

So Great A Salvation – 2 Corinthians 1:10

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Pray

Introduction

Tonight, we are going to talk about one of the greatest topics in the Bible, the salvation that God provided for us in Jesus Christ. Now this salvation that the Bible talks about is referred to in a variety of ways and in what I am going to refer to tonight as phases or parts if you will.

The study of salvation, or soteriology, is a rich and full doctrine and as you study it, it becomes clear that salvation is referred to in three distinct tenses for the believer. Past, present, and future. That God has saved us, that He is saving us, and that He will save us.

For example, our main text for tonight is out of 2 Corinthians where Paul says....

2 Corinthians 1:10

¹⁰ who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us,

He delivered us [past] from so great a death, and he will deliver us[present continuous] and on him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again[future].

Now while the direct context of these verses refers to Paul's time in Asia, we have here a powerful testimony to the full and extensive salvation provided for us in Jesus Christ.

So great: so large or so vast in degree “*so great a death*”

And because this death was so great, we needed a salvation that would be even greater.

Hebrews 2:2-3

² For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, ³ how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard *Him*,

For so great a death, we would then need so great a salvation and oh do we have one in Jesus.

HE IS OUR DELIVERER

Delivered/Does Deliver/Will Still Deliver: rescue, to free from harm or evil

*This is **HIS** work in our lives.*

And so, in this deliverance, this salvation, we become born again by the Spirit of God and are regenerated as new Creations in Christ. Then God works in us daily as we pursue Him to make us holy and like Jesus. Then one day we will be delivered from this world entirely to be with Him forever.

The terms that are used to describe these important realities *are justification, sanctification, and glorification*. These three words are used to describe the Christian journey from new birth to our ultimate bodily resurrection.

Justification – Past tense – Positional – “I am in Christ”

Sanctification – Present tense – Progressive – “I am becoming like Christ”

Glorification – Future tense – Permanent – “I will be with Christ”

Justification: we are saved from the penalty of sin
Sanctification: we are being saved from the power of sin
Glorification: we will be saved from the presence of sin

Justification – the declaration of holiness
Sanctification – the process of holiness
Glorification – the completion of holiness

Now these phases aren't like a Chipotle where you choose from which one's you want....
but if you have one then you have them all. AND THANK GOD FOR THIS

If God justified you, then He will sanctify you, if you have been justified and are being sanctified, then one day He will glorify your earthly body to His glorious body.

We see this also in Paul's first letter to the Corinthians when talking about the gospel of our salvation.

1 Corinthians 1:30

³⁰ But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption

Pastor Jack: Righteousness = He gives it **Sanctification** = He does it **Redemption** = He finishes It

IF YOU ARE A TRUE BELIEVER IN JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD THEN....

You have been forever justified, you are in the process of being sanctified, and you will one day be glorified guaranteed.

All three of these amazing things are from God's grace, not because of anything you have done or will do to earn them.

You cannot earn your justification, you cannot achieve your sanctification, and you cannot merit your glorification. God makes all these things happen out of His love for you, by His grace alone.

Let's dive into each of these individually....

Phase #1 – Justification

¹⁰ *who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us,*

Justified or Justification: to be set free, to remove guilt, to be put right with, to cause one to be put in right relationship with, to be declared righteous

This word is very "legal" in nature. It has a lot of legal implications to it.

The Scripture tell us that God is a God of justice. He is a God of righteousness. We know that God is described specifically as a Just Judge.

And a just and good judge who is to uphold the righteousness of the law never turns a blind eye or makes an exception. A just judge never looks the other way or sweeps injustice under the rug.

AND SO HERE IN LIES THE PROBLEM FOR MANKIND

Because we know that mankind (including all of us) are very guilty before the just and right law of God. And though God is love, He is as much just as He is love and so God CANNOT and WILLNOT turn a blind eye to our sin.

THIS IS WHERE THE PLAN OF GOD'S REDEMPTION & DELIVERANCE COMES INTO PLAY

He knows that we do not have the capacity in and of ourselves to become just or righteous before Him. We have sin and it MUST be dealt with. This is where Jesus comes in.

HE LIVED THE LIFE WE COULDN'T LIVE AND HE DIED THE DEATH WE SHOULD HAVE DIED

And so, it is as we repent of our sins & acknowledge our sin problem, that put our faith and trust in the work of Jesus Christ both in his life, death, resurrection, and ascension that we are given the benefits of what He did.

