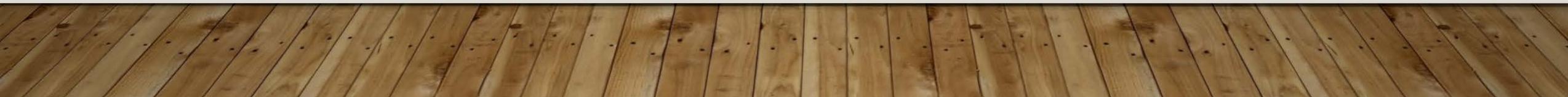
# A TRINITARIAN SUMMARY

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We are saved:

- From non-existence by the Father creating through the Son in the Holy Spirit
- From sin by the Son sent by the Father in the Holy Spirit
- From ultimate extinction by the Holy Spirit sent by the Father with the Son

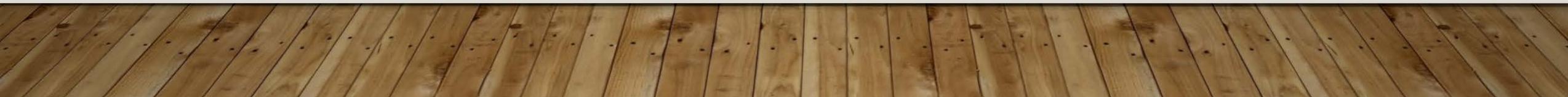
--David Kelsey





# SALVATION AS DEIFICATION

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- Deification involves a transformative “participation in the power of God...we shall then be in another manner what we now are in our own manner.” (Nicholas of Cusa, 15<sup>th</sup> century)
  - “For in order to contemplate God, which we are not by nature, we had to be cleansed through him, who became what we are by nature...God, having been made a just human being, intercedes for sinful people...Accordingly, by uniting the likeness of his own humanity with us, he has taken away the unlikeness of our iniquity, and having been made a sharer of our mortality, he has made us a sharer in his divinity.” --Augustine
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# SALVATION AS FORGIVENESS AND ATONEMENT

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- Substitutionary atonement and “satisfaction”
- “Christ has purchased and redeemed you with his own blood....The very Creator of the world has become the price for you.....I confess that the only Son of God became incarnate to liberate us from the servitude of sin and the yoke of the devil, and thus by his death to open for us the door of eternal life.” -- Peter Abelard (12<sup>th</sup> century)
- How does “forgiveness” work?



# JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH

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- Associated most strongly with Luther, but drawn from Paul and adopted by Reformation churches
- Imputation of our sins to Christ, and God's righteousness to us
- We remain "simul justus et peccator"
- Alien righteousness





# JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH FOR ANGLICANS

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- “We are accounted righteous before God, only for the merit of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ by Faith, and not for our own works or deservings.”  
(Anglican Articles of Religion XI, on Justification)
  - “[Our adversaries claim] that we tread all Christian virtues under our feet, and require nothing in Christians but faith; because we teach that faith alone justifieth; whereas we by this speech never meant to exclude either hope and charity from being always joined as inseparable mates with faith in the man that is justified; or works from being added to necessary duties, required at the hands of every justified man.” (Richard Hooker)
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# SUMMARY QUOTATION

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- “Salvation is not a matter of finding some crack in the material world through which to slip into some other world, some spiritual world. Salvation comes not when souls leave this world but when God comes to this world. God comes to save, not by rescuing God’s people from the world but by being with them in it. And he comes to save the world, not just souls.” --Allen Verhey

# QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

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# OPTIONAL QUOTATION

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“The meaning of our salvation is that we are included in [Christ’s] life, given the right to speak with his divine voice, reassured that what our human voices say out of darkness and suffering has been owned by him as his voice, so that it may in some way be opened to the life of God for healing or forgiveness.” --Rowan Williams (on Augustine’s view of how we imitate Christ through the Psalms)