

Valuing Our Inheritance

- ▼1. **Saved / Salvation:** from the biblical perspective is either speaking of phase 1, 2 or 3

Most often not referring to justification phase 1 though in modern American evangelical idiom. We talk to people and say, "Are you saved?"

Philippians 2:12 (NIV)
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.

The New Testament teaches what should characterize a person who is a genuine disciple

a. Phase 1:

We're saved from the penalty of sin, eternal death, the instant that we trust in Christ.

In many churches and many theological systems there's confusion that the term "disciple" is equivalent to the term "believer".

Jesus makes it clear a believer is someone who trusts in Christ as Savior.

At the instant of faith alone in Christ alone, they become a born again, regenerate, justified believer, and they have eternal life.

This is the first stage of salvation, which we describe as **Phase One**. It takes place at the Cross. Technically we call it justification, because at that instant **we are declared righteous** because the righteousness of Christ has been imputed to us.

We are declared righteous.

not because we are morally correct, but because we now possess someone else's righteousness,

The righteousness of Jesus Christ.

b. Phase 2:

Phase 2: the spiritual life is distinct from justification:

We're saved from the power of sin as we grown to maturity as believers.

Others, just like in Roman Catholic theology and in Calvinistic theology, there is a necessary connection between **justification** and **sanctification** in the spiritual life.

In **Roman Catholic theology**, both are a process so that you never really know if you're justified unless you have growth of the merit of Christ. You get that incrementally as you participate in the sacraments. But you never really know if you've got enough "brownie points" to get to Heaven.

In **Calvinism** it's a little different. They so integrally connect the two that justification takes place in an instant in time, but it is necessarily integrally connected to the spiritual life **so that a person who believes will necessarily grow**.

That is called the **"perseverance of the saints,"** sometimes it's refer to as **Lordship salvation**.

The way that you know if you're truly saved is if you have the right kind of works after your salvation experience—

c. Phase 3: glorification

We are saved from the presence of sin when we're absent from the body and face-to-face with the Lord.

Philippians 2:12 (NIV)
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.

you know you're saved, not by the promise of God that if you believe in Jesus as your Savior, you will have eternal life, but that you are saved because you have the right kind of works. They demonstrated and confuse sanctification with justification.

The issue in phase 1 is: trusting Christ as Savior!

The issue in phase 2 is: growing and maturing, having to do with service and works

▼2. Exegetical

a. John 1:12-13 (NIV)

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who **believe** in His name

13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 20:30-31 (NIV)

30 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book.

31 But these are written that you may **believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that **believing you may have life in His name**.

It's not believing plus anything.

In the Gospel of John over 85 times John just uses the verb "to believe." He doesn't qualify it with: genuine belief, true belief. You either believe or you don't believe. It is a **tautology** when you say "genuine belief" or "true belief." **It's only believe**

tautology (ˈtɒtəlɒɡi) noun (plural tautologies)
the saying of the same thing twice in different words, generally considered to be a fault of style (e.g., they arrived one after the other in succession).

b. John 8:31-32 (NIV)

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, **if you abide in My word**, you are My disciples indeed.

32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

There are two categories here.

Phase 1:

He is addressing those who already believe in Him. They are justified. They are saved. They will have eternity in Heaven.

Phase 2:

He is talking to them about something **in addition** to securing their destiny in Heaven, and that is being a disciple.

So He says, **if you abide in My word** (That is a condition for being a disciple, a follower of Jesus Christ.

A disciple is someone who is committed to following the teaching of his master to some degree. There are disciples who will **produce**!

Matthew 13:23 (NIV)

23 But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and **understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."**

John 21:19-22 (NIV)

19 This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, **"Follow Me."**

20 Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?"

21 Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, "But Lord, what about this man?"

22 Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You **Follow Me**."

Believing in Him is what secures eternal life.

Following Him is what is necessary if we're going to reap the benefits of our new life in time and in eternity.

- ▼3. Discipleship is demanding:

a. Matthew 16:26-27 (NIV)

26 **Jesus said to His disciples**, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

27 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

28 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

29 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

Differences Between Salvation and Rewards Salvation

Salvation:

For all mankind
Given to few
Christ does the work
Free gift
Permanent
Faith alone in Christ alone
Provides equal opportunity

Rewards:

For all believers
Given to few
The believer does the work
Earned
May be lost
Walking by faith
How each one uses opportunity

- ▼4. **Works**, as defined in Scripture, relate to the course of a person's life.

a. They're the product of one's life, the things that we think, say, and do.

Works can be good, or they can be useless or worthless. Some works are even sinful.

1 Peter 1:17-25 (NIV)

17 And if you call on the Father, **who without partiality judges according to each one's WORK, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear:**

18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from **your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,**

19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you

21 who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,

23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.

24 Because "All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away.

25 But **the word of the Lord endures forever!**" Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

Works are significant, but not in relation to securing our eternal destiny in Heaven. Scripture makes this very clear in a number of passages as we've noted.

b. Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV)

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is **the gift of God**

9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

10 **For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**

How a gift is valued.

We have something that is quite valuable, but unless we develop it, unless we learn about it, we will never grow; and it's like digging an expensive, valuable car until you just run it into the ground where it is of no value to you whatsoever.

This gift is ours. We don't lose that ownership. The point is we can't lose our justification. But if we don't do anything with it it has no value or meaning for us in this life, and that will bring some negative consequences.

We are created in our regeneration for the purpose of serving God, and that good will be produced in us through our walk by means of God the Holy Spirit.

5. _____

6. _____

The issue in phase 1 is: trusting Christ as Savior!

The issue in phase 2 is: growing and maturing, having to do with service and works

not the same as "believe in life"

The issue in **Phase 1** is: trusting Christ as Savior!

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