

APRIL-MAY-JUNE
Series 54



SALVATION

JUSTIFICATION & SANCTIFICATION

-Sunday School Lessons-

MOUNT CANAAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Greg L. Oliver, Sr.

A Church Grounded in the Cross, Growing in Christ and Giving to the Community

From the Pastor:



Hello there, Saints of God,

My prayers remain constant for each of you as we continue on this blessed journey in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ.

As we begin our Series 54 study on Salvation, Justification, and Sanctification, let us take an even deeper look. A Church that understands salvation, sanctification, and glorification becomes a Church that worships deeply, grows spiritually, and serves faithfully. What a powerful reminder that, as believers, we are the Body of Christ—redeemed, justified, and continually being transformed through His grace. Because of Him, we stand not in our own righteousness, but in His.

Let us remain steadfast and faithful in our study, in our worship, and in our service unto the Lord. Continue to grow, to encourage one another, and to walk worthy of the calling placed upon your lives.

And to those who may not yet be a part of the Ark of Safety, I encourage you—do not delay. Accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior today. The Church stands ready with open arms to receive you into the family of faith, where love, grace, and salvation abound.

May the Lord bless you, keep you, and strengthen you always.

In His Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. J. King I." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Pastor

Salvation, Justification, Sanctification

Mount Canaan Sunday School Series 54

Second Quarter

April, May, June 2026

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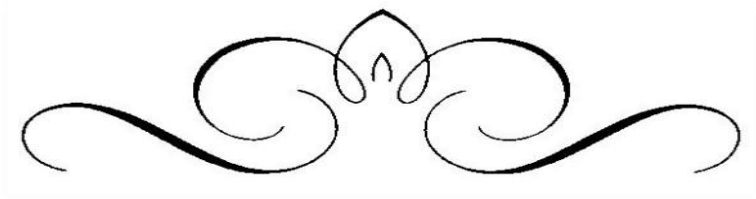
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Salvation *Salvation Comes Only Through Jesus Christ*

And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? (Genesis 3:4-11, KJV)

Introduction:— Because of Adam’s sin, all humans are born and shaped in iniquity and need salvation. The primary New Testament word for salvation is (sōtēria). Therefore, salvation means to be forgiven of your sins, delivered from God’s judgment, saved from eternal death, and separation from God. Also, salvation implies having an abundant life on earth and enjoying eternal life in heaven with Jesus Christ. Moreover, salvation is the deliverance from sin and its consequences through faith in Jesus Christ. John the Baptist said of his cousin Jesus Christ: Behold, the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29).

Adam’s Sin Brought Sin and Death to All.

Romans 5:12 says “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man (Adam), and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned...” Paul teaches that sin entered the human race through one man, and death spread to all. Romans 5:18–19 says “Through one trespass, condemnation came to all men...For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners...” These passages are the clearest foundations for the idea that Adam’s sin affected the entire human race. Sin existed before the Law; death proves humanity was already fallen in Adam. Paul’s central message in Romans 5 is that One act by Adam brought condemnation; one act by Christ brings salvation.

Clearly, Adam's disobedience made many sinners; Christ's obedience makes many righteous. The problem of sin caused by one man Adam is completely overcome by the salvation and grace of the One God Man Jesus Christ.

Humanity Is Born With a Sinful Nature

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, NKJV). In the aforementioned text, Paul describes the spiritual condition of believers before their salvation in Christ. He begins by stating, "And you were dead in trespasses and sins" (v.1), indicating not physical death but spiritual death — a state of separation from God characterized by inability to respond to Him apart from grace. The terms "trespasses" (*paraptōmata*) and "sins" (*hamartia*) emphasize both deliberate acts of rebellion and missing the mark of God's standard. In verse 2, Paul explains that this former life followed "the course of this world," meaning a value system opposed to God, and was influenced by "the prince of the power of the air," a reference to Satan's present influence in the realm of disobedience. In verse 3, the phrase "by nature children of wrath" teaches that apart from Christ, people stand under God's righteous judgment, not merely because of individual acts but because of a fallen condition.

