

FALL & SALVATION

Genesis gives important story

Creation Review



- * God created **all things** visible and invisible out of nothing.
- * The development of His creation appears to have taken place over a **long period** of time.
- * It was **good** and beautiful: *God caused every tree beautiful to the sight and good for food to grow from the ground.* (Gen 2:9)
- * **Man** was formed out of what had been created previously, as **pinnacle** of Creation, giving living beings a **living soul** made in the **image and likeness** of God
- * Given the responsibility to be the **steward** over all God's creation.
- * In **direct** communion with God.

- * The Story of Genesis next tells us what happened after Man's formation.
- * What comes next?
- * Knowing Man needed to be perfected in love with free will, he **demande obedience**, to remain in union with Him, with **penalty of death**.
- * What unfolds in this story was part of God's **process of perfection** of Man.
- * Enter **serpent** - the tempter

Why Was Tempter In The Form of a Snake?



John Chrysostom

In the beginning the snake was a friend of man and one of the closest of those who served him. It was similar to that of the dog today.

In ancient mythology the snake was a symbol of wisdom.

FALL OF MANKIND



Michelangelo's
*Temptation and
Fall* from the
Sistine Chapel
Ceiling.

*Now the serpent... said to the woman, "Has God indeed said,
'You shall not eat from every tree of the garden'?"*

*And the woman said..., "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the
garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the
garden, God said, 'You shall not eat from it, nor shall you touch
it, lest you die.'" (con)*

FALL OF MANKIND

- *Then the serpent said..., “You shall not die by death. For God knows in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.”*

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree beautiful to contemplate, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave it to her husband with her, and he ate. (Gen 3: 1-6)

FALL OF MANKIND



- What happened here?
- **Tempted** to disobey God and become god.
- **Disobeyed** God
- Made a **created object** their **desire** instead of God.
- Wanted to be their **own god**.



- Genesis continues the story:
- *Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were **naked**; and they sewed fig leaves together and **made** themselves **coverings**. (Gen 3:7)*

What is the Significance of Hiding Their Nakedness?

Lost glory of God and now only saw lower things of this earth.

Soul came under the **domination of the body** and its passions.

Became **Self-centered**.

Separated themselves from Spirit.

Lost their dispassion and began the passionate earthly life.



What Was God's Response?



- Genesis story continues:
And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day.... Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?”
- “Where are you?” What does this indicate?
Indicates **separation** from God and God’s immediate searching for them to return.
God is calling for them to **repent**.
See how foundational this idea of repentance is?

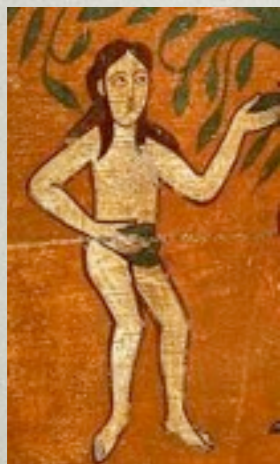
HOW DID ADAM AND EVE RESPOND?



Adam says:

- *"I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."*

"The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."



Eve says:

- *"The serpent deceived me, and I ate."*

HOW DID ADAM AND EVE RESPOND?

- Responded with self-justification.
 - Adam blamed Eve
 - Eve blamed the snake.
- There was **no humility**, no remorse, no repentance.



WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE FALL?

- We inherited **Death**.
- *And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it **you shall surely die.**"* (Gen 2:15-17)
- What also happens?



MAN LOST HIS HOME IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD.



*Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the **man has become like one of Us**, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”— therefore the Lord **God sent him out** of the garden of Eden to **till the ground** from which he was taken. So **He drove out** the man; and He **placed cherubim** at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, **to guard the way** to the tree of life.*

(Gen 3:22-24)

See God’s mercy?

By not allowing man to live forever in this condition of separation, He sends him on a path of perfection.

DID GOD REJECT MAN?

- God did not reject man.
He took away neither His image,
freedom of his will, nor his reason.
Man still had **image of God** - tarnished.
- God desires Man's **perfection**. Called to **cooperate** to
become in His **likeness**.
- Needed help of a supernatural power to **overcome**
death, sin and return to a union with God.



