

ND2-004: "Becoming a New Creation": Knowing the Redemption and Salvation of Christ

Outline:

- Please refer to lesson 9 of CTC course SR1-100: "Understanding the Precious Blood of Jesus", lesson 10: "Understanding the Cross", and lesson 11-12: "Full Salvation" (1) and (2).

I. The Salvation of Christ has turned the hopeless destiny of man+

1. The necessity of redemption

The requirements of the Law: *Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. (Colossians 3:13) / Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin (Romans 3:19-20) / I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. (Colossians 4:4-5).*

The Power of enemies: *And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. (Ephesians 2:1-3).*

The condemnation of eternal fire: *The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:13-15).*

2. The meaning of redemption

Through the shedding of the sacrificial blood of Jesus Christ, we are rescued from the dominion of Satan, delivered from the condemnation of the Law and the righteous judgement of God, and also justified to receive the full salvation of God.

- *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified ^[e]freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. (Romans 3:23-24) / Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. (Romans 5:9).*
- *giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. (Colossians 1:12-14, Colossians 1:7).*

- *But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. (Hebrews 10:12-14).*

II. God's full salvation has transformed the life of saints and their eternal destination.

1. Christ's redemption is the foundation that enables us to inherit and experience God's full salvation.

2. What is 'full salvation'?

a. The scope of full salvation encompasses the salvation of the total man: "spirit", "soul" and the "body".

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. (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

b. Experiencially the full salvation includes "justification", "sanctification" and "glorification".

Romans 8:28-30 is the most complete description of God's Salvation Plan, which includes these three important stages

- *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 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. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. (Romans 8:28-30).*

3. The necessary understandings and experiences of "justification", "sanctification" and "glorification"

a. "Justification"

i. Obtaining justification: *Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed. (Romans 3:24-25).*

Three key factors are mentioned here: a) the grace of God; b) the blood of Jesus; and c) the faith of man.

ii. The blessings of being justified: *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God*

demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation. (Romans 5:1-11).

b. "Sanctification"

i. The objective position of sanctification - in Christ

- *But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption. (1 Corinthians 1:30).*
- *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. (Hebrews 10:10, 14)/ in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight (Colossians 1:22).*
- *Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus (Hebrews 3:1) / ... (1 Peter 2:5, 1 Peter 2:9).*

ii. The subjective experiences of sanctification -

Although objectively, we are 'sanctified' through Christ, but through our subjective experiences, we must go through the process of being transformed and sanctified by the Holy Spirit in our lives. The Holy Spirit is actualizing continually the wonderful truth of the indwelling Christ to be our life, that we may be conformed to the image of the Son of God, to be more and more like Jesus. Not only individually, but the whole church is also in this process of sanctification.

- *I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. (Romans 6:19) /... (2 Thessalonians 2:21, Romans 12:1).*
- *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. (Galatians 2:20)*
- *He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word (Ephesians 5:26).*

c. "Glorification"

"Glorification" is what Paul refers to as the "redemption of the body", it speaks of the bodies of the saints to be resurrected and transformed into glorious bodies at the second coming of Christ.

- *Because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of^[1] corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. (Romans 8:21-23) / 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. (Hebrews 2:10).*
- *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 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. (Philippians 3:20-21).*