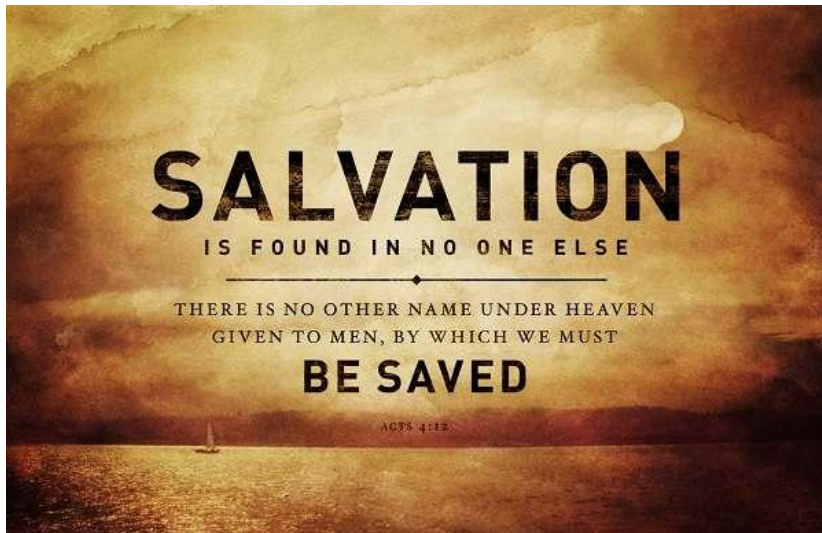
Humanity's Greatest Problem is Sin and Separation From God

Many of us have been taught about the Romans Road to Salvation. It is a systematic method of explaining the Christian Gospel using a selection of key verses from the Book of Romans, the great book of Christian doctrine. Often used as an evangelistic tool, it provides a step-by-step "roadmap" that addresses the problem of sin, God's solution through Jesus Christ, and how an individual can receive eternal life. The core steps and verses highlight these key milestones from the Book of Romans: (1) All Have Sinned: Romans 3:23 ("For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God") establishes that everyone is a sinner in need of salvation. (2) The Consequence of Sin: Romans 6:23a ("For the wages of sin is death") highlights that sin results in physical and spiritual death. (3) God's Gift of Salvation: Romans 6:23b ("but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord") shows that despite the consequence, God offers free salvation. (4) Proof of God's Love: Romans 5:8 ("But God demonstrates His own

love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us") explains that Jesus took the punishment for our sins. 5. Receiving Salvation: Romans 10:9-10 says "if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

Humanity's Greatest Need is Salvation Through Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ's virgin birth, sinless life, great works, and finished work on the cross is essential for salvation. Acts 4:12 clearly teaches that salvation is found



only in the person of Jesus Christ. Speaking to the Jewish rulers after the healing of the lame man, Peter emphasizes that no other person, name, or system can provide the rescue humanity needs. The verse underscores both the necessity and exclusivity of Christ for salvation: it is not optional, and no alternative exists "under heaven" by which

people can be saved. The phrase "given among men" highlights that salvation is a divine gift, initiated and accomplished by God, not earned by human effort. Theologically, this affirms that Jesus' identity, authority, and work are sufficient to reconcile sinners to God. Biblically, 1 Timothy 2:5 says "There is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

Concluding Word: Humanity's fall in Adam brought sin and death to all. Scripture shows that one act of disobedience made many sinners, while Christ's one act of obedience, self-giving and death on the cross made a way for salvation and eternal life. Salvation is humanity's greatest need and Acts 4:12 emphasizes that this salvation is found exclusively in Jesus Christ alone.

Salvation

We Are Saved by Grace Through Faith

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. (Ephesians 2: 8-9, NKJV)

Introduction: Salvation in Scripture is past, present, and future, that means we have been saved, we are being saved every day and we will be ultimately saved when we are with Jesus. Christ's work saves us positionally, God transforms us progressively, and He will perfect us finally in heaven. Each stage of salvation emphasizes God's grace, human response, and the ultimate hope in Christ's return. Below, this lesson will discuss five important areas to better help believers make certain of their own salvation, and to equip believers to lead others to the foot of the cross to receive the saving grace and salvation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Salvation Comes by the Grace of Jesus Christ

- ✓ Salvation is not something we can earn—it is a gift from God. Jesus Christ stood in the place of guilty sinners. The Apostle John affirms that the law came by Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. The Cross of Calvary satisfies God's justice, the burial and seal of Jesus in Joseph's borrowed tomb confirms His death. Jesus stayed in the grave three days, and God raised Him from the dead early on the third day morning with all power in His hands.
- ✓ Therefore, salvation is free to the believer because Christ went the full distance and paid the full price for our salvation and redemption. We bring nothing but our sinfulness and spiritual need to the table; Jesus gave everything — His obedience, His suffering, His sinless life, His sacrificial death, and through His glorious resurrection, Jesus gained victorious power over sin, death and the grave.
- ✓ The Gospel never says that salvation costs nothing, but that the cost was borne entirely by Jesus Christ alone on our behalf. Ephesians 2:8 reminds us that salvation comes "by grace." Grace is God's unearned, unmerited, and unconditional favor, freely given to sinners.