REFLECT

- Man created with “*living soul*” in **full communion** with God.
- Made what is **created** the object of his desire.
- Sought **pleasure** from things (fruit of the tree) of **this world** rather than from his **Creator**.
- **Separated** from God relying only on **own** will.
- Brought consequence of **death** upon himself and all ancestors who followed.

- This is what we call **ancestral sin**.

Condition we inherit **without guilt**.

Our Fallen nature part of our genetic makeup.

HOW DOES REALITY OF DEATH IMPACT US?

- Self-Preservation, fear and anxiety:
Self-assertion, egoism, hatred, envy.
- Fear of life becoming meaningless:
Strive to prove ourselves, seek self-worth, compliments and success, fear insults, envy others success and desire to be liked.
- Seek security and happiness in wealth, glory and bodily pleasures
- Zealous over idealistic principles of love yet hate closest neighbor.

DEATH A CONSEQUENCE NOT PUNISHMENT

- Fear of death comes from a separation from God and leads us to tendency for sinful actions:

Paul says:



*As by one man sin entered into the world, and **death** by sin; and so **death** passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.* (Rom 5:12)

*The wages of sin is **death**.* (Rom 6:23)

Last enemy to be destroyed is death (1Cor 15:26)

GUILTY OF ADAM'S SIN?

- Was there any mention of future generations being **guilty of Adam's sin**?
- The idea of our guilt is **error & misleading**.
- Issue not our guilt but the **reality of Death** that was a consequence of disobedience.
- We have a **disease** due to separation from God. We need **healing** spiritually.
- We **do not have guilt** as the result of "Original Sin." We only owe God our **obedience**.
- With obedience we overcome fear of death and death itself.

REVIEW: SPIRITUAL MESSAGE

- What is our fallen nature?
 - Separated from God.
 - Live in fear of sickness & death.
 - Orientation for seeking pleasures.
 - Have image and potential to become in His likeness.
- This is message of the Genesis story:
Though Fallen, have potential for perfection.
- Now in **need of savior** to free us from our enslavement by death and reunite us with God.
- God provides through the **Christ Event**.