Though we are unjust, we are declared just. (justified). Though we are unrighteous, we are given His righteousness. Though we are guilty, we are set free. **THIS IS THE HOPE OF THE GOSPEL**

An easy way to remember and understand justification is when we are justified God now looks at you *"Just as if you never sinned"*

Have you sinned? Absolutely but God no longer looks at you only, but He looks at Jesus who never sinned and you are now **IN CHRIST**.

Pastor Jack has been teaching through the book of Romans on Sundays and this is exactly what Paul hits over and over again in chapters 3, 4, 5, & 6.

Romans 3:22-24

²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

This righteousness of God is THROUGH faith in Jesus Christ. And this is something for everyone who would believe because ALL have sinned and fallen short of God's glory.

JUSTIFIED FREELY (*without any cost to you*)

It doesn't cost us anything but costed Him everything.

Romans 5:1

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, Paul here talks about the result of BEING justified by faith and the first and foremost result is that we have PEACE with God. (*v.1*)

He makes us who were once enemies and by nature children of wrath, at peace with God and now considered the very children of God in Christ! And now we have access to experience the peace of God in our daily lives.

THIS IS THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL

We can't do it, but He did do it for us and in us. And it is as we put our faith in what He did do we receive the benefits of being at peace and reconciled to God.

This justification is the great exchange.... or what I like to call the grace exchange.

2 Corinthians 5:21

²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

By faith we exchange our sin for His righteousness. It isn't fair but it is just. It isn't fair for Jesus because of His innocence, but it is just because God's wrath toward our sin is satisfied in the sacrifice that Jesus made for us.

SO HOW DOES ONE BECOME JUSTIFIED? WHAT IS THE STARTING POINT OF SALVATION?

Jesus said....

Matthew 12:37

³⁷ For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.

But it's not only the words you say but the words are an outward expression of what's happening in the heart. That's why Paul puts the two together here in Romans...

Romans 10:9-10

⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

This the start. You cannot experience the other aspects of salvation until this happens.

Justification is a one-time event, sanctification is a process, and glorification is a future event.

And once you are justified, you cannot be justified again or ever lose that status. *Because your justification in the first place wasn't dependent on you and the continuation of that very status also won't be dependent on you.*

John 5:24

²⁴ "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

We pass from so great a death to so great a life in Jesus. That is justification.

Now unfortunately this is where a lot of people can stop and never move on and experience the continual sanctification that God does in us.

God makes us positionally righteous in Christ but then desires to make us practically righteous in our lives (still in Christ). *Over and over again in the Scriptures, God says "Be holy, for I am holy."*

At times, during an altar call, people who are already justified can make the mistake that they need to get saved again. When really, they are saved and they just need to continue in the process!

They are already in Christ and now begins the work of the Holy Spirit to make them like Christ!

Phase #2 – Sanctification

¹⁰ *who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us,*

Sanctification: the act of becoming more dedicated to God, to become holy, to be set apart for God's special use and to make distinct from what is common

This is the process by which God sets us apart from the rest of the world in His holiness and in likeness to Jesus. It is progressive and experiential. This is what it means to grow in the Lord and to grow in spiritual maturity. This is the process that we are currently in as believers in this world.

The writer of Hebrews gives us our **BASIS or FOUNDATION** for one's sanctification.

Hebrews 10:10 & 14

¹⁰ By that will we have been **sanctified** through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*.
¹⁴ For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are **being sanctified**.

In **Hebrews 10:10** the verb “*sanctified*” is a perfect participle, literally “*having been sanctified*,” indicating the present result of a past action. Sanctification is something that has been done once for all, but its effect still continues—as stated in **Hebrews 10:14**, “those who are being sanctified.”

It's kind of like when you buy a car. It's an exciting day when you buy it (well the paperwork isn't fun). But then after you drive the car. You follow through on what you did on that day by actually driving the car! Or like after you get a job on the spot. You got the job but then in the following days you do the job. A follow through. Sanctification is the follow through and response of being justified.

Jesus said in his High Priestly prayer the night He was betrayed...

John 17:15-17

¹⁵ I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

Taking us out of the world is the in the realm of glorification. But we have been sent into this world that we are no longer “of” and we **MUST** be sanctified by God.

Don't think justification is a work of God and then we have to do the sanctifying. Good luck trying to sanctify yourself. Every part of salvation is HIS work. And notice it is the truth of God's word that will be the ultimate means of our sanctification. Without the Word of God in our lives, we will not be able to be experience His sanctification in us.

But in the same vein, we have to allow this work to be done in us. We must work OUT our salvation. The power is from Him but just as He never forced us to experience His justification, He will not force His sanctification on us.

Philippians 2:12-13

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.

