

The Doctrine of Salvation (Part 3) – Various Scriptures

Jn 1:11-12; We're in the middle of a series called Blessed Assurance; For the purpose of understanding all that God has to say about salvation, and solidify our convictions
B/c more often than not our *experience* of salvation exceeds our knowledge of it
Which leads to more doubt than assurance

And thus far (**Review Slide**), we've covered 8 different aspects of it

From election and propitiation, to justification and reconciliation

Salvation is deliverance from sin and its consequences, through belief in the death and resurrection of Jesus

12 Aspects of Salvation

1. Election – God's choosing of people to be saved
2. Propitiation – the appeasement of God's wrath for our sin
3. Calling – the proclamation and acceptance of the gospel
4. Regeneration – the act of God to give us spiritual life
5. Conversion – our response of faith and repentance
6. Redemption – our rescue and release from sin and Satan
7. Justification – God's imputation and declaration of our righteousness
8. Reconciliation – the removal of enmity between us and God

Which brings us to Part 3, and . . .

9. Adoption – becoming a member of God's family

Over and over again, the New Testament bears witness to the fact that in Christ, we are God's children

Like John 1:11-12 – *He [Jesus] came to his own [the Jews], and his own people did not receive him [they didn't accept him as their Savior and Lord]. [12] But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God*
The right to be adopted into his family

Just like **Gal 4:4-5** says – *When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son . . . that we might receive adoption as sons.* It's a biblical word

And **1 John 3:1** says – *See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.*

Over and over again the Bible tells us that we are members of God's family; One of his own; Having been adopted by God himself*****

- And if you've ever heard salvation referred to as a *relationship*, this is the reason
B/c adoption, by nature, *implies* it; Just like an adopted child has a loving relationship with his new parents
When God welcomes us into his family, a relationship begins; A *personal* relationship
Where we relate to him as our Father – someone who loves us, understands us, takes care of us, blesses us, and promises us an inheritance; What a privilege

As is the *fellowship* we have with one another; The mutual partnership for a common cause, where we treat one another as brothers and sisters and mothers and fathers
Another privilege

And don't leave out *discipline*; Which may not *seem* like a privilege at the time . . .
But leave it out and we suffer terribly; Look at our prisons
They're *filled* with people who weren't loved enough by their parents to discipline them

But thank God that's not the case with our *heavenly* Father; *For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.* (Heb 12:6)

It's a privilege; B/c left to our own devices, we suffer terribly in life

Relationship, fellowship, and discipline – all privileges of our adoption, as sons and daughters in the family of God

- The question is, are you enjoying them or hindering them?
Are you cultivating your relationship with the Lord, or letting it slide?
Are you gathering with the saints, or avoiding them?
Are you heeding God's discipline, or chaffing against it?
Our adoption is a blessing; And an aspect of our salvation we can't afford to ignore

That brings us to the 10th and 11th aspects of our salvation, that along with conversion, *show* we're saved; The first being . . .

10. Sanctification – becoming more like Christ

And not only does it *show* we're saved, but it's ongoing

- So far, all the aspects of our salvation occurred at the *beginning* of our Christian lives;
Or before; And they're complete for the most part
But not sanctification; Our sanctification is ongoing and progressive
And it refers to a decrease in the works of the flesh, and an increase in the fruit of the Spirit; Or more succinctly – a decrease in sin, and an increase in righteousness
That's the idea of becoming more like Christ; Of being sanctified

And there are 3 parts to it; First . . .

• It's a command

Rom 6:12-13; Paul just got through saying, that we're dead to sin and alive to God by his act of regenerating and redeeming us; And then says . . .

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.

IOW you've been released from that prison, so act like it; You've been freed from that pimp, so don't go back

And then he says it again – *[13] Do not present your members [the parts of your body] to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.* IOW be sanctified – less sinful, and more righteous

And then he ties it all together in v19b – *For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.*

It's a command; And part of our salvation; Not that your efforts in this respect *save* you, but *show* you are saved; And glorify the one who did it; Second . . .

• It's both active and passive

Passive, in that God does his part; And active, in that we do ours; It's a *cooperative* thing; Between us and God

God, b/c of Scriptures like **2 Thess 2:13** – *God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.*

God's *Spirit* is the one who enables us to decrease in sin and increase in righteousness

But **Phil 2:12** says – *Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; As in, get after it; Actively; Do your part; On the one hand it's God, and on the other, it's you* Which means that sanctification is a *cooperative* work; Between us and God God, through the empowerment of his Spirit, and us, through our obedience to his Word*****

It's a command, it's both active and passive, and . . .

- **It's the best evidence of salvation**

B/c faith without works, is dead; Useless; Not real (Js 1:17, 20)

So the best evidence of true salvation is not raising your hand, or praying a prayer, or walking down the aisle Those things are good and helpful sometimes, and give *some* indication of being saved But the *best* indication, the truest test of an authentic work of God in a person's life, is sanctification; The steady, ongoing moral transformation . . . That God *begins* at regeneration, and continues until the day you die

I love how one **commentator** put it; He said . . .

