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Catholic Soteriology
i.e.,
Safety Nets and a Vending Machine

The Pelagian Controversy

Two extremes

Augustine

Pelagius

Salvation by Justification

Salvation by Sanctification



Augustine



Pelagius

Responses to the Pelagian Controversy

- Catholic Soteriology and Ecclesiology

~~Predestination~~

GOD



Extra ecclesiam nulla salus

Salvation impossible without a visible church and its ministry

Responses to the Pelagian Controversy

• Semi-Pelagianism 1.0

- Rejected Augustinian anthropology (humans are bad)
- Rejected Pelagian anthropology (humans are good)
- Affirmed:
 - Moral weakness (the Fall did not damage us too terribly)
 - Humans initiate the process of salvation
 - Humans cooperate with God



John Cassian (ca. 360-435)

Responses to the Pelagian Controversy

• Semi-Pelagianism 2.0

- Rejected Augustinian anthropology
- Rejected Pelagian anthropology



Semi-Pelagianism 1.0 (classical)

- Moral weakness but not total damage
- Humans initiate the process of salvation
- God cooperates with humans

Semi-Pelagianism 2.0 (RCC version, modified)

- Moral weakness but not total damage
- God initiates the process of salvation
- God cooperates with humans

The official Catholic position

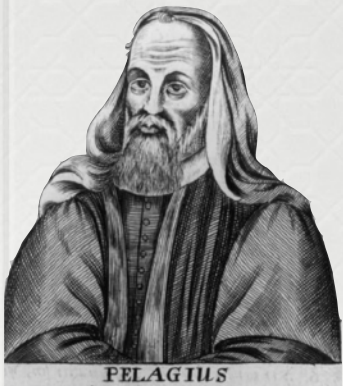


Responses to the Pelagian Controversy

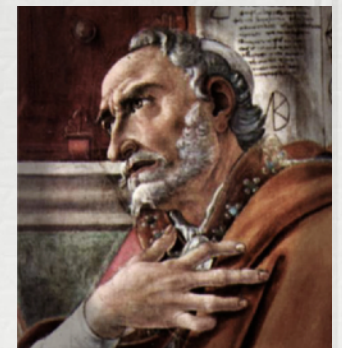
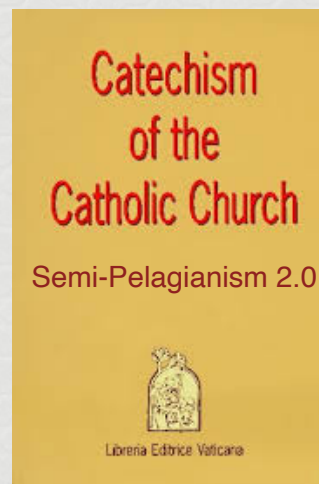
- **Summary:**

After the Fall:

- **Pelagianism: Humans are morally healthy** (like Adam before the Fall)
- **Augustinianism: Human are morally dead**
- **Semi-Pelagianism: Humans are morally sick**



Pelagius



Augustine



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Semi-pelagianism 1.0

Semi-pelagianism 2.0: RCC version

- Bottom line: Humans are not that bad, really!

Original Sin

Original Sin

	<i>Pelagius</i>	<i>Augustine</i>	<i>Semi-Pelagianism 1 & 2</i>
 <i>Guilt</i>			
 <i>Inclination to Sin</i>			
 <i>Total Depravity</i>			

The Catholic Way of Salvation

- The Catholic Understanding of Human Nature
 - Pre-Fall humans - perfect
 - The Fall damages (but does not eradicate) free will; makes humans morally sick
 - God initiates the process of salvation
 - Human Response ? desire for baptism

