

Life in Grace: Our Roadmap to Heaven

Week 2: Grace, Merit, and Salvation

1. Beatitude: The end for which we are created, our participation in the glory and joy of the Blessed Trinity.
2. Gifts of Adam and Eve
 - a. Natural: Intellect and will
 - b. Preternatural: Immortality and perfect justice
3. Consequences of the Fall
 - a. Concupiscence: The downward-pulling tendency toward sin that darkens the intellect and weakens the will.
 - b. Suffering and death
4. Christ restores the possibility of perfect beatitude.
 - a. "The justification of the wicked is a greater work than the creation of heaven and earth." (Saint Augustine)
5. What is grace?
 - a. Ezekiel 36:25-28
 - b. Two-fold gift
 - i. Uncreated gift of God's presence
 - ii. Created gift of our ability to become like God
 - c. 2 Corinthians 3:17-18
6. Two functions of grace
 - a. Actual grace
 - b. Habitual grace (sanctifying grace)
7. What is merit?
 - a. Condign
 - b. Congruous
 - c. "[W]ithout me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)

8. Progression of the life in grace

- a. Birth with original sin
- b. Response with faith to actual grace
- c. Baptism and infusion of habitual grace
- d. Lifelong growth in charity
- e. With the grace of perseverance, death in a state of grace
- f. Final justification and perfect beatitude

9. Can we lose our salvation?

- a. John 10:28-29
- b. John 15:1-6