

*Redemption  
Accomplished  
and Applied*

*by John Murray*

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Twelfth Lecture

Presented by Dr. Richard Spencer

# Review

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- We are discussing Redemption Applied
- Here is Murray's order of the events in the application of redemption:
  1. Effectual calling
  2. Regeneration
  3. Faith and Repentance
  4. Justification
  5. Adoption
  6. Sanctification
  7. Perseverance
  8. Union with Christ
  9. Glorification

# *Faith and Repentance*

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- The terms in yellow are monergistic works of God
- The items in white are works that we do, or in which we participate
- Faith and Repentance are works we must do alone and are the first fruits of God's regenerating grace having worked in us, together they are often called conversion

Effectual calling

Regeneration

Faith & Repentance

Justification

Adoption

Sanctification

Perseverance

Union with Christ

Glorification

# Faith and Repentance

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- If we come to God in repentance and faith, he guarantees our full salvation

*All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.*

John 6:37-39

# *Repentance*

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- I am going to cover repentance first, even though Murray covers faith first and steadfastly maintains (and I agree) that faith and repentance occur together
- Nevertheless, it seems there is a logical precedence; if you don't see anything you need to be saved from, then you won't understand the need for a Savior; so it seems logical to discuss repentance first; Murray himself wrote,

# Faith and Repentance

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*The gospel can have no appeal to any person unless there is to some extent a conviction of sin and need. ... Faith is directed to Christ as Saviour, and he can have no intelligible meaning in that identity except as there is the awareness of the need of salvation. Faith is meaningless when divorced from an antecedent conviction of sin and its desert.*

Collected Writings of John Murray, Vol. 2, pp 254-255

- So, let's begin with repentance

# Repentance

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- Remember the Westminster Shorter Catechism:

Q. 87. What is repentance unto life?

A. Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, does, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.

# Repentance

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- Murray notes the radical change of nature that precedes true repentance and faith,

*if faith is directed to salvation from sin, there must be hatred of sin and the desire to be saved from it. Such hatred of sin involves repentance which essentially consists in turning from sin unto God.*

RA&A, pg 113

- If we are born again, we don't just fear the punishment due us for sin, we hate sin itself

*Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.* Rom 12:9

# Repentance – Change of Mind

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- The Greek word is *μετανοέω*, which literally means to think differently or afterwards (i.e., to change your mind after consideration)
- Murray notes,

*The change of heart and mind and will principally respects four things: it is a change of mind respecting God, respecting ourselves, respecting sin, and respecting righteousness. RA&A, pg 114*

- Let's look at these four things individually

# *Change of Mind Regarding:*

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- God:
  - He is not a cosmic force
  - He is not a disinterested and uninvolved creator
  - He is not a cosmic sugar daddy who winks at sin
  - He is not a figment of human imagination
  - He is the absolutely holy, wise, unchangeable, all powerful, all knowing, just, loving and merciful creator, sustainer and judge of all things

*God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.*

WSC, ans. 4

# Change of Mind Regarding:

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- Man (us):
  - Man is not just an animal
  - Man is not basically good and getting better
  - Man was created in God's image
  - But he is a fallen creature with a depraved nature

*The sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell, consists in the guilt of Adam's first sin, the want of original righteousness, and the corruption of his whole nature, which is commonly called original sin; together with all actual transgressions which proceed from it.*

WSC, ans. 18

# *Change of Mind Regarding:*

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- Sin:
  - Sin is not defined by what we think is wrong
  - Sin is not primarily directed at other humans
  - Sin is not a small thing
  - Sin is not just a result of imperfection
  - It is cosmic treason, a rejection of God

*Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God.*

WSC, ans. 14

# *We Must Consider Our Own Sin*

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- Murray notes,

*It is very easy for us to speak of sin, to be very denunciatory respecting sin, and denunciatory respecting the particular sins of other people and yet not be penitent regarding our own particular sins. The test of repentance is the genuineness and resoluteness of our repentance in respect of our own sins, sins characterized by the aggravations which are peculiar to our own selves.*