The Catholic Way of Salvation

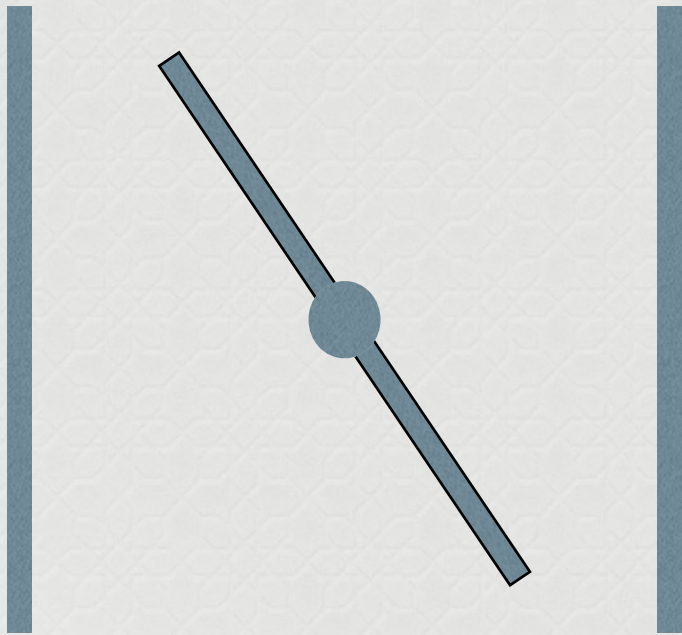
- The Catholic Understanding of Human Nature
 - What does Baptism do?
 - Removes Adam's guilt
 - Infuses God's special grace (*habitus*)
 - Results in a permanent change in human nature



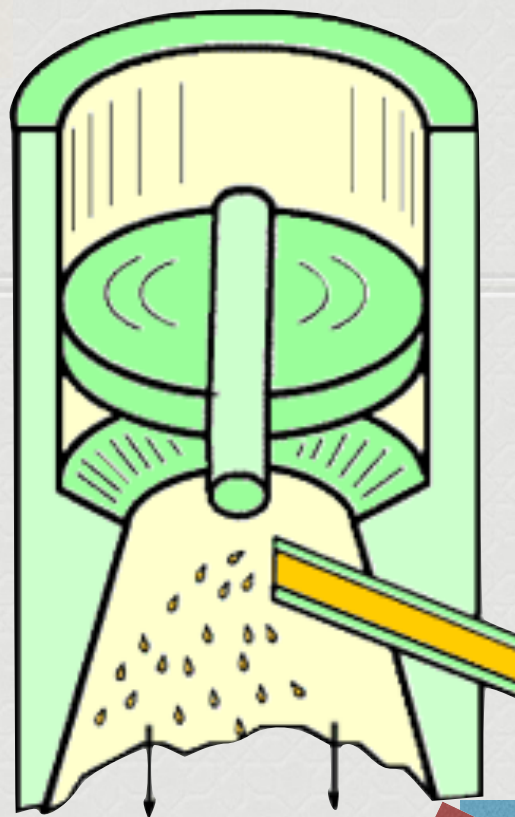
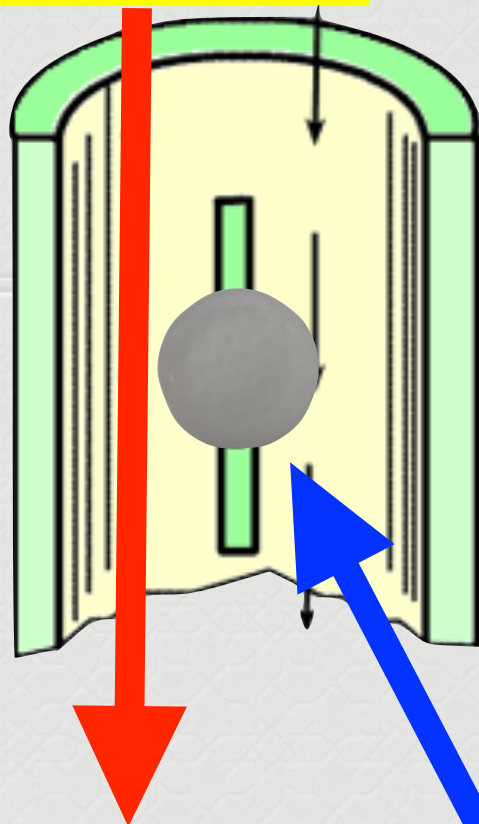
**DOMINICUS
CHARACTER**

The seal of the Lord





God's Grace



*Dominicus character
(the seal)*

~~“All our righteous
acts are like filthy
rags” (Isa 64:6)~~

Ontological Righteousness

The Catholic Way of Salvation

AUGUSTINE
Justification

CATHOLIC
CHURCH
Ontological
Righteousness

PELAGIUS
Sanctification

*Justification **combined** with
sanctification*

The Catholic Way of Salvation

- ✦ *Cooperation with God - essential for salvation*
- ✦ *God's Work + My Efforts = Salvation*



God's Work + My Efforts (cooperation) = Salvation

Isn't this what we, as Seventh-day Adventists, teach?