God



Body

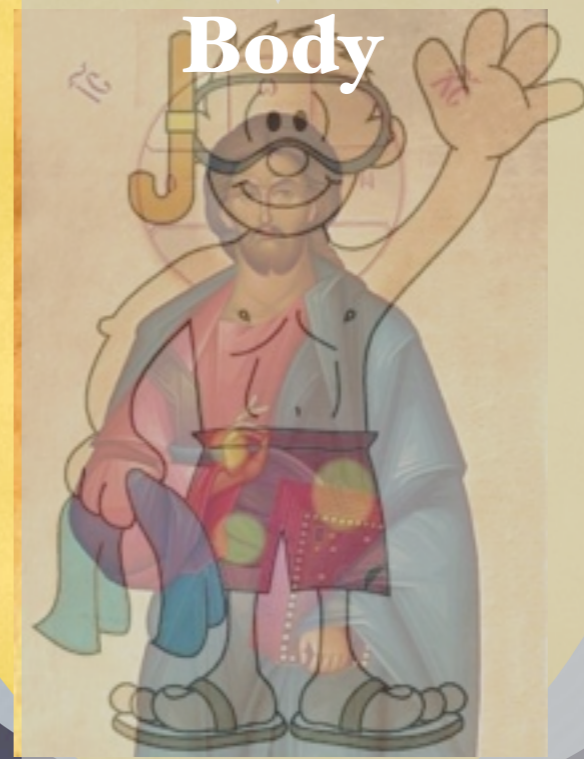


Our Present Condition

God

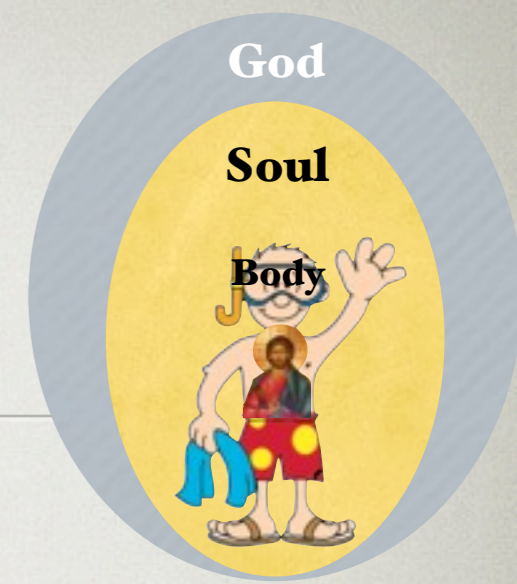
Soul

Body



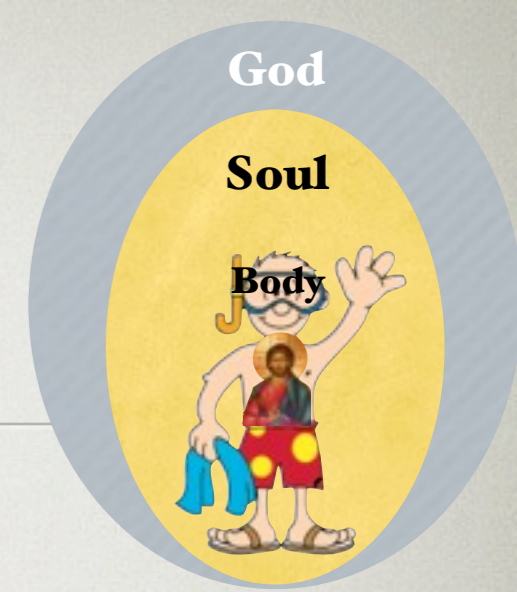
Our Natural Condition

WHAT IS OUR AIM?



- **Perfection** - to be reunited with God.
- Requires our **cooperation** but depends on grace.
- Through God's grace we gain understanding, deep knowledge and **capability** to carry out His teachings.
- Our spiritual energies and powers are **intensified** to **help others**.
- As we approach His likeness we may experience the uncreated light Christ refers to.

THEOSIS IS THE AIM



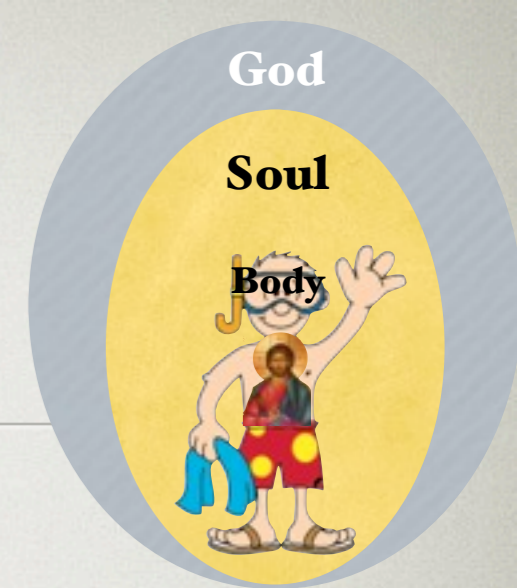
- This union we call **Theosis**
- To reach Theosis we first must be **purified**.
- Purification involves **asceticism** as Paul taught.



Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

- *Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty.*
- *Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air, but I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.* (1Cor 9:24-29)

THEOSIS IS THE AIM



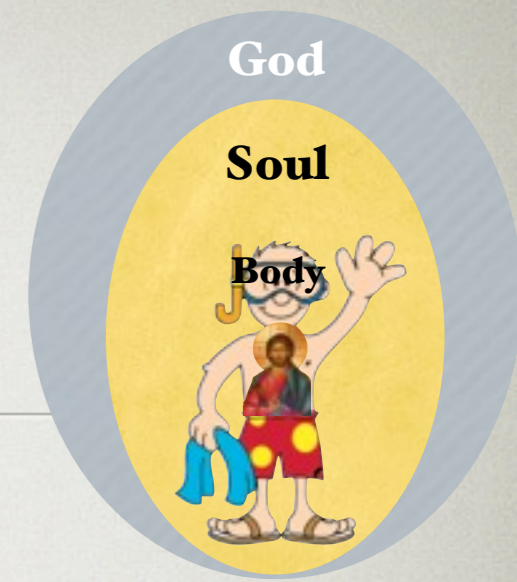
- We are called to “**mature in Christ**” with striving and toil.