RA&A, pp 114-115

# *Change of Mind Regarding:*

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- Righteousness:
  - It is not being “nice” and tolerant
  - It is not just doing “good” things
  - It is doing what is right, as defined by God, and for his glory

*Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.*

WSC, ans. 1

- We must see our sins as cosmic treason against God, and turn from them (repent) and to God (in faith)

# *Now Let's Consider Faith*

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- Remember the Westminster Shorter Catechism:

Q. 86. What is faith in Jesus Christ?

A. Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel.

# Faith

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- Faith is not believing something in spite of evidence to the contrary!
- Murray writes,

*When we use the word faith strictly and properly we mean that for certain reasons apprehended by us we are satisfied as to the reality, reliability or truth of a certain event, object or person.*

The Collected Writings of John Murray, Vol 2, pp 235-236  
*faith is trust. Trust presupposes an object. An object evokes trust when there is an antecedent judgment of the mind that the object is trustworthy.*

The Collected Writings of John Murray, Vol 2, pp 237

# *Faith*

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- Murray examines Biblical faith under two headings:
  - The Warrant
  - The Nature

# *The Warrant for Faith*

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- What warrant, or justification, do I have to turn to Christ for salvation?
  - How can I know that Christ is willing to save me?
  - Or that he is able to save me?
- Murray gives two reasons that warrant a sinner turning to Christ for salvation:
  - The universal offer of the Gospel
  - The all sufficiency and suitability of the Savior

# *The Universal Offer of the Gospel*

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- This offer may be regarded as:
  - An invitation (Matthew 11:28 – “Come to me ...)
  - A demand (Acts 17:30 – God “commands all ...)
  - A promise (John 6:51 – “If anyone eats of this ...)
  - An overture (Rev 3:20 – “Here I am! I stand ...)
- But, from any perspective, it is:
  - Full (no one is only partly saved)
  - Free (it is a free gift)
  - Unrestricted (it is offered to all without distinction)

# Salvation Offered to All

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- Even in the Old Testament salvation is offered to more than just the Jews, although it is only available through the God of the Jews

*Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him.*

Genesis 18:18

*there is no God apart from me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none but me. "Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other.*

Isaiah 45:21-22

# *The True Descendants of Israel*

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- Romans 4 argues that Abraham is the father of both Gentile and Jewish believers; his true descendants are not his natural descendants, the Jews, but all who trust in Jesus Christ

*He is the father of us all.*

Romans 4:16

- We are told in Ephesians 2 that Christ has removed the barrier dividing Jews and Gentiles (referring to the partition in the temple that separated the court of the Gentiles from the Jews) ...

# United in Christ

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*But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace* Eph 2:13-15

- The ceremonial law divided Jews and Gentiles, but Jesus fulfilled that law and opened the way for both to worship equally

# *The Universal Call of the Gospel*

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- The universal nature of the Gospel call is also clear in the New Testament:

*go and make disciples of all nations* Matt 28:19

*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.* Matt 11:28

*whoever comes to me I will never drive away.* John 6:37

[God] *commands all people everywhere to repent.* Acts 17:30

# The Savior

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- Murray points out that we are also warranted to put our faith in Jesus Christ because he is the all-sufficient and suitable Savior

*Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.* 1 Peter 3:18

*he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Such a high priest meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens.*

Hebrews 7:25-26

# The Savior

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- As Murray notes,

*The sufficiency of his saviourhood rests upon the work he accomplished once for all when he died upon the cross and rose again in triumphant power. But it resides in the efficacy and perfection of his continued activity at the right hand of God.*

RA&A, pg 109

# The Savior

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- Murray concludes this section,