"A memorable conversion experience may serve as an important reference point for a saving work of God in one's life, but it is only the obvious, ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in making one more and more like Jesus that gives sufficiently clear indication that a person has been made a new creation in Christ." (ESV Study Bible, 2531)

How about it? Does your sanctification show? Are you becoming more like Christ? Is there more to your faith than lip service? (**Summary**) I hope so; B/c it's a crucial aspect of your salvation, and the best evidence that it's real

11. Perseverance – God's empowerment to keep the faith

Here's the bottom line on this one – if we don't persevere in our faith, we're not saved;

And never were; But the Bible teaches that those who *are* saved, *will* persevere Two sides of the same coin; And I want to look at each in turn; Starting with this . . .

- **Only those who persevere in their faith have been saved**

In **Jn 8:31** – *Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples; Do you see it? If you abide, you're his* *If you continue to believe what he says and live it out, you're saved; If you don't, you're not; And never were; Only those who *persevere* in their faith have been saved*

And then there's **Col 1:22-23** – *He [Jesus] has now reconciled [you] in his body of flesh by his death [he has saved you], in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, [23] if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard* You're saved *now*, if you continue later; If you persevere

And **Heb 3:14** says – *We share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.* Only those who persevere to the end, were saved in the beginning But that doesn't mean your salvation is *dependent* on your perseverance If that were the case, these verses would say that we *will* be saved if we persevere But they don't; They refer to our salvation as a fact of the past, or *present* if we persevere; Which means that our salvation is *shown* by our perseverance*****

It's like the French classes I had to take in college; If I had persevered and become fluent, it would have shown that the introductory classes stuck That I had embraced them fully and French was a part of me But as it stands, all I remember is – Allouette, jaunte alloutte; Alloutte, jaunte plumerais And I can't even tell you what that *means*; Which shows that French was never a part of my soul

If you persevere in your faith, you show you were saved when you first confessed***** If you don't, you weren't; That's the first part

The 2nd is this . . .

- **And those who are genuinely saved will persevere to the end**

Paul says in **Phil 1:6** – *I am sure of this, that he [God] who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*

God saved you, and he'll keep you; He started your salvation, and he'll finish it Which means you'll persevere

Or how about **Eph 1:13-14** – *In him [in Christ] you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, [14] who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.*

When you were saved, you were given the Holy Spirit; Who guarantees the final delivery of your eternal life, when you pass into God's presence Which means you'll persevere*****

And 1 Pet 1:5 says that we are being guarded, or *preserved* – by God's power, at work in our faith, for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time Which once again means – if you're genuinely saved, you'll persevere to the end God will ensure it; He'll give you the faith to keep on That's why perseverance, is God's empowerment to keep the faith

- Which begs the question – Why the passages telling us to persevere? If God *empowers* us to do so, why make it such a big deal? And the answer I think, is 3-fold:
- A. It keeps us from thinking that a decision for Christ is fire insurance – that we can live however we want, as long as we made a decision as a 6 year old
 - B. It warns those who have fallen away, that they're in grave peril
 - C. Telling us to persevere spurs us on to more/more sanctification; More Christlikeness

God preserves those who are his; But if you don't act like it, chances are you're not

12. Glorification – receiving a resurrected body

Rom 8:30 says – *Those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*

Speaking of it in the past tense in order to assure us of its certainty; Like all the other aspects of our salvation*****

Which ought to fill us with hope galore; In fact, that's the first *part* of our glorification (**Glorification involves**)

1. **Hope** – Rom 8:24 says that *in this hope we were saved*

What hope? The hope of glory; The hope of all things being made new; Including us

2. **Resurrection Life** – 1 Cor 15:22 says – *As in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.* Raised

And Jesus said in Jn 11:25 – *I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live*

3. **A Heavenly Body** – 1 Cor 15:42-57

After saying that there are different kinds of creation, including heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, he says in v42 . . .

[42] So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable [referring to our earthly bodies, that will waste away]; what is raised is imperishable [lasting forever]. [43] It is sown in dishonor [we were born with a sin nature]; it is raised in glory [perfection]. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. [44] It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. [45] Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam [Jesus] became a life-giving spirit. [46] But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual [our heavenly bodies come after our physical ones]. [47] The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man [Jesus] is from heaven. [48] As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven [those who are saved]. [49] Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

In every which way he can, Paul tells us that glorification involves a *heavenly body*

Like the body of Jesus after he rose from the dead

When he appears [the Bible says] we shall be like him (1 Jn 3:2); Transforming our *lowly body to be like his glorious body* (Phil 3:21)

Physical, and spiritual, and glorified – all at the same time

4. **Instant Change**

[50] I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. [51] Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep [we won’t all die before Jesus returns], but we shall all be changed, [52] in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet [when Christ returns]. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. [53] For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

Unlike our sanctification, which happens over time, our glorification happens in an instant

We receive our heavenly bodies, just like that

Otherwise, we can’t be a part of God’s kingdom

5. **No More Death**

[54] When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” [55] “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

When glorification happens, we’re done with death; Game over

6. **Incomparable Awesomeness**

Paul says in Rom 8:18 – *I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.*

And then goes on to speak of our glorification

➤ That’s what we have to look forward to as a result of our salvation (**Summary**)

Which will make our struggle to persevere, worth it; And our sanctification, complete;

And our adoption all the sweeter

It starts w/ election, it ends with glorification, and leads to assurance; *Blessed* assurance

Pray – Thank you Lord, for saving our souls, and making us whole, and giving to us your great salvation, so rich and free; Oh what a foretaste of glory divine

Receive our tithes and offerings now, until the whole world hears