Salvation Comes By Faith in Jesus Christ

- ✓ While salvation is God's gift, we receive it through faith. Faith is trusting in Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross. It is not a work we perform, but a reliance we place in Him. Paul writes, "saved through faith," where the preposition *dia* (meaning through) indicates faith is the means or instrument by which God's saving grace is received, not the cause of it.
- ✓ Romans 3:22 speaks of "the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe," showing that salvation is granted based on Christ's redemptive work and appropriated by trusting reliance upon Him. In John 3, the word belief (*pisteuō*) is presented as the decisive response that results in salvation and eternal life.
- ✓ The apostolic proclamation in Acts 16:31 — "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved" — further confirms that faith in the person Jesus Christ is the divinely appointed condition for salvation.

Salvation is Not of Ourselves or Human Effort

- ✓ Paul's declaration explicitly excludes human merit as the source of salvation. The phrase "not of yourselves" emphasizes that salvation does not originate in human will, achievement, or moral striving, while "not of works" removes any basis for earning divine favor.
- ✓ Likewise, Titus 3:5 affirms, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us," grounding salvation entirely in God's mercy rather than human righteousness.
- ✓ Paul further argues in Romans 3:27–28 that boasting is excluded because a person is justified by faith apart from works of the law. Verse 8 says, "not of yourselves," emphasizing that salvation originates entirely from God. We contribute nothing to earn it, and Jesus' righteousness is a free gift, not anything mankind may have achieved.

Salvation Has No Place for Pride or Boasting

- ✓ A biblically sound understanding of salvation leaves no room for pride or boasting because it is entirely the work of God's grace and not human accomplishments. In Ephesians 2, Paul concludes that salvation is "not of works, lest anyone should boast," explicitly removing any grounds for self-glory. Likewise, Romans 3:27 asks, "Where is boasting then? It is excluded," because salvation is by faith apart from works of the law.

- ✓ Since all have sinned and stand in need of mercy, no one can claim superior merit before God. Scripture teaches God hates a proud look, and pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall. Faith itself is not a personal accomplishment but the means of receiving God’s gracious gift. Furthermore, 1 Corinthians 1:29–31 teaches that God’s saving work is designed so “that no flesh should glory in His presence,” and that believers should “boast in the Lord.”
- ✓ Therefore, the doctrine of salvation humbles humanity, exalts Christ alone, and ensures that all glory belongs to God. Ephesians 2 reminds us that salvation is not of works, lest anyone should boast. This eliminates pride and competition among believers. Believers must only and always give glory to God who constantly showers down His favor.

We Must Live Righteously in Response to Grace After Receiving Salvation

- ✓ Yes, salvation is a free gift but it cost God His only beloved and priceless Son’s life on an old rugged cross. Scripture teaches in Titus 2:11–12 that “the grace of God that brings salvation, teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age.” Grace not only saves; it instructs and empowers holy living.
- ✓ Likewise, Ephesians 2:10 declares that believers are “created in Christ Jesus for good works,” showing that righteous living is the fruit, not the root, of salvation. Authentic pastors and theologians consistently emphasized that genuine faith results in obedience and moral transformation. Also, 2 Corinthians 5:17 teaches that anyone in Christ is a new creation. Therefore, living righteously is not an attempt to earn God’s favor, but the grateful and necessary response to His amazing grace at work in every believer’s life. This week, ask God to show you practical ways to live out His grace in your life, demonstrating love, obedience, and gratitude for the gift of salvation you’ve received.

Closing Prayer: Gracious and Eternal God our Father, we magnify Your holy Name, and we give You all the glory. We are amazed how You sent Your darling Son, Jesus Christ, to stand in the place of guilty and unworthy sinners. Master, teach us to trust fully in Your faithfulness, grace, and salvation, not in our intellect, traditions, or personal achievements. Strengthen our faith so that it rests not in human wisdom but in Your redemptive power. Thank You Lord for satisfying the divine justice requirement and for securing our eternal salvation and redemption. In Jesus’ Name we pray, Amen.

