ASHEGATE

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Edited by

Soteriology in Theological Perspective

God of Salvation
importance of the kingdom of God.

He is the manifestation of God, the one who brings salvation to all creation. For the believer in the kingdom, this means Jesus Christ (Col. 1:20). The kingdom of God is manifested in the world through the church, which is the visible expression of the invisible kingdom of God. The church is the body of Christ, the New Testament community of believers, who manifest the kingdom of God in the world.

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Chapter 8

Election, Justification, and the Church

Salvation's Setting
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God of election

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Salvation, Saving: Election, Justification and the Church

The doctrine of justification, the central pillar of the Christian faith, is a complex and multifaceted concept that has been a subject of much debate and discussion within the Christian church. Justification is the act of God by which He declares the believer righteous in Christ. It is a free gift of God, received by faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Justification is not the result of good works or human effort, but is a grace of God by which believers are declared righteous in Christ. It is through faith in Christ that believers are justified by faith, and it is this faith that is the foundation of all Christian living and service.

The doctrine of justification is closely connected to the doctrine of election. Election is the act of God by which He chooses to save some and pass over others. Election is based on God's sovereign will and is not dependent on human merit or works. Election is a mystery of God's grace, and it is through faith in Christ that believers are elected to salvation. Justification is the result of election, and it is through justification that believers are made righteous in Christ.

The doctrine of justification is also closely connected to the doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church. The Roman Catholic Church has a different understanding of justification than the Protestant churches. The Roman Catholic Church teaches that justification is a process that involves both faith and good works. Good works are required to perfect one's justification, and they are necessary to attain eternal life. This view of justification is in opposition to the Reformed view, which holds that justification is a free gift of God by faith alone.

In summary, the doctrine of justification is a central theme in the Christian faith. It is through faith in Christ that believers are justified by God, and it is through justification that believers are made righteous in Christ. The doctrine of justification is closely connected to the doctrine of election, and it is also closely connected to the doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church. The Reformed view of justification, which emphasizes the free gift of God by faith alone, is in opposition to the Roman Catholic view, which emphasizes the role of good works in the process of justification.

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Salvation, Saving: Election, Justification and the Church

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III
The relationship between God and human beings is not accidental or incidental. It is a fundamental aspect of God's nature and character. This relationship is founded on the unconditional love of God for humanity. It is a relationship that is characterized by the grace and mercy of God, who extends his love and forgiveness to those who repent and believe in him.

In the Christian faith, this relationship is expressed in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus came into the world as the Son of God to reconciling the world to God. He died on the cross to pay the penalty for the sins of humanity. Through faith in Jesus, believers can be reconciled to God and enter into a relationship of love and fellowship with him.

The consequences of this relationship are profound. It transforms the lives of those who embrace it, bringing them into a living relationship with God. This relationship is characterized by the presence of the Holy Spirit, who indwells believers and empowers them to live as God's children. It is a relationship that is sustained by the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit, who convicts the world of sin, justifies those who believe, and sanctifies them for God's service.

In conclusion, the relationship between God and humanity is a fundamental aspect of God's character. It is a relationship that is characterized by grace, love, and mercy. Through faith in Jesus Christ, believers can enter into this relationship and experience the transformative power of God's love. This relationship is sustained by the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit, who empowers believers to live as God's children and fulfill their purpose in the world.
A Declaration of Independence

A passage from the Declaration of Independence, written by Thomas Jefferson, is a cornerstone of American political philosophy. It asserts that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed. This concept is fundamental to the American democratic system and has influenced political thought worldwide.

The passage reads:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security."
Found their greater freedom and depth of joy.

Looking at the world of human freedom, it is necessary to do so. The freedom of the world is the freedom of the individual, not that which is derived from a new position and new solidarity, but that which is living in the world and in the service of humanity.

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