

The image features two thick black L-shaped brackets. One is positioned in the top-left corner, and the other is in the bottom-right corner. They are oriented towards each other, framing the central text.

# SALVATION IN ORTHODOX TRADITION

# Salvation

- Nicene Creed: “Who for us men and for our salvation.”
- Salvation is deliverance, restoration, and fulfillment of fallen creation including humanity.
- Redemption – to buy back
- Reconciliation – for relationship to be restored
- Atonement – similar to reconciliation

# Orthodox view VS Other Prominent View

- Malankara Orthodox Christians are often familiar with another competing view of Salvation.
- Evangelical View of Salvation
  - *Salvation is ticket to heaven.*
- This view introduced to us through
  - *Fellow Malayalee Protestants*
  - *American Evangelicalism and Second Gen malayalees*

# Orthodox view of salvation.

- “It is possible to become concerned with the lesser arc from fall to redemption to such an extent that one loses sight of the greater arc passing from creation to deification, but the theology of the Fathers – and Orthodox theology, when it is true to itself – avoids this danger, and never forgets that we are dealing with God’s creation, created for union with him.” – Fr Andrew Louth “Introducing Eastern Orthodox Theology”, pg. 70
- Lesser Arc = fall to redemption
- Greater Arc = creation to deification
- Purpose of creation is clear from the end (telos) of creation.
- Creation – Fall – Redemption - Deification

# Part I: What Jesus Does

1. Entire incarnation is salvific (adjective)

Unassumed is unhealed

Purpose of incarnation is to help us to become what we were always intended to become.

Purpose of creation was deification. Jesus helps us to reach that purpose.

Theosis; divinization; deification.

Christ “became what we are in order to make us what he is himself” Irenaeus of Lyons (Against Heresies 5, preface)

# Purpose of creation is deification

- “Christ’s last word on the Cross *tetelestai*, (“it is finished,” or better, “it is consummated”) marks both the creation and the salvation of humanity. Thus through incorporation into Christ by baptism we share in the humanity endowed with divine life which he created. Baptism ‘mingles’ us with the Word of God and enables us to become the dwelling-place of God. By being adopted as sons or daughters of God we are united with the source of life.” (Russel, pg. 25)

# Part I: What Jesus Does: His Death

- Atonement – Propitiation
- Sacrificial nature of his death
- Jesus' death is Substitutionary – Penal Substitutionary Atonement
  - *Orthodox reject idea of wrath of God being inflicted on Jesus*
  - *Orthodox reject that we receive the guilt of Adam*
- Redemption – buying back – Sold into slavery of sin
  - *Liberation – Exodus*
- Reconciliation – Through propitiatory sacrifice we become reunited back to God.
- Death is healing - "By His Stripes We Are Healed" Isaiah 53:5 and 1 Peter 2:24.
- Resurrection is victory over death. "trampled upon death by death" NIKA

# Part II: How do we experience salvation

- In the alternate system
  - *By faith – baptism? Sinners prayer? (Romans Road to Salvation)*
- We have to enter into the work of salvation
  - *Joined to Christ's death, resurrection, and new life. Romans 6*
- We have to keep growing in salvation because goal is perfection / theosis
  - *In alternate system – call this sanctification*
  - *Through grace we continue to grow.*
  - *Sacraments are means of grace. So Sacramental life.*
  - *Experience of communion with God. (not just concern of getting out of hell)*
  - *Salvation continues through a dynamic process of continuous growth being changed from one degree of glory to the other (2 Cor 3:18)*



# Part III: What happens at the end of our lives (or at judgment)?

- Alternative view - acceptance of Jesus gets you a “free pass” to heaven.  
= can you lose your salvation = there will be different answers;
- Our view – paradox between ‘justice’ and ‘mercy’
  - Works don’t earn salvation. If salvation just works alone then incarnation doesn’t make sense.
  - But there will be a judgment. (2 Corinthians 5:10) We need his mercy.
  - What appeals for us at judgment – the body and blood we have consumed; “died with hope in you”

# Conclusion

- Contrast Orthodox View of Salvation w/ Evangelical Protestant
- Part I: What Jesus does.
- Part II: How we experience salvation
- Part III: What happens at the end of our lives.