

deeper

word faith life

Season 3

The Doctrine of Man

The Doctrine of Sin

The Doctrine of Salvation

Eschatology

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Episode 5 – The Doctrine of Salvation

We continue with the Doctrine of Salvation. It has been called the grandest of doctrines simply because it so beautifully reveals God's saving plan for mankind. This doctrine brings all of the other doctrines together in a magnificent crescendo. We will be finishing with the Order of Salvation in this episode, covering the doctrines of Sanctification, Perseverance, and Glorification. Again, we will be following the order from Romans 8, let's read it together. Romans 8:29-30 - "For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified."

These are the logical steps in the application of the saving work of Christ in the life of a believer.

What is _____ ?

We are now going to look at the journey toward Christian maturity. Sanctification is a progressive work in which God and the believer co-operate in making us more and more free from the hold of sin and more and more Christlike in our lives. The word [SANCTIFICATION] comes from the Greek word [HAGIASMOS], which translates; the process of making or becoming holy or set apart, or being consecrated. It's a progressive advancing in holiness, being transformed to the likeness of Christ. The Old Testament word for sanctify translates; to set apart or reserve for a special purpose, thus making it holy.

Romans 8:29 - "For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son..."

Sanctification is a process that will last our entire earthly lives from the moment of regeneration until we go home to glory, or until Christ returns, whichever happens first. So, Regeneration is the start, Glorification is the end, and Sanctification is the middle; the path on which He leads us from start to finish.

It's critically important that we understand the differences between Sanctification and Justification, because if we get them mixed up we will fall into the ditch of salvation by works.

Justification:

Our legal standing
Once for all time
Entirely a work of God
Perfect in this lifetime
The same in all Christians

Sanctification:

Our internal condition
Continues throughout our lives
A partnership with the Holy Spirit
Not perfect in this lifetime
Depends on individual co-operation

Justification MUST precede Sanctification. In fact without Justification there is no real sanctification. Justification is God's legal declaration that we are righteous in His sight, Sanctification is God's transforming work by which He makes us righteous in character. This He does with our co-operation, and whatever God starts, we can be sure He will complete. Philippians 1:6 - "being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

God's Role in Our Sanctification:

The Holy Spirit is the primary agent of our Sanctification, it's primarily a work of God.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 - "May God Himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Hebrews 13:21 - "(May God) equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

God equips us by the power of the Holy Spirit, and He is the one who works within us to bring about our sanctification. He produces in us the Fruit of the Spirit, those character traits of Christlikeness.(Galatians 5:22-23) As we grow in Sanctification we "walk by the



Spirit” and are “led by the Spirit”.(Galatians 5:16-18) As we follow Him, and yield to Him, He produces holiness within us.

Our Role in Our Sanctification:

We are both passively and actively involved in our Sanctification.

On the one hand, we are to offer or present ourselves to God, to avail ourselves to Him, to yield our will to His. This is our passive involvement.

Romans 12:1 - “...offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God...”

Romans 6:13 - “offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.”

And on the other hand we are to “put to death the deeds of the body”.(Romans 8:13) This implies an active role. We are also told to “make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with Him.”(2 Peter 3:14)

We are instructed NOT to “conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind”(Romans 12:2)

Although we can only achieve this with the help of the Holy Spirit, we nevertheless have an active role in our Sanctification.

God honours our continual acts of faith and obedience and our progress becomes evident to all. Therefore we continue in Bible reading and meditation, devotion, prayer, worship, witnessing, acts of mercy and justice, fellowship, and self-control. These are what we can actively do in order to position ourselves correctly for the process of sanctification to take place.

Hebrews 12:14 - “Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.”

It’s important to continue growing in our passive trust in God to sanctify us, and equally in our active quest for holiness and obedience to God. If we neglect our active involvement we become lazy and ineffective Christians. If we neglect our passive involvement we become proud and self-righteous, or overly confident in ourselves. In both cases our Sanctification will be deficient and we will be without the joy and peace promised to us.

Paul instructs us, “continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose.”(Philippians 2:12-13)

Your Sanctification is a partnership between you and the Holy Spirit.

What is _____ ?

Two overlapping doctrines come into play here as we discuss Perseverance.

Assurance - Our confidence of salvation regardless of an imperfect life.

Perseverance - Our steadfast belief and obedience to Christ until the end.

This doctrine is often debated under the title “eternal security”, and the question at the root of this is, “Can a Christian lose their salvation?” The answer is, “No.” All those who are true believers will be kept by God’s power and will persevere as Christians until the end of their lives. But what if some fall away from a profession of faith and live a life of active rebellion against God? We have to say that only those who persevere until the end are truly saved. The Perseverance of the Saints is the name given to this two-part doctrine; all true believers will persevere to the end, and only those who persevere to the end are true believers.

Let’s take a look at the scriptures;

John 6:38-40 - “For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of Him who sent me. And this is the will of Him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those He has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

John 10:27-29 - “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.