Don't I have to co-operate with God and be obedient to the commandments so that I can be saved?



The Catholic Way of Salvation

- Summary: How are humans saved?
 - *Pactum* Theology
 - Salvation *via* faith and works
 - No such thing as *salvation by faith alone*: impossible
 - Justification is mixed up with obedience (sanctification)



The Catholic Way of Salvation



- Summary: How are humans saved?
 - Good Works: real, righteous efforts that must be rewarded (merit)
 - Believers can increase their justification
 - Desired end: state of perfection

*But what if a believer is not good
enough to get to heaven?*

The Catholic Way of Salvation

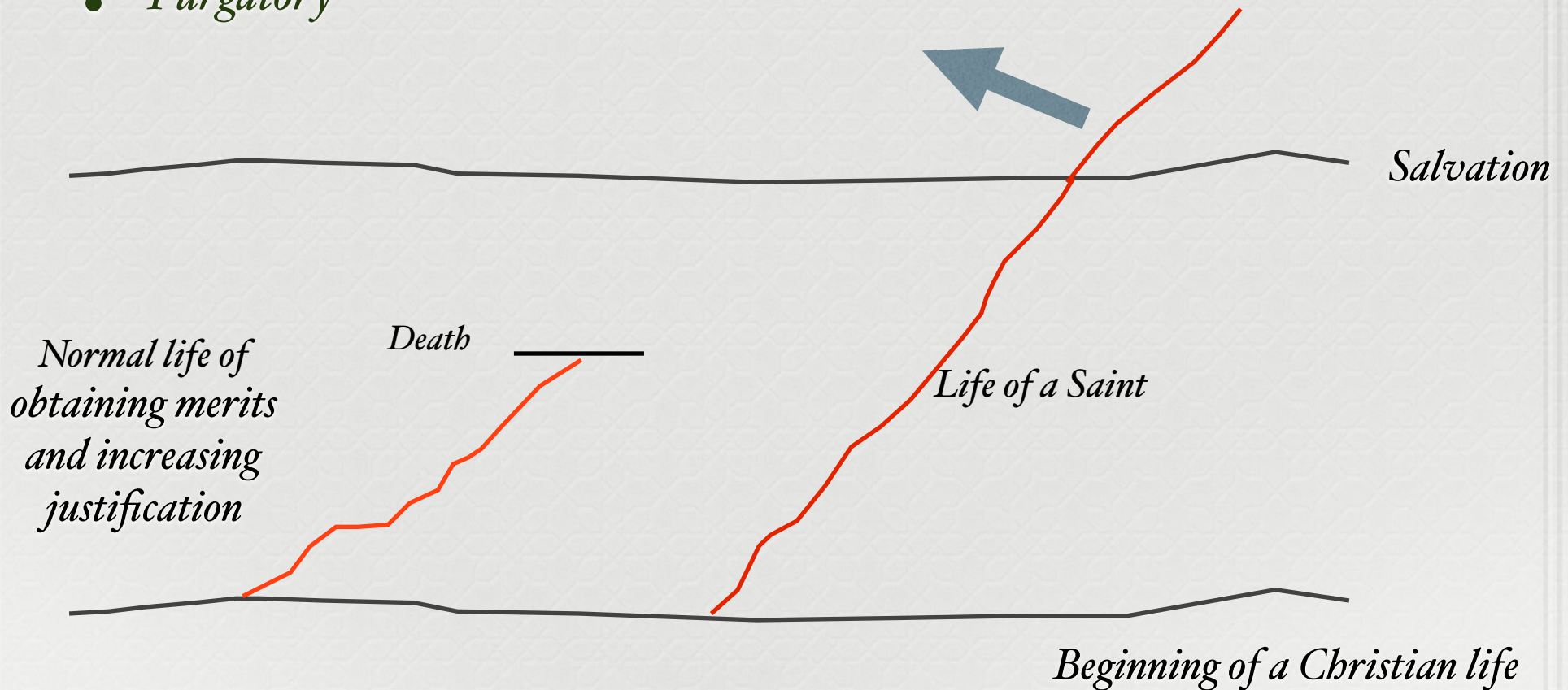
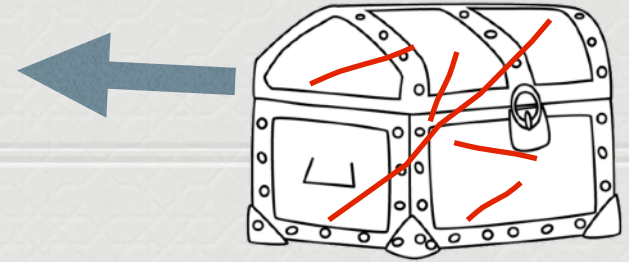