*To them **God chose** to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the **glory of this mystery**, which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory.*

- *Him we proclaim, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man **mature in Christ**.*
- *For this **I toil, striving** with all the **energy** which He mightily **inspires within me**.* (Colossians 1:24-29)
- We thus become His agents in perfecting Creation.

OUR AIM IS THEOSIS



- *Theosis is*

Not about being legalistically justified or being declared innocent of our sins.

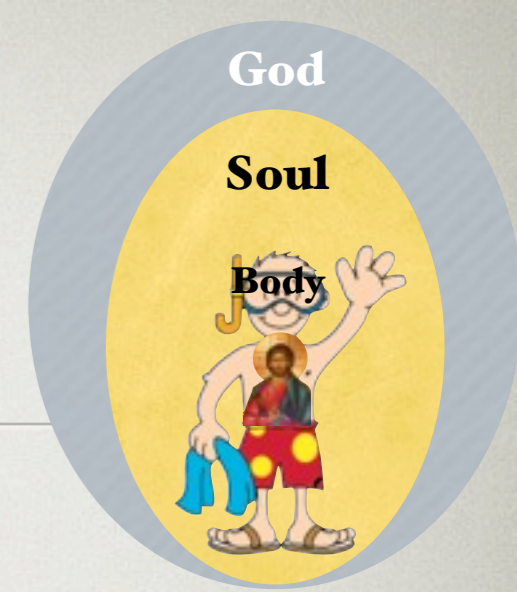
Not about being “good” or “bad”.

Not by adhering to dogma

About coming into **union** with God - discovering the **God within** our heart - knowing directly the personal God.

Then we will receive capability to do His will.

AIM IS THEOSIS



- Found through a relationship with God.
- Involves a process of many steps.
- Relationship we seek is a **personal mystical** one.

The apostle Paul says, *“I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in Me”* (Gal 2:20)



Theosis



Grace is constantly present, and is rooted in us, and worked into us like leaven, from our earliest years, until the thing thus present becomes fixed in a man like a natural endowment, as if it were one substance with him. God visibly fills us, unites Himself with us and communes with us.