*In the warrant of faith the rich mercy of God is proffered to the lost and the promise of grace is certified by the veracity and faithfulness of God. This is the ground upon which a lost sinner may commit himself to Christ in full confidence that he will be saved. And no sinner to whom the gospel comes is excluded from the divine warrant for such confidence.*

RA&A, pg 110

# *You Have Warrant*

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- Therefore, everyone who hears the gospel has every good reason to trust in Jesus Christ for salvation
  - His offer of salvation is genuine for you
  - He is able to save you
- Now let's look at the nature of saving faith

# *Saving Faith involves Union with Christ*

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- The Westminster Shorter Catechism properly notes that our salvation is in union with Christ

Q. 30. How does the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?

A. The Spirit applies to us the redemption purchased by Christ, by working faith in us, and thereby uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling.

# *The Nature of Faith*

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- True saving faith consists of three elements:
  - Knowledge (*noticia*)
  - Conviction (mental assent, or *assensus*)
  - Trust (*fiducia*)

# *Knowledge (noticia)*

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- It matters what you believe; saving faith requires that you agree to the truth of certain propositional statements

*faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.*

Romans 10:17

- Murray does not specifically delineate what he considers essential, but he does say

*We must know who Christ is, what he has done, and what he is able to do*

RA&A, pg 110

# Knowledge

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- Paul put it very simply,

*the word of faith we are proclaiming [is]: That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

Romans 10:8-9

# *Conviction (assensus)*

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- We must believe the Biblical claims about ourselves and Jesus to be true
  - This must include believing what the Bible says about us as lost sinners in need of a savior
- But, even believing the facts about ourselves and Jesus is not enough

*Even the demons believe that—and shudder.*

James 2:19

- So what else is necessary?

# Trust (*fiducia*)

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- Murray puts it this way,

*Faith is knowledge passing into conviction, and it is conviction passing into confidence. Faith cannot stop short of self-commitment to Christ, a transference of reliance upon ourselves and all human resources to reliance upon Christ alone for salvation.*

RA&A, pg 111

- We must place our trust fully in Christ, which requires the humility to see that we cannot depend on ourselves at all

# *Trust in Christ Alone – He Saves!*

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- Murray also notes that our faith is not meritorious,

*All the efficacy unto salvation resides in the Saviour. ... strictly speaking, it is not even faith in Christ that saves but Christ that saves through faith. Faith unites us to Christ in the bonds of abiding attachment and entrustment and it is this union which insures that the saving power, grace, and virtue of the Saviour become operative in the believer.*

RA&A, pg 112

# The Full Gospel

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- Murray correctly states,

*The gospel is not only that by grace are we saved through faith but it is also the gospel of repentance.*

RA&A, pg 115

- When Paul gave an account of his ministry to the Ephesian elders he proclaimed,

*I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.*

Acts 20:21

# The Full Gospel

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- Murray concludes by noting that,

*True faith is suffused with penitence. ... The broken spirit and the contrite heart are abiding marks of the believing soul.* RA&A, pg 116

- Repentance is not a one-time act, it is a constant activity for the believer while in this life; only when we get to heaven will we stop sinning, Christ taught us to pray

*Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.* Luke 11:4

# Conclusion

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- Repent!
- Believe!
- You will be united to Christ and saved,
  - He paid for your sins
  - His righteousness is imputed to you
  - He intercedes for you
  - His Spirit leads you
  - He will raise you up – you will see him face to face

# *To Prepare for Next Session*

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- You should read Chapter 5 of Part II in Redemption Applied (justification)

# Application

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- We need to make sure that we have a proper understanding of Biblical faith and repentance
- Biblical faith is: knowledge, agreement, and trust; this kind of faith *increases* with more knowledge
- We do not just believe facts about Jesus, we believe *into* him:

*I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me (πιστεύων εἰς ἐμὲ) will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.*

John 11:25-26

# Application

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Facts (the gospel message)

Agreement

Internal change (new birth)

Trust (in Jesus Christ alone)

Hope (a confident expectation; God will do what he has promised)