Salvation

The Universality and Exclusivity of Salvation

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them (Sanhedrin Council), “Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. This is the ‘stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone. Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other Name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus. (Acts 4: 8-13, NKJV)

Introduction

We live in an age that celebrates inclusion but resists absolutes. Many believe, from diverse racial and religious groups, that all spiritual paths ultimately lead to God because they have a false belief that some people, especially themselves are good enough to attain heaven. Yet the Word of God speaks with clarity and conviction. In Acts 4, Peter stands before the Sanhedrin Council and religious leaders who had the authority to imprison or even execute him, and he boldly declares: “There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other Name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Salvation is found in the One and Only Beloved Son of God, Jesus Christ.

I. The Universal Consequence of Sin is Death

- ✓ The reason salvation must be universal in offer is because sin is universal. Romans 3:23 declares, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Sin is not confined to one race, ethnicity, one culture, or one generation. It affects every human being that is born on earth. You may be born in a palace, a shotgun house, a mansion or a middle-class home, you are born in sin and shaped in iniquity.
- ✓ Every person will face death unless they are alive when Jesus comes back with a shout and the dead in Christ will be raised from the dead first and those who are alive will be caught up afterwards to meet them in the air. No person born of a woman is righteous by personal merit to negotiate whether they will die or not. Education cannot remove sin. Wealth cannot

purchase forgiveness. Morality cannot erase guilt. The ground is level at the foot of the cross because all stand in need of salvation from the Lord.

- ✓ Scripture teaches that sin carries a penalty of death and separation from the Lord if a person does not admit, repent, and submit to the Lord. Romans 6:23 says, “For the wages of sin is death.” Death in Scripture is more than physical expiration; it is separation from God. Every graveyard testifies to this reality. Humanity’s greatest crisis is not political instability or economic affordability — it is spiritual separation from a Sovereign and Holy God.

II. The Universal Call To Salvation is to Repent and Believe

- ✓ Because Christ is the only way, the Gospel must be proclaimed everywhere. The universal call of salvation is a summons from God to all people everywhere to repent and believe the Gospel. Scripture declares in **Acts 17:30** that God “now commands all people everywhere to repent,” showing that repentance is not optional but a divine mandate. Repentance (Greek: *metanoia*) means a change of mind and heart that results in a turning away from sin and toward God. This call is joined with faith, as Jesus proclaimed in **Mark 1:15**, “Repent and believe in the Gospel,” linking inward transformation with trusting reliance upon Him.
- ✓ Likewise, **Romans 10:9–10** teaches that confession and heartfelt belief in the risen Christ led to salvation. Expository, repentance and faith are two sides of the same response: repentance turns from sin, and faith turns to Christ. The call is universal because all are sinners in need of grace, and it is urgent because salvation is found only in the Lord Jesus Christ. This is not a suggestion; it is a divine summons. If Jesus is the only Savior, then the world must hear His Name proclaimed by all Christians.

III. The Universal Hope of Salvation Is In Jesus Christ

- ✓ Arguably the most well know Scripture, John 3:16, part (a) proclaims, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.....” Notice the scope — the world. God’s love is not tribal or regional; it is global. The cross is sufficient for every sinner. The invitation is extended to all. No one is excluded from the offer of grace.

- ✓ But while the offer is universal, the Savior is exclusive. Acts 4:12 does not say there are many names. It says, “no other name.” Not a philosophy. Not a moral code. Not a religious system. A Name — Jesus Christ. He alone is the God-Man. He alone lived a sinless life. He alone bore the wrath of God on the cross. He alone rose from the dead with all power in His hands. His uniqueness grounds His exclusivity. Each person must decide for or against Christ: It is either Christ or the creature and culture.


IV. The Universal Vision of Salvation Is A Redeemed Multitude

- ✓ The exclusivity of Christ does not narrow heaven; it fills it. The universal hope of salvation is beautifully portrayed in Scripture as a vast, redeemed multitude gathered from every corner of the earth. In Revelation 7:9, John describes “a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb,” clothed in white robes and worshipping God. This vision reveals both the global scope of redemption and the triumph of Christ’s atoning work across ethnic, cultural, and linguistic boundaries.
- ✓ Jesus Himself affirmed this expansive hope in Matthew 24:14, declaring that the Gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations. Likewise, Philippians 2:10–11 anticipates the day when every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.
- ✓ Together, these passages affirm that while salvation is found exclusively in Christ, its reach is gloriously universal, culminating in a countless multitude redeemed by His blood and united in eternal worship. Revelation 7:9 paints a picture of a great multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language standing before the throne. Heaven will not be culturally uniform but gloriously diverse — all united by one Savior. The blood of Christ will gather a global family.