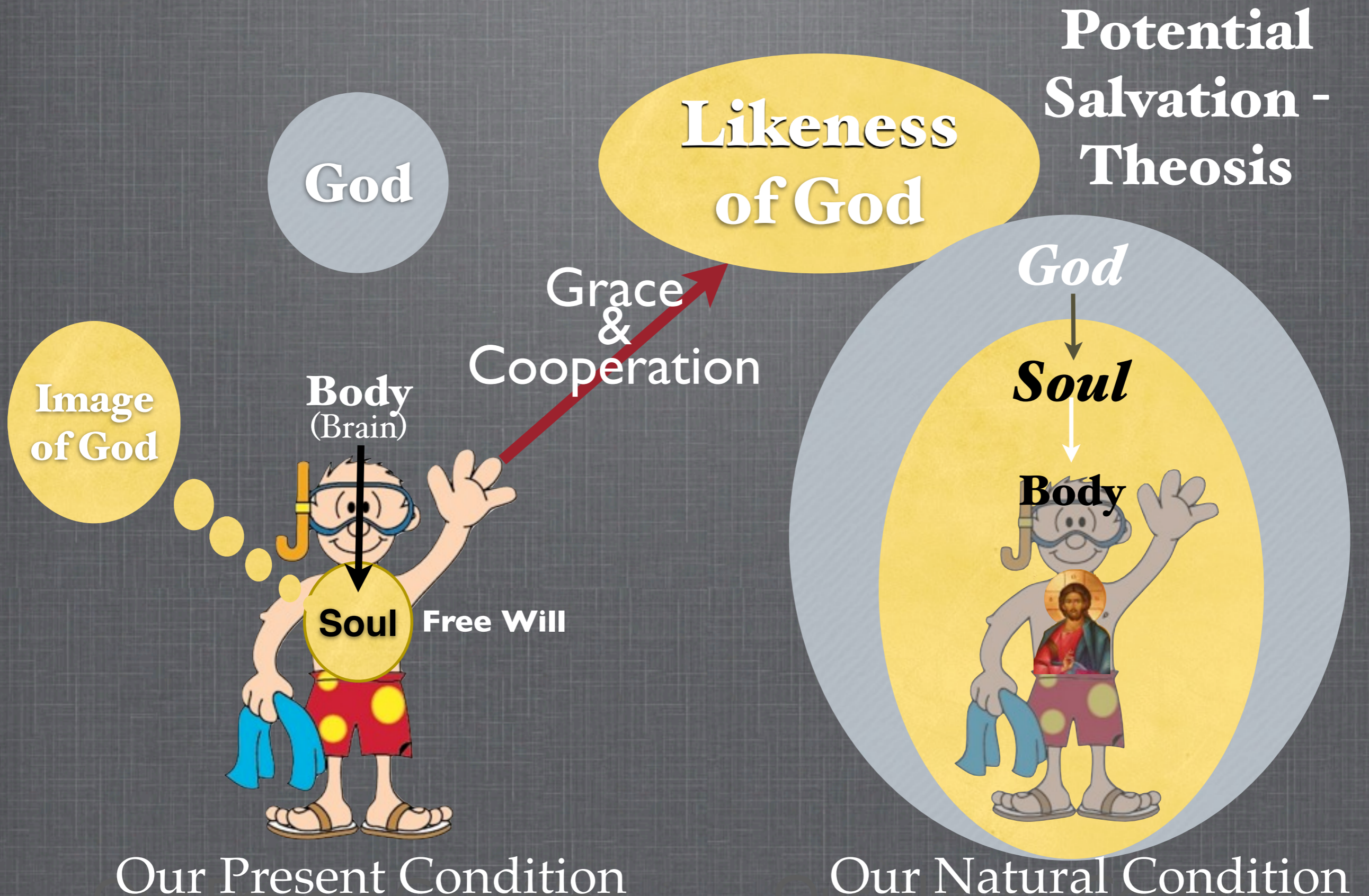
Saint Macarius

PATH TO THEOSIS



- How does this path begin?
- Begins with our **Awakening**
 - We search and discover God.
 - God reveals Himself.
 - Believe in the Christ Event
 - But God is still outside.
- Through **Baptism** or Confession
 - God enters our soul by His grace and is in live communion with us.
We become part of Him through our membership with the Church Community of Believers

ORTHODOX WAY OF LIFE



Climax of Creation Christ Event Incarnation

Economy of Salvation

- ✦ How was mankind (in general) to be justified, reconciled, redeemed, reunited with God?
- ✦ By the Christ Event - **Incarnation** of God.
- ✦ This is the “*free gift*” that “*came upon all men unto justification of life*” (Rom 5:18).



Incarnation

- ✿ As we read in Pascha Liturgy: *In the beginning was the Word... And **the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us*** (John 1:1,14)
- ✿ God born of flesh by Mary - **Theotokos**
- ✿ Action needed for **perfection** of Man.



What Does Christ Do In His Humanness?

- ✦ **Baptized** in Jordan,
- ✦ **Travels** to cities **preaching** salvation,
- ✦ Experiences **human passions**: hunger, thirst, need for rest and sleep and **suffered** painful feelings.
- ✦ Has all human feelings. *“He was troubled in spirit”* (John 13:21)
- ✦ Strengthens spiritual powers with **fasting** and **prayer**.
- ✦ Places all human strivings in **submission** to the **Divine will** in Himself. *“O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as Thou wilt .”* (Matt 26:39)
- ✦ Shows us how to **unite** our human will to the Divine will through our **“living soul.”** Connection with Spirit.

- ✦ Central Dogma: Christ is both **fully human** and **fully God**. Only- Begotten Son of God. One with the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- ✦ How was this defended?
 - ✦ Constantly at the **Ecumenical Councils**.
- ✦ To Transform Human Nature God had to become fully Human showing the path for our healing including the death of the flesh.
- ✦ God took on Human flesh so it could be **perfected**.

What is Significance of The Cross?

Redemption

- ✦ Being obedient even in death frees us.
- ✦ Central Dogma is Jesus Christ is **redeemer and savior**.
- ✦ He **suffered** out of His **love** for us.
- ✦ *“The **Lamb of God** Who taketh away the sin of the world.”* (John 1:29)
- ✦ This image of the “Lamb” comes from Jewish passover sacrifice.



