

A Biblical View of Salvation

Much confusion arises in the Church today with regards to a lack of a Biblical understanding of salvation. Many questions could be answered if one were to have a better grasp of the Bible's teaching of salvation.

Most Christians believe that salvation is a "one-time event". I prayed a prayer and then I was saved. That is true, but it is only part of the truth.

When I look at the Bible, I see a three-fold picture of salvation. I see Justification, Sanctification and Glorification and they are NOT the same thing.

JUSTIFICATION

Justification is the part of salvation that most people think of as the entire picture of salvation. It is the starting point and the most important part, but it opens the door to the rest of what God has done for us.

Justification primarily applies to the Spirit and can also be looked at in the light of Righteousness.

The Spirit - You were saved ...

This is the part that was " ... dead in trespasses and sins;" **Eph 2:1**

Our **Body** wasn't dead; our **Soul** (Intellect & Emotions) wasn't dead. **Our Spirit that was dead!**

This explains many things, including why " ... the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." **1 Cor 2:14**

Justification - A Legal Declaration

Romans 5:18 "Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life."

Easton's Bible Dictionary gives the following as part of the definition of **Justification** ...

" ... it is the judicial act of God, by which he pardons all the sins of those who believe in Christ, and accounts, accepts, and treats them as righteous in the eye of the law, ... justification declares that all the claims of the law are satisfied in respect of the justified. It is the act of a judge ... The law is not relaxed or set aside, but is declared to be fulfilled in the strictest sense; and so the person justified is declared to be entitled to all the advantages and rewards arising from perfect obedience to the law ... Justification is not the forgiveness of a man without righteousness, but a declaration that he possesses a righteousness which perfectly and for ever satisfies the law, namely, Christ's righteousness... "

Righteousness - (See Justification)

2 Corinthians 5:21 "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

SANCTIFICATION

Sanctification is the part of salvation that primarily applies to the Soul and can also be looked at in the light of Holiness.

The Soul - You are being saved ...

This is the part that you need to " ... work out your own salvation with fear and trembling ..." **Phi 2:12** This is the part that was in control before your **Spirit** was quickened (made alive) when you were **Born Again**. This is the part that will do battle with your **Spirit**. It does not want to give up control!

Hebrews 12:14 "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:"

Some versions read pursue peace and holiness (or the sanctification.) **Holiness and Righteousness are NOT the same thing!** If you know **Jesus** then you can **NEVER** be more **Righteous** than you are now, but you can certainly be more **Holy!**

Sanctification - An Ongoing Purification

Easton's Bible Dictionary gives the following as part of the definition of **Sanctification** ...

"...it is the work of the Holy Spirit bringing the whole nature more and more under the influences of the new gracious principles implanted in the soul in regeneration. In other words, sanctification is the carrying on to perfection the work begun in regeneration, and it extends to the whole man ... It is the special office of the Holy Spirit in the plan of redemption to carry on this work ..."

Holiness - (See Sanctification)

Part of Easton's definition is "... Personal holiness is a work of gradual development. It is carried on under many hindrances, hence the frequent admonitions to watchfulness, prayer, and perseverance ..."

Leviticus 20:7 "Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God."

GLORIFICATION

Glorification is the part of salvation that primarily applies to the Body and can also be looked at in the light of Absolute Perfection.

The Body - You will be saved!

Is your **Body** saved now? I certainly hope not! If this is my saved body, it is not so great. It aches at times. It gets tired. It can be weak. Does the following sound like our current bodies are saved?

1 Corinthians 15:54 "So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory."

But there is a **salvation to come!**

1 Peter 1:5 "Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

1 Peter 1:9 "Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls"

Receiving ... the salvation of your souls? A salvation still to be revealed? I thought I already received salvation. **YOU DID! But you will yet be saved too!**

Glorification - Heaven

1 Cor 15:50-53 "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality."

Perfection - (See Glorification)

When that trumpet sounds, **salvation will be complete!** Flesh and blood will be gone, and **perfection will be ours!**