

# SALVATION

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The Orthodox Perspective

# TO CONCLUDE!!!

- Summary of the Orthodox perspective to attain salvation-
  - Faith
  - Work
  - Holy Sacraments
    - Baptism and confirmation
    - Repentance and confession
    - Eucharist



# FAITH-

## FROM OTHER PERSPECTIVES

- Universalism-
  - Everyone, whether good or bad (including Satan) will be saved.
  - Notably discussed by Origen of Alexandria in 3<sup>rd</sup> Century
    - He refuted the concept of Dualism
- Dualism-
  - Common belief among Gnostics
  - Kingdom of God vs. “kingdom” of Satan



# HOW TO REFUTE?

- Dualism-
  - Is hell Satan's KINGDOM?
    - What comes to mind when you hear the word “kingdom”?
      - “The devil...was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beat and the false prophets are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever” Rev. 20:10
      - In the demon’s own words “What have we to do with you, Jesus, You son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?” Mt. 8:28-29
  - Do we live a dual life?

“Yea mean yes;  
nay mean no.”

# HOW TO REFUTE?

- Universalism-
  - “Fear Him who... has power to cast into hell” Luke 12:5
  - Important distinction
    - God’s will vs. free-will
    - “I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life” Deuteronomy 30:19
    - “If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself” Mt.16:24
    - “If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments” Mt. 19:17

# FAITH-

## FROM OTHER PERSPECTIVES



- Limited Atonement-
  - Primarily adopted by Protestants
  - Only The Elect- people chosen by God- will be saved.
    - Will be saved by God's grace ONLY and no human role
    - Lead to Predisposition
      - Adopted by Calvinists
      - The outcome is firm and cannot be changed
      - You are either chosen to be saved or not- regardless of how you live your life

# HOW TO REFUTE?

- Limited Atonement and Predisposition
  - If God is all powerful then how come He was unable to save some?
  - If He is all powerful and chooses to only save some, then is He still merciful and just?
  - Refer to slide#2
    - “what does it profit my brethren if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? “James 2:24
    - “Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin” James 4:17
    - “the wages of sin is death” Romans 6:23
    - Not only can cheating, lying, etc. lead to sin but Not doing good can also lead to death!

# HOW TO REFUTE?

- What is the problem with Predestination?
  - For the elect- lack motivation
  - For the non-elect- will fall into despair and hopelessness
  - Contradicts God's mercy and justice
  - Contradicts Free-will
    - “How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were no willing!” Mt. 23:37





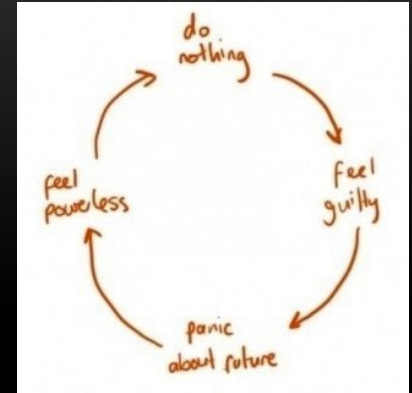
# DOES GOD HAVE FAVOURITES?



- Do we ever wonder if God has favorites?
  - If so, How do you quantify it?
    - Do we quantify God's love with earthly measures?
    - Do not put value on earthly matter and equate it with God's love
      - “do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the father is not in him. For all that is in the world- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life- is not of the father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.” 1 john 2:15-17

# DO WE FEEL PREDESTINED?

- Self-fulfilling prophecy
  - Can be self-imposed or others-imposed
  - A prediction that causes itself to become reality.
    - Certain belief → expectation → outcome → outcome confirming original belief
  - Liturgy of St. Basil- Seven Short prayers-
    - “Manage our life as deemed fit... For the eyes of everyone wait upon you, for you give them their food in due season”
      - You have the choice to change any aspect of your life
      - Through our work and efforts, and prayer that we let God interfere in our lives to leads us towards salvation.



# FAITH-

## FROM OTHER PERSPECTIVES

- Pluralism-
  - Developed primarily due to rise of multiculturalism.
  - Since it is n God's will to save everyone
    - You can be saved in your respected religion, as long as you abide by that religion.
  - How to refute?
    - John 3:36 “ He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him”
    - John 14:16 “I am the way, the Truth, and the Life. No-one comes to the father except through me.”
    - ONLY path to Salvation is through Jesus Christ

# SALVATION AS WE KNOW IT!

## THE ORTHODOX PROSPECTIVE

- What is salvation?
  - Deliverance from harm or sin
  - Sin, regardless of type, has one outcome
  - “For the wages of sin is death” Romans 6:23
- How were we Delivered?
  - The law was maintained and the debt was paid on our behalf.
  - Through God’s Grace, He paid our debt and delivered us from death.



# AM I SAVED AUTOMATICALLY?

- Do we have a role to play?
  - God's will and desire to save us will not overshadow your choice to be saved or not
  - You can accept or reject God's gift .
- How do I accept it?
  - Through number of liturgies, or matanyas, lesson you give, or how much money you donate?
  - It is not a school application
  - If there was a different path to salvation, someone would've taken it by now
    - But there is ONLY ONE path to salvation
    - Your role as servant is to help people find that path.

# HOW CAN I ACCEPT GOD'S GIFT?

## 1. Faith and works

- Faith In the Son of God-
  - “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me, though he may die, he shall live” John 11:25
  - “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him” John 3:36
- Actions speak louder than words-
  - “thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead” James 2:17
  - “for as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also” James 2:26
  - Who led by example?
    - Our Lord Himself

# HOW CAN I ACCEPT GOD'S GIFT?

## 2. Holy Sacraments-

- Baptism and confirmation
  - Fully committed to God as you die and resurrect with Him
    - “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believes will be condemned” Mark 16:16
  - Your body is a temple and you are entrusted with it
    - “or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s” 1 cor. 19-20
  - But were people in the old-testament baptized?
  - How do I continue reliving baptism?

# HOW CAN I ACCEPT GOD'S GIFT?

## 2. Holy Sacraments-

- Confession and Repentance-

- “repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” Mt. 4:17
- “Repent and let everyone of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” Acts 2:38

- Communion-

- “then Jesus said to them ‘most assuredly I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life and I will raise him up at the last day” John 6:53-54





# TO CONCLUDE

- How does salvation benefit me NOW?
  - Hope and purpose
    - Matthew 6:19-21 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also

THANK YOU

BYE 😊