Safety Net

The Catholic Way of Salvation

Catholic Safety Nets

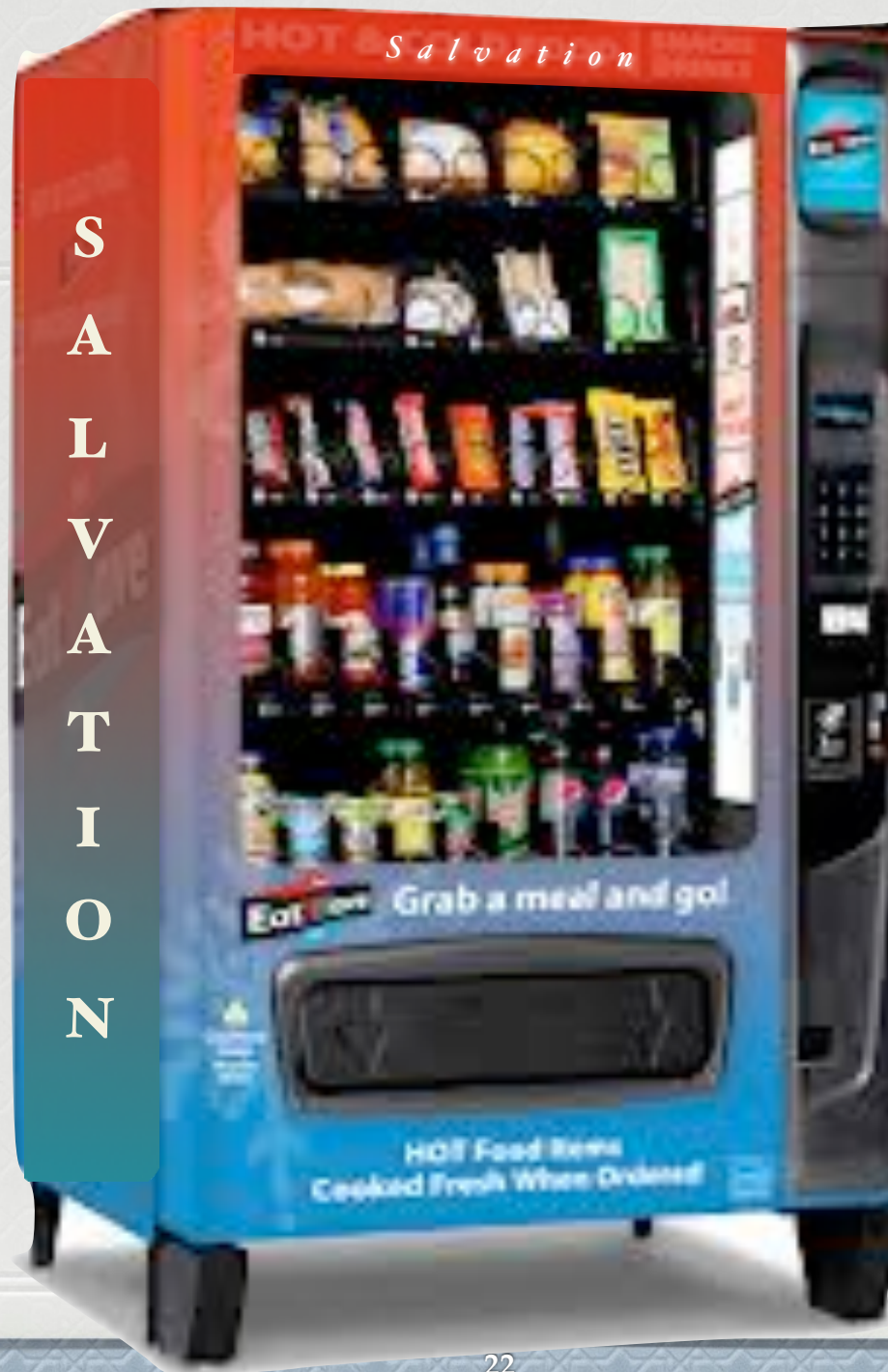
- *Treasury of Merits*
- *Purgatory*



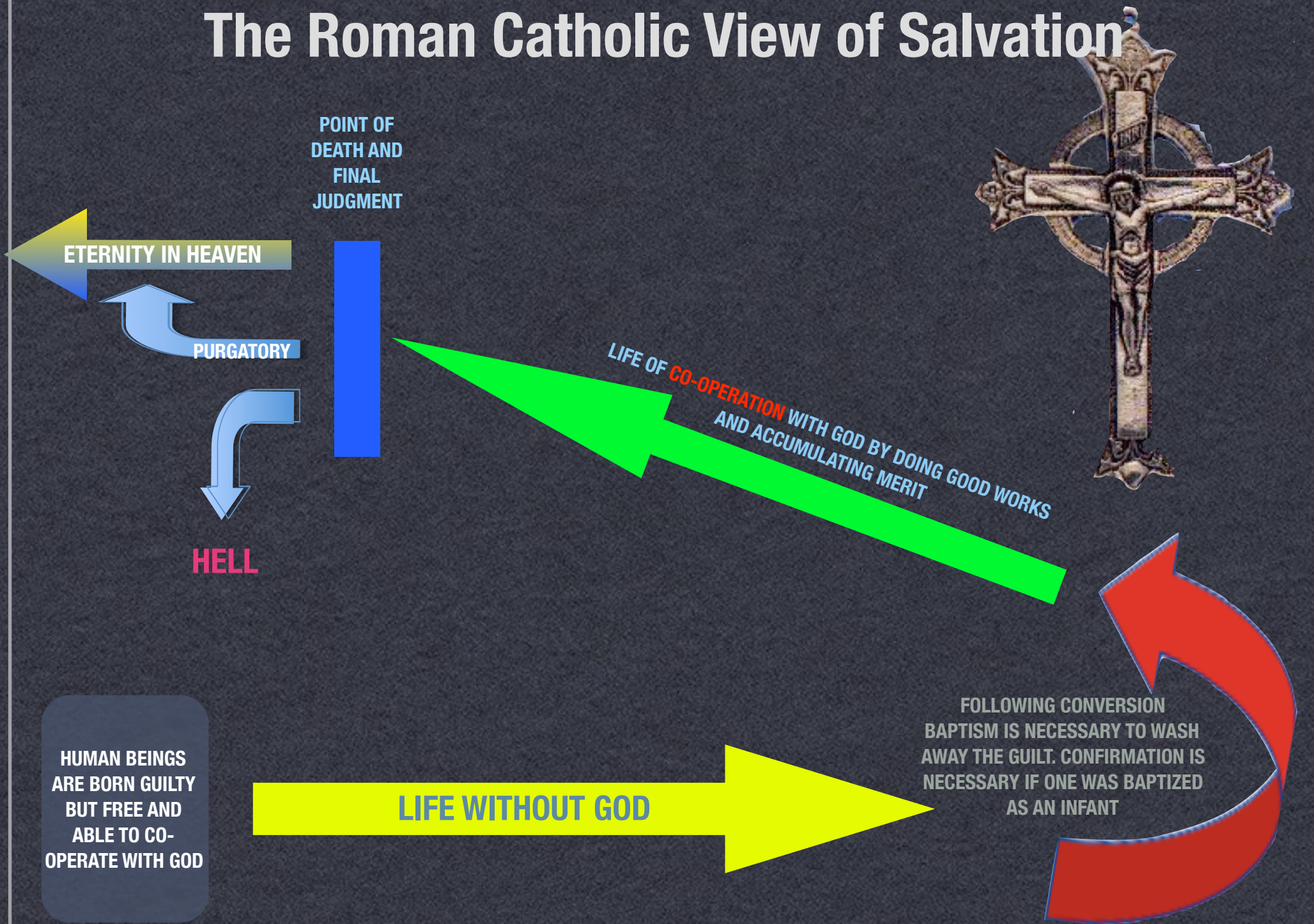
The Catholic Way of Salvation

Summary

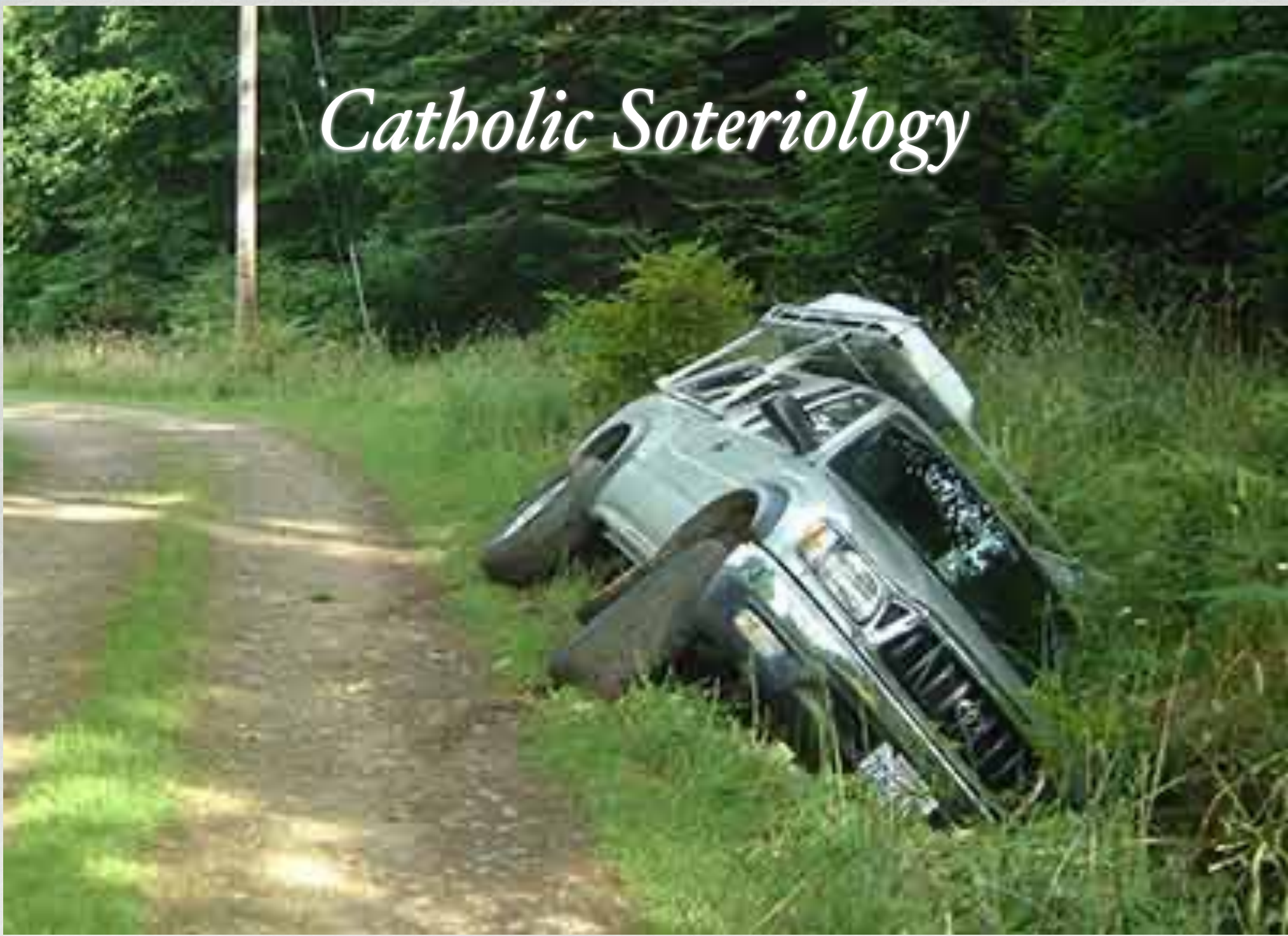
- ✿ Justification + Sanctification = **Amalgamated into one thing**
- ✿ Believer's behavior is the key to salvation
- ✿ Desired end result: **state of perfection** (not reckoned as perfect)
- ✿ At death: investigation of behaviour and eternal allocation
- ✿ But don't worry too much: **there are many safety nets**



The Roman Catholic View of Salvation



Catholic Soteriology



- **Discuss the Roman Catholic understanding of Salvation.**
 - **What is semi-Pelagianism?**
 - **What is ontological righteousness?**
- **Are Adventists semi-Pelagian? If so, how do we differ from Catholics as far as our doctrine of salvation?**