Redemption - The Cross

- ✦ Apostles very clear about this:
 - “Christ saved us”;*
 - ✦ *“you are redeemed from the curse of the law”;*
 - ✦ *Christ justified us”;* *“You are bought at a dear price”;*
 - ✦ Christ *“has covered our sins”;*
 - ✦ He is a *“propitiation for our sins”;*
 - ✦ *by Him we have been “reconciled with God”;*
- ✦ He is the *“sole Chief Priest”;*
- ✦ *“He has torn up the handwriting against us and nailed it to the Cross”;*
- ✦ He *“was made a curse for us”;*
- ✦ we have peace with God *“by the death of His Son”;*
- ✦ we have been *“sanctified by His blood”;*
- ✦ *we have been “resurrected together with Christ.”*

Redemption - The Cross

- * We **do not** view the self sacrifice on Cross as a **Payment**, like in fulfilling a contract to pay for our guilt some erroneously say we received from Adam..
- * It is **not** like a **substitution**. We are accountable for our own sinfulness.
- * It is a **sacrifice of love** and **obedience** that is essential for the resurrection to follow. For **victory over death** in Human flesh.
- * It **frees** all mankind from bondage to sin and **death** with hope of resurrection and eternal life.



More....
Resurrection

Resurrection



- ✦ Cross makes possible the **Resurrection**.
By death of Christ on the Cross humankind attained redemption, meaning **death is defeated**.
- ✦ Through **victory over death we gain eternal life** and are shown **path for our personal salvation**.
- ✦ **Resurrection** is the **object** of Church's constant triumph, its **unceasing rejoicing** - summit is Pascha. Our Sunday celebration.
Foundation and crown of our Orthodox faith.
- ✦ How do we Follow?

Synergia:
Theosis demands our
cooperation

General vs Personal Salvation

- ✦ Two truths about salvation:

- 1. General**

- 2. Personal**

- ✦ Cross is about salvation **in general**.
Christ offered Himself to claim victory **over death**, so all peoples can be saved.
- ✦ BUT, **Personal salvation** depends on each **individual** proper use of **free-will**
- ✦ Personal made possible by the General.
 - ✦ By sacrifice on Cross we are **liberated** from death.
Know there is **life after death** if we **follow** Christ.
 - ✦ We must join with Him & **cooperate** to **perfect ourselves** to become **united** with Him in eternal life.

General Salvation



- ✦ St. Athanasius: *“The Word perceived that corruption could not be gotten rid of any other way than through death; yet He Himself...being immortal... was such as could not die.*
- ✦ *For this reason... He assumed a **body capable of death**, in order that it... remaining incorruptible through His indwelling, might thereafter **put an end** to corruption for all others as well, by the Grace of the Resurrection.*
- ✦ *It was by **surrendering** to death, the body which he had taken, as an **offering** and **sacrifice**, free from every stain, that he forthwith **abolished death** for his human brother by the offering of an equivalent.”* (On the Incarnation, pp. 34-35).

Personal Salvation



The **personal Salvation** is expressed by Paul:
*God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, **not imputing their trespasses to them**, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation....*

- ✦ *we **implore you** on Christ's behalf, **be reconciled to God**.* (2 Corinthians 5:19–20)
- ✦ Personal salvation uses the same terminology as the salvation of the world:
justification, redemption, reconciliation.
Apostles have in mind those who believe in Christ and have received Holy Baptism.

Begin with Baptism



*“He (Christ) according to His mercy he **saved us**, by the washing of regeneration (in Baptism), and renewing of the Holy Spirit... that being **justified** by His Grace, we might be **made heirs** according to the hope of eternal life.”* (Titus 3:5-7)

- ✦ Baptism is seen as a **personal** resurrection in Christ.

Called: **new birth**, adoption, sanctification.



Personal Salvation

- ✿ Is it proper to say we must earn our way to salvation?
- ✿ We **cannot earn** salvation by our **own efforts**.
Being good person not sufficient.
- ✿ We must first have **faith** and receive divine **grace**.
 - ✿ Then joined with Christ through Baptism and Chrismation we must be willing to **cooperate** with Grace to do good works.
- ✿ This requires **preparation & participation** in sacramental life of Church.

Faith and Works



Scripture says we are **saved by faith** and must **work out our own salvation**.