Concluding Words

The Word of God leaves us with both a warning and a promise. The warning is clear: salvation is found in no other name but Jesus Christ. As declared in Acts 4:12, there is no alternative Savior, no substitute sacrifice, and no secondary path to God. The promise is equally clear: “Whoever calls on the Name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:13).

Jesus who was rejected by the builders has become the Chief Cornerstone, and all who build their lives upon Him will not be put to shame. Peter and John stood boldly because they had been with Jesus. The Sanhedrin Council recognized not their education, but their transformation. That same risen Christ still saves, still changes lives, and still calls sinners to repentance and faith.



**Neither is there salvation
in any other;
for there is none other
name under Heaven
given among men,
whereby we must
be saved.**

Acts 4:12

Salvation ***The Gospel is the Power of God Unto Salvation***

I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation [from His wrath and punishment] to everyone who believes [in Christ as Savior], to the Jew first and also to the Greek. (Romans 1:16, AMP)

The Courage of Conviction — “I Am Not Ashamed”

The Apostle Paul challenges all believers in the powerful Scripture above to talk out and walk out the Gospel. Courage here is not the absence of fear but it is the power to move forward, to speak up, to speak out for Jesus Christ in the face of opposition from the devil, demons, and deceptive people. The Apostle Paul boldly declares he is not ashamed of the Gospel, even in a sophisticated and pluralistic society like Rome.

Romans were known for their military power, philosophy, road construction, and persecution of Christians and none citizens. Paul understood that the Gospel is not embarrassing—it is eternal truth. In our culture that values success, status, and self-reliance, believers must stand confidently in Jesus Christ’s finished work. Our 21-century faith is not outdated; it is based on the unchanging truth of the Bible and its focus on Jesus.

Believers must not allow workplace preachers, religious church members, agnostic academic settings, nor family member pressures, social environments, or bullies silence their witness. You cannot accept the Gospel if you are ashamed of it and embarrassed to confess the source of salvation, Jesus Christ. God has not given us the spirit of fear but of power, of love, and of a sound mind. (2 Timothy 1:7)

The Content of the Gospel — Good News, Not Good Advice

- ✓ The “Gospel” means good news. It is not a motivational speech, moral improvement plan, or self-help strategy. It is the announcement that Jesus Christ lived sinlessly, died sacrificially, and rose victoriously to save sinners. The content of the Gospel is not good advice about moral improvement but good news about God’s saving action in Jesus Christ.
- ✓ Scripture defines the Gospel clearly in 1 Corinthians 15:3–4, where Paul declares that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, was

buried, and was raised on the third day. This is an announcement of accomplished redemption, not a set of instructions for self-reform. Because all have sinned and face the wages of sin, which is death, humanity's need is not advice but rescuing from sin and selfishness.

- ✓ The Gospel proclaims that God has acted in grace through the substitutionary death and victorious resurrection of His Son, offering justification and reconciliation as a gift received by faith. Therefore, the Gospel is divine proclamation before it is human response—good news of what Christ has done, not good advice about what we must do.

The Purpose of Salvation is to Deliver Us From God's Wrath

- ✓ God's wrath is the holy and righteous response of His perfect justice against sin and ungodliness. Scripture teaches in Romans 1:18 that "the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men," showing that divine wrath is not arbitrary anger but a settled opposition to evil. Because God is holy, He must judge sin; His justice flows from His character. Likewise, Eph. 2:3 explains that apart from Christ we were "by nature children of wrath," indicating that humanity stands under judgment due to sin.
- ✓ Yet God's wrath is not inconsistent with His love, for Romans 5:9 declares that believers are "saved from wrath through Him," meaning that Jesus Christ bore the penalty sinners deserved. Therefore, God's wrath reveals His holiness and justice, while the cross reveals His mercy—where justice was satisfied and grace was extended to all who believe.
- ✓ Salvation is not merely improvement; it is rescue. Scripture teaches that sin brings judgment, but the Gospel delivers from God's righteous wrath. Through Christ, believers are justified, reconciled, and adopted into God's family. Salvation addresses humanity's deepest need—restoration to a holy God.
- ✓ We must share the Gospel not as optional inspiration, but as necessary rescue for those that are perishing. "*But if our Gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost*" (2 Corinthians 4:3, KJV). The text indicates that if the Gospel is veiled, it is only to those perishing, blinded by the "god of this world" (Satan) who keeps them from seeing the light of Christ. It is not a failure of the message, but a spiritual blindness.

