



HOAW Newsletter

¹⁰ I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. ¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. *Eccl 3:10-11*

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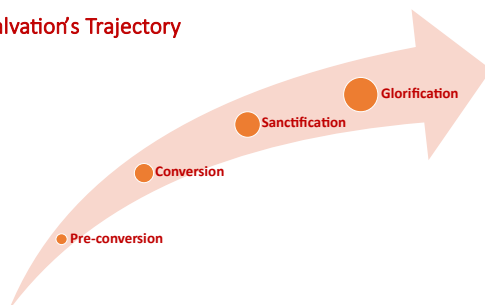
HELPING MEN LIVE LIVES OF INTEGRITY AND HONOR

Salvation's Trajectory - Part 1

Dr. Greg Bourgond

Salvation is not an event but a process. The road begins informally before you were born (pre-conversion), formally begins at the moment you receive Christ as Savior and Lord (conversion), continues on as you mature spiritually (sanctification, and essentially concludes when God calls you home (glorification). The trajectory of salvation can be depicted as follows.

Salvation's Trajectory



The trajectory or path begins before you are born. This 'pre-

conversion' phase starts with God's sovereign will to bring you into the world for a specific purpose. More about that 'purpose' will be explained later. What you need to get your head around is the fact you are not a mistake, coincidence, happenstance, or miscalculation. You were on the heart of God before you ever came into this world.

In **Psalm 139:1-18** we read, "O LORD, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it. Where

shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night," even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you. For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of

them. How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you.

This scriptural passage reveals several interesting pieces of information. 1) God, your Creator, knows you intimately and is totally aware of every aspect of your life before and after your birth. 2) We cannot escape His gaze. He sees us even when we do not want to be seen. He sees the good and the bad, the beautiful and the ugly of our lives. 3) You are not a random or haphazard collision of molecules but a planned event on God's calendar. 4) From the get go, you are "fearfully" and "wonderfully" made. 5) He superintended your formation in your mother's womb. He was there when your unformed and intricate body was formed and shaped in that secret place. 6) At that moment the days you would live outside the womb were numbered before they even began. Such proactive care and concern for you by your Creator boggles the mind, does it not?

First, you had no choice when, where, and to whom you were born. That was God's sovereign and perfect will which cannot be thwarted. Part of God's divine involvement includes the impartation of His image to you and to every human being for that matter. The Imago Dei, the image of God, is only for humans and sets us apart from all other creation including animals. **Genesis 1:26-27**

describes the source of this amazing gift. *"Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."* J. I. Packer, theologian now with the Lord unwraps what is meant by the 'image of God.' "When God made man, he communicated to him qualities corresponding to His moral attributes. This is what the Bible means when it tells us that God made man (meaning both men and women) in His own image – namely, that God made man (and woman) a free spiritual being, a responsible moral agent with powers of choice and action, able to commune with Him and respond to Him, and by nature good, truthful, holy, upright (Ecclesiastes 7:29): in a word, godly."

Second, embedded in the image of God is a conscience designed to differentiate right from wrong. *"Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them (Romans 2:14-16)."* When God breathed His Spirit into man and created him in

His image, He imparted a conscience to him. The conscience is that faculty of the mind, or inborn sense of right and wrong, by which we judge the moral character of human conduct. It is common to all mankind but perverted by the Fall. Our conscience can be defiled and seared. The conscience is malleable and can be shaped by our experiences and our will and influenced by circumstances, events, and other people if not guarded and informed by the word of God and the Holy Spirit.¹

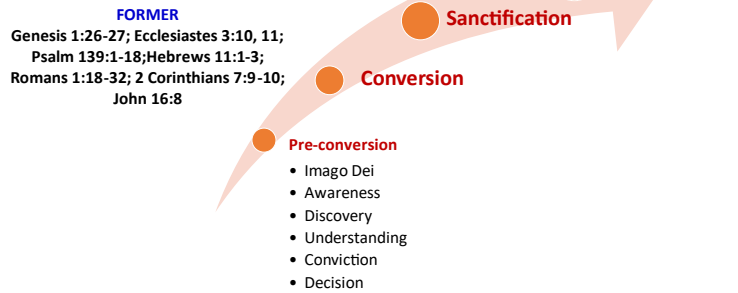
Third, according to **Ecclesiastes 3:10-11**, *"I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. 11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end."* What does "put eternity into Man's heart" mean? Simply this – a sense of the eternal is implanted in your soul. This implanted 'awareness' compels every human being who has ever lived to repeatedly ask variations of three essential questions; Why am I here (purpose)? What advancement am I making (progress)? What impact am I leaving that matters (permanence)? These perennial inquires find their origin in the sense of eternal we are born with. They drive us to consider the existence of God and His design for us. This path of discovery leads to a basic understanding of God's activity in a fallen world.

¹ Easton's Bible Dictionary (2006).

Finally, God is active in our life. Through the Holy Spirit He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8). Throughout the life of every human being God injects Himself to move an unbeliever to a point of seriously considering the claims of the Gospel, the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ who died for us and paid a heavy price to redeem us. Over the course of one's life God sends messages through people, events, and circumstances to move us to a decision to reject or receive God's gift of salvation. These incremental steps may include believing in the existence of a Supreme Being, discovering God's attributes and character, hearing the good news of the Gospel, knowing the good news of the Gospel, understanding the good news of the Gospel, agreeing with the good news, admitting personal problems and resistance to His overtures, realizing the need to make a decision one way or another, and finally making a decision to receive or reject the gift of salvation.

The activities I have described above represent the pre-conversion initiatives of God on our behalf. These pre-conversion activities precede conversion and represent God's initiative to reach out to the lost. God 'draws' us to Him. *"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day (John 6:44)."* These divine actions prepare an individual for the possibility of conversion. The following diagram depicts these actions.

Salvation's Trajectory



The next HOAW Newsletter will explore the second phase of Salvation's Trajectory called Conversion.

OTHER NEWS



Heart of a Warrior Ministries offers four journeys you can take to become who

God created you to be.

The Foundation (Ground Zero) helps establish strong biblical foundations for the battles ahead.

The Compass (Phase I) calibrates a warrior's heart and tunes that heart to the heart of God. I am currently leading 45 at Calvary Church WBL Campus on this journey.

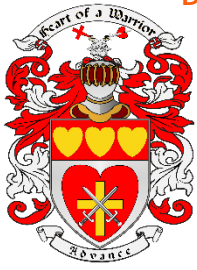
The Map (Phase II) helps men focus on what matters in accordance with their unique divine wiring.

The Guide (Phase III) develops the spiritual discipline of being mentored and mentoring others.

Go to our website for more details.
www.heartofawarrior.org/journeys/

Previous newsletters dating back to January 2018 may be found at
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If you would like to contact me directly, email me at Greg@HeartofaWarrior.org



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depends on the resources we can use to that end. Simply go to the donations tab on heartofawarrior.org.

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Websites for Men

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