My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand.”



Jesus states two things emphatically concerning those who follow Him; “They will never perish” and “No one will snatch them out of my hand.”

Those whom Jesus saves, and to whom He gives eternal life, will never lose that life. It's quite clear here that Jesus believes that those who belong to Him and who have received eternal life from Him, will keep that eternal life for all eternity.

Ephesians 1:13-14 - “And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession to the praise of His glory.”

This is further evidence that God keeps believers secure for eternity, He marks us with a seal. The seal is the Holy Spirit within us. The inheritance God promises us includes eternal life and a great reward in heaven with Him. The seal, or guarantee, of that promise is the very presence of God in our lives by the Holy Spirit. This is the inner witness of the Holy Spirit who assures us that we are truly saved, and belong to Him.

Romans 8:16 - “The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.”

Paul concludes this pivotal chapter with these powerful words;

Romans 8:38-39 - “For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

While those who are true believers will persevere to the end, only those who persevere to the end are true believers. Jesus said, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples.” John 8:31. Evidence of genuine faith in Christ is continuing to believe and obey what He has said and commanded. The promise in Perseverance, is that those who continue in faith until the end of their lives are true believers. This does not mean that we will live perfect lives without sin. We may have deep struggles with sin at various times in our lives. But what this does mean is that these struggles will actually happen, they will be struggles. True believers will continue to fight against sin through faith and repentance.

Perseverance also serves as a warning to those who aren't true believers, because if they think they are and they fall away from faith, it is strong evidence that they were never true believers in the first place. But ultimately, only God knows what is going on in each person's heart. Paul states quoting from Joel 2;

Romans 10:13 - “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

God is the ultimate judge between who did and who didn't persevere, only He truly knows.

of Salvation

We can derive real assurance of our salvation from a present trust in Christ and His ongoing work in our lives. Our present trust in Christ for salvation is one assurance of true conversion. This is exactly what John 3:16 teaches; “whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” If you believe in Him, you have eternal life. If you have confidence in the work of Christ on your behalf, confidence in His ability to bear the penalty for your sin, and confidence that you have access to heaven based solely on His work and not your own, and if that confidence is currently present in your life, then that confidence is an assurance of your true faith.

We also derive assurance from evidence of the ongoing work of God in our lives. The witness of the Holy Spirit

1 John 4:13 - “This is how we know that we live in Him and He in us: He has given us of his Spirit.”

We derive assurance from the work of the Holy Spirit leading us in obedience to God's will.

Romans 8:14 - “For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.”



This will be characterised by the presence of the Fruit of the Spirit, Galatians 5:22-23 which, over time, will become more and more visible to ourselves and others. True believers will grow in their sanctification, not in an instantaneous manner, but consistently over time, progress will be experienced.

Peter tells us that one way to “confirm your calling and election” is to increase your goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, mutual affection and love. He says that if these qualities increase in our lives, we “will never stumble”.(2 Peter 1:5-11)

Sanctification is a lifelong process and we should enjoy the journey and look forward to the prize as we run our race with patience and endurance.

What is _____ ?

Nothing in our human existence would be able to compare with God’s glorification of His saints. This wonderful event will exceed any earthly honours we may have received. It will never fade or end and it has already begun in the lives of true believers. As our sanctification progresses, we are, even now “being transformed into His image with ever increasing glory...”(2 Cor 3:18)

Paul lists our glorification last in the Order of Salvation because it’s not until Jesus returns that we will receive our resurrected bodies. Our present bodies are designed for life on earth, and Paul states in 1 Corinthians 15:50, “flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God.” But when Christ returns, our earthly bodies will be transformed into bodies just like His.

Philippians 3:21 - “who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.”

Our mortal, perishable, dishonourable bodies will become immortal, imperishable and glorious, never again affected sin, sickness, disease, or death.

Our moral and spiritual sanctification will be complete when, “death is swallowed up in victory.”(1 Corinthians 15:53,54)

Christ will present to Himself “a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.”(Ephesians 5:27)

Our glorification will include vastly expanded knowledge, “Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.”(1 Corinthians 13:12)

In our glorified state at the Final Judgement, we will be fully vindicated of any charges against us and we will be in a position to rule and reign with Him forever.(2 Timothy 2:12)

All of creation will be released from decay as the effects of the fall are reversed.(Rom 8:19-21)

God will make a new heaven, a new earth and a new Jerusalem where we will live with Him forever, no more death, no more sadness and no more pain, everything will be new.(Rev 21:1-4)

The believer’s hope is much more than an escape from judgement and punishment, it’s eternal glory! God is at work in us, even now, preparing us for our future glorification, the end goal of His incredible salvation plan for us.

So let’s take heart, our struggles and failures will not continue forever, and can never compare to the glory that lies ahead of us.

Memory Verses:

Philippians 2:12-13

“Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed, not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence, continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose.”