“Ye are saved through faith, and that not of yourself: it is the gift of God.” (Eph 2:8)

✦ *“**Work out your own salvation** with fear and trembling.”* (Phil 2:12)



Faith if it has not works is dead (James 2:14-20)

How do we reconcile these statements?

All are true. Personal salvation involves **both**.

Faith and Works



- ✦ Scripture also says,
*“Salvation involves acquiring eternal life in God, in the kingdom of Heaven. **“But nothing unclean can enter the Kingdom of God”*** (cf. Eph 5:5, Rev 21:27)
- ✦ God is light and we must become sons of Light. Entrance **requires purity** of soul, garment of *“holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.”* (Heb 12:14)
- ✦ Scripture shows salvation involves more than being justified or acquitted for any offenses committed against God. Not legal type of issue, its a relationship.
- ✦ Our **personal purification** is a requirement and we must acquire **Grace of Holy Spirit**.

Purification

- ✦ Scripture tells us by **purification** we come to know the personal God and receive His grace.
- ✦ How are we purified?
 - ✦ **Taming of our passions:** carnal instincts, self-centered desires.
 - ✦ **Ascetic practices** such as prayer and fasting
 - ✦ **Sacraments.**
- ✦ Even with Baptism we will sin. Are weak. Baptism **opens the door** to the pathway for us to participate in the sacramental life of the Church. We must use our free will wisely.

Faith and Works

- ✦ By the Christ Event, Son of God came to:
 - ✦ a. **Open path** for personal salvation of **all**.
 - ✦ b. **Direct our hearts** to search and thirst for Kingdom of God and to give us help and power on this path to acquire **personal** spiritual purity and holiness.
- ✦ Pathway given totally by Christ - General Salvation; Second depends on our **cooperation** through grace in the Holy Spirit. Synergia
- ✦ Following Him, Made in His Image, we become in His Likeness.



Theosis

- * Gregory Palamas: *The "image" develops into "likeness," particularity by **means of the virtues** which are the **work of the will helped by grace**.*
- * St. John of Damascus: *"'In the image' points therefore to the **mind and freedom**, and 'in the likeness' to the greatest possible **similitude in virtue**.*
- * **Christ** came as the image incarnate to reestablish it and **show us the way** to Theosis.

The Holy Spirit and the Church

Christ makes a Promise

- ✦ After Resurrection what did Jesus Christ promise to the Apostles?
- ✦ Holy Spirit, Comforter, Who would remain with them forever.
- ✦ Also gave Apostles the grace-given power of the Holy Spirit with words:
“receive ye the Holy Spirit: whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained.” (John 20:22-23)

What happened on Pentecost?

- ✦ Descent of the Holy Spirit as He Promised.
- ✦ What gifts did this bring?
- ✦ Extraordinary gifts to apostles signs, healings, prophecies, gifts of tongues and powers to lead the faithful to spiritual perfection.
- ✦ Peter says, the Holy Spirit, divine power, has given us *“all things that pertain unto life and godliness”* (2 Peter 1:3)



The Earthly Church of Christ

- ✦ Beginning of Church on earth. On this day Apostles baptized about 3000 men.
- ✦ From this moment on Jerusalem, Palestine, then whole Roman Empire, and beyond began to be covered with churches.
- ✦ The Apostles appointed Bishops and presbyters and deacons giving their lives in this work.



The Earthly Church

- ✿ The Church is our **spiritual home** - place of healing, of the Holy Spirit.
- ✿ **Christ** is the Head, Founder, Foundation and Chief Priest.
- ✿ Where a Christian **heals** his separateness, making use of the grace given means of working out our salvation given by Holy Spirit through the Church.
- ✿ In the Church one is **led** to purification, illumination and Theosis.
- ✿ His children are **prepared** for the heavenly homeland.