Work **OUT**, not work **FOR**. We can't work for our salvation, but we can work it out. He works it in, and we work it out.

Work out: to put something into effect

This is to be done with fear and trembling. We are to work it out with a reverence for the Lord!

But even as we work out our salvation in sanctification, it is GOD who is working in us both to will and to do! Meaning God puts it in us to want to do this and works in us the ability to do it! God is the ultimate source of our own sanctification. Without Him, we won't get very far. *Without His working, we*

will be like a car without gas, a phone without battery, a runner without legs, and an airplane without wings.

This is why Paul would pray this regarding the Thessalonians...

1 Thessalonians 5:23

²³ Now may the God of peace **Himself sanctify you** completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

When writing to the crazy Corinthian church Paul says...

1 Corinthians 6:11

¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

Sanctification is the outworking of a changed person in everyday life. It is the daily transforming work of the Holy Spirit in a justified life.

But we are to **PURSUE** it....

Hebrews 12:14

¹⁴ Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

This word holiness is the same word in the Greek as the word sanctification. It doesn't say we need to perfect holiness in our lives, but pursue holiness.

Pursue: to strive to do something with intense effort

It would be how an Olympian would go for the gold. Olympians dedicate their entire lives for one singular purpose. Everything they do is affected. What they do, what they eat, where they live, how much they sleep. They train, they workout, they get after it!

This is what God told the Israelites through **Moses** in the Old Testament.

Leviticus 20:7-8

⁷ Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I *am* the LORD your God. ⁸ And you shall keep My statutes, and perform them: I *am* the LORD who sanctifies you.

Consecrate is the same word as "sanctifies"

God says consecrate yourselves but then in the same section, He says I am the Lord who sanctifies you. THIS IS THE LIFE OF THE ONE WHO FOLLOWS THE LORD

Paul would say it this way!

Galatians 2:20

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Oswald Chambers said "Sanctification is not something Jesus Christ puts into me: it is Himself in me."

It was Paul's life, but He allowed Christ to live in and through His life. He made the daily decision, but it was Jesus who did all the heavy lifting!

We live our initial sanctification with an eye to the goal of our final sanctification.

We were sanctified, we are being sanctified, and we will one day be wholly sanctified.

We were made holy, we are being made holy, and we will one day be made completely holy.

ARE YOU PURSING SANCTIFICATION? ARE YOU PURSING HOLINESS? It isn't a matter of victory or defeat; Christ has made us more than conquerors. It is a matter of obedience.

Are you allowing God by His Holy Spirit and His word to sanctify you? Are you allowing Him to mold you into the person of Jesus?

YOU MIGHT BE JUSTIFIED BUT ARE YOU ALLOWING GOD TO SANCTIFY YOU?

You don't need to get saved again; you just need to walk in the salvation He has already done in you!

Phase #3 – Glorification

¹⁰ *who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us,*

And now we look forward to our final deliverance and salvation provided completely and solely by the Lord Jesus Christ. Our future glorification. We have been saved, we are being saved, and we NOW TRUST HIM that HE WILL STILL SAVE US.

In whom we trust: to have a confident hope & expectation

The basis for our confidence is His past work in our lives. If He has delivered us, and even now is delivering us, then we can trust that one day He will deliver us completely.

1 Thessalonians 1:10

¹⁰ and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *even* Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

We wait and look with confident expectation in Jesus who will deliver us.

Glorification: there is no word in the Hebrew Old Testament or the Greek New Testament for glorification, however the concept is fully there being conveyed by the words "glory" or "glorified."

The most common use of this word is how we give "glory" to God. It is to bring honor and praise to God by recognizing Him as GREAT. It is to magnify the greatness of someone.

The other sense that this same word is used is to describe the state of a person after their resurrection. We see in Scripture that this was the state that Jesus entered after rising from the dead on that resurrection Sunday!

John 7:39 & John 12:16

³⁹ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet *given*, **because Jesus was not yet glorified.**

¹⁶ His disciples did not understand these things at first; **but when Jesus was glorified**, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and *that* they had done these things to Him.

After the resurrection, Jesus still had a body, and it was His body! Yet He was no longer bound by physical limits. He was able to appear and disappear. It seems the disciples could tell it was Jesus but almost couldn't recognize him at times. Yet it was still a body that could eat with the disciples.

Jesus' post resurrected body is His glorified body. And it serves as a model for how our bodies will one day be transformed and glorified. The difference about our bodies is that unlike Jesus we won't have any scars on ours. Jesus will have the only marred human body in eternity.

This glorification of our future bodies will mean that we will be immortal beings. We will never again get sick or can die. It will be how God intended our bodies to be all along. Though sin dwells in our flesh now, God will take away the presence and temptation of sin within our lives.

