

4. THE EARLY MIDDLE AGES – FROM 451 - 1054

Ephesians 2:4-9, But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ- by grace you have been saved- ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

1. THE FIFTH AND SIXTH CENTURIES

(a) Political fragmentation

The west: Barbarians! Alaric sacks Rome in 410

Eastern Empire centred on Constantinople

(b) Church divisions

East continues to debate Christology... doctrine of salvation clearly Pelagian

West: Augustine (officially) wins... though semi-Pelagianism ever present

(c) In the East: Emperor Justinian - Caesaropapism

(d) In the West: Pope Gregory the Great – papal monarchy

2. The ninth century

(a) **In the East: Muslims, missionaries and icons**

(b) **In the West: consolidation and Charlemagne**

(c) **More church divisions!**

How do you get saved? Justification... or deification

“Filioque” (and from the Son) → great split → Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches

3. Monasticism

(a) **What?**

E.g. St Anthony, Simeon the Stylite, Benedict of Nursia

Purity, self-denial, pursuit of God, no private property, rigorous discipline

(b) **Why?**

No more persecution!

Deny the body to purify the soul

Barbarians, disorder and mayhem!

(c) **Evaluation**

Positively: (i) Focus on Christ; (ii) Evangelistic endeavor – Patrick, Martin, Boniface; (iii) Preserved orthodox theology; (iv) Provided community services

Negatively: (i) Soteriology: legalistic, synergistic, view of salvation; (ii) Engagement with the world? (iii) Ripe for corruption.

4. How do you encounter the grace of God?

(a) Why was this a question?

To help the ill-educated

Because of faulty theology and philosophy

Because of inflated view of the role of the church

(b) New features of church life and piety

Transubstantiation (cf. Aristotle)

Cult of saints, Mary

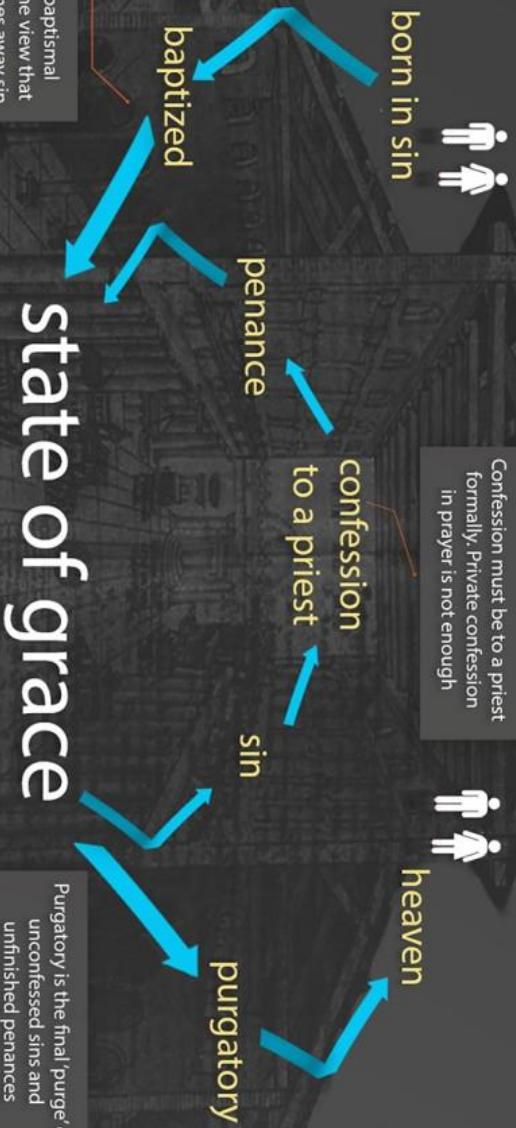
Relics

Penance

➔ Reformation!!!

Medieval View of Salvation

a visual explanation



Catholics teach baptismal regeneration, or the view that baptism itself washes away sin

Confession must be to a priest formally. Private confession in prayer is not enough

Purgatory is the final 'purge' of unconfessed sins and unfinished penances

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