Long Life



Hospital



Equipment &
Procedures



Physicians



Scientific Knowledge and Knowhow

Union with God



The Body of Christ



Sacraments & Ascetic practices

SOULS



Clergy

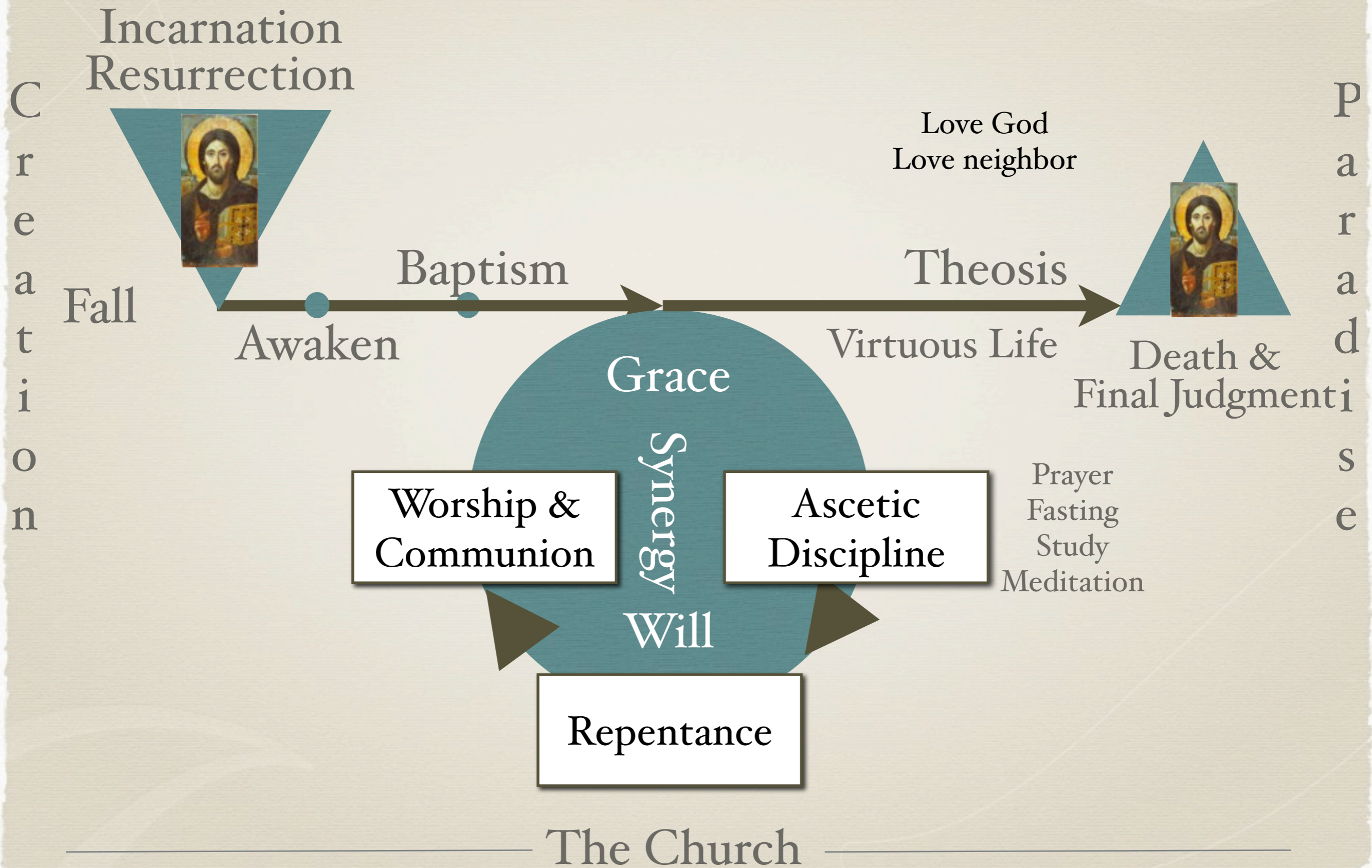


Scripture and Church Tradition

Salvation

- ✦ Man suffers from **ancestral sin**, a **separation from God** and tendency towards sinfulness from **fear of death**.
- ✦ **Christ** opened the **path** for all people, showing us **victory over death** and eternal life with God in his kingdom.
- ✦ **Church & Holy Spirit** given to us for our **personal salvation**, so we can become one with God.
- ✦ With our **faith**, followed by **cooperation** with the Holy Spirit and **participation** in mysteries of the Church we are **led back to unity** with Christ so we too can claim **victory** over death.

Orthodox Life



Orthodox Way of Life

Next Week