When we are justified and sanctified, our inner person is changed. Our spirit is made alive and we are then daily transformed on the inside. However, our bodies are still sinful. What happens when we are glorified is that there will no longer be these two natures that we struggle with. Our inner person will perfectly match our physical bodies. Sin is done away with.

Romans 8 is probably the most extensive chapter in the Bible on this topic of our glorification.

Paul took the first 7 chapters to talk all about justification and sanctification and now he focuses his attention on this final phase of salvation, glorification. *What is the end of our salvation?*

Verse 17 – *“that we may also be glorified together.”*

Verse 18 – speaks of Present Sufferings compared to Future Glory

Verse 21 – *“will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.”*

Verse 23 – *“eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.”*

And then Paul gets to this point where He brings it altogether...

Romans 8:29-30

²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Being conformed to the image of His Son, that is sanctification. He talks about His predestination which note that it is preceded by His foreknowledge. (*but that is another topic for another day*)

THESE, He called, He justified and then finally notice... HE GLORIFIED

The verb used (v.30) is in the past tense, which some have taken to mean the certainty and finality of glorification. *Glorification is the completion, the consummation, the perfection, the full realization of salvation.*

Paul saw glorification as the final climax to the salvation that God provided for His people.

God view's our glorification as past tense because it is according to His unchanging word that this is our future.

This is something that is completely solidified in heaven!

Colossians 3:3-4

³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

It is kind of like if you received an acceptance letter to a school of your dreams. There is celebration and excitement, and you are in! But the fulfillment of that has not yet been received. There is of course joy in the moment, but you look forward to the day where you get to actually get to be on campus.

Paul would say something similar in his writings to the Philippians...

Philippians 3:20-21

²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Right now, our inner person is being conformed to the person of Jesus through sanctification. There will be a time where He transforms our earthly physical bodies like the body that Jesus has!

We currently have this dual citizenship, but we don't yet live in the land that is our home! We are pilgrims and sojourners longing for our home country.

John looked forward to this as well and writes in his epistle...

1 John 3:2-3

² Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, **we shall be like Him**, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

This is a fulfillment of Romans 8:29 being then COMPLETELY conformed to the image of Jesus.

"we shall see Him as He is"

This will one of the greatest benefits of experiencing our glorification. We will see Him face to face. We will get to touch Him and hear Him in person! **THIS IS OUR HOPE**

Notice what this HOPE does in our lives, it causes us to live a pure or holy life. The more we learn about this hope of our salvation the more we want to live like that today!

*We are a work in progress but one day we will be completed works. He will complete His work in us, **Glorification is the perfection of sanctification.***

Hebrews 2:10

¹⁰ For it was fitting for Him, for whom *are* all things and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Jesus is defined as the captain of our salvation bring many "to glory". We must not forget that just like justification, and sanctification, that this is His work. His work in us.

Jesus is the author & finisher of our faith! (*Hebrews 12:2*)

Author (*same word as captain*): trailblazer, pioneer, founder, initiator, originator

Finisher: a perfecter, someone who brings something to completion

GOD ALWAYS ENDS WHAT HE BEGINS. HE ALWAYS COMPLETES WHAT HE STARTS.

He started it, He will finish it. **WE NEED OUR EYES ON THE PRIZE AND RUN TOWARD JESUS**

SO GREAT A SALVATION WE HAVE IN JESUS

Put your faith fully in Christ today! Allow His sanctifying Word to wash over you and work out your salvation with fear and trembling as we look forward to the day of our ultimate salvation that motivates us to live every day now for Jesus our Savior.

C.H. Spurgeon (*during a sermon delivered at the Metropolitan Tabernacle on May 13th, 1880*)

He *hath* delivered you; then, give him your gratitude: he *is* delivering you; then, give him your confidence: he *will* deliver you; then give him a full and joyful expectation, and begin even now to praise him for mercies which are yet to come, and for grace which you have not tasted yet, but which you shall taste in his good time.

He hath delivered; he doth deliver; and *he will yet deliver*; the same Person, working in the beginning, in the center, and at the close. It is all of God from first to last; there is not one deliverance which you have ever had which you can ascribe to anyone but the Lord alone. Inside heaven's gate, all the praise is given to the Triune Jehovah: "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be;" and outside heaven's gate, let us sing the same song, to the same tune; let it always be to the praise of grace, *grace*, GRACE; to the God of grace, the Father of grace, the Christ of grace, the Holy Ghost and his grace; and to God be all the glory, for ever and for ever! Amen.