The Scope and Condition of Salvation

- ✓ The scope of salvation is universal in its offer, yet specific in its condition. Scripture declares in John 3:16 that God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, showing that the invitation of eternal life extends to all humanity without ethnic, social, or cultural distinction.
- ✓ Likewise, 1 Timothy 2:4 affirms that God desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. However, the condition of salvation is clearly defined: it is received through faith in Jesus Christ. Acts 16:31 declares, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved,” and Romans 10:9 teaches that confession and heartfelt belief in the risen Lord bring salvation. Thus, while salvation’s reach is global in scope, its reception is personal in response—granted by grace and received through repentant faith in Christ alone.
- ✓ The Gospel came first to the Jews, then to the Greeks, and it extends to all nations, ethnicities, and social classes. In Christ, there is no cultural or racial superiority. For a diverse congregation, this reminds us that the Gospel unites across racial, economic, and generational lines, while politics, religion, and racism always divide us. Salvation is received through faith. Belief is not intellectual agreement alone; it is trusting and believing upon Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. You must continually place your trust in Jesus Christ, not in your résumé, reputation, or resources.

The Gospel is the Power of God Unto Salvation

- ✓ Paul says the Gospel is “the power of God unto salvation.” The Greek word *dynamis* means divine, explosive power. The Gospel’s power changes hearts, breaks addictions, restores families, and reconciles sinners to God daily. It accomplishes what education, politics, and wealth cannot accomplish—spiritual transformation.
- ✓ When facing personal struggles or societal challenges, trust the transforming power of God’s Word. The Gospel is not human wisdom or self-improvement. It is the good news of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. If you ever feel weak in sharing your faith, remember: the power is not in you—it is in the message about the finished work of Jesus.
- ✓ Paul says the Gospel power brings salvation “to everyone that believes.” We are saved by grace through faith, which is an unearned, priceless gift

Justification

The Great Harmony of Faith and Works

“Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.” James 2:24

Introduction:

Justification is often considered the “heart of the Gospel.” It is important to understand how though **Justification is received by faith alone** and yet naturally produces a **life of good works**. There is nevertheless a central tension concerning how your actions (**works**) in relation to your **faith** status.

The “**Great Harmony of Faith and Works**” refer to the relationship between being declared righteous by faith and the subsequent life of good works.

1. The Foundation of Justification by Faith

The Basis of Justification is in the finished work of Jesus Christ, rather than human effort. In Christian theology, the foundation of **Justification by faith** declares sinners as **righteous** by Grace through faith before a Divine, Holy God. Justification is a grace gift (*charis*), not a paycheck. If it could be earned, it would not be grace.

2. The Perspective: The Legal Exchange

For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.” Romans 3:28

Justification is a “forensic” or legal term. It does not mean the believer is suddenly perfect, but rather that their legal status before God has changed from “guilty” to “righteous.”

- The Legal Problem: Universal sinfulness and the inability to achieve righteousness through the Law.
- The Legal Solution: The “Great Exchange”—Christ takes our sin, and we receive His righteousness.

- The Legal Exchange: Christ's perfect righteousness is "credited" to the believer's account.

3. The Divine Verdict

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."
Ephesians 2:8-9

The Apostle Paul is the primary architect of the doctrine of Justification. His argument in Romans is clear: because all have sinned, no one can achieve a "righteous" status by following the Law.

4. The Role of Faith

Faith is the "instrument" of justification. It is not the *cause* (God's grace is the cause), but the means by which we receive the benefit of Jesus Christ's sacrifice. We are justified by faith alone, but the faith that justifies is never alone. It is always accompanied by a transformed heart that desires to do good.

5. The Evidence — The Necessity of Works

One of the most common misunderstandings is that faith and works are in opposition to each other. However, the biblical perspective is that works are the evidence of justification, not the cause of it.

If we are justified by faith alone, do works matter? The Epistle of James provides the necessary balance to ensure we do not turn grace into an excuse for spiritual laziness.

6. The Instrument: Sola Fide (Faith Alone)

"Know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ." Galatians 2:16

The perspective of the Justification is rooted in Pauline epistles, that we “receive” it by **Sola Fide (Faith Alone)**, not human effort. We do not “earn” our way into God’s favor!

7. Living Faith vs. Dead Faith

So also, faith by itself if it does not have works, is dead... I will show you my faith by my works.” James 2:17-18

James argues that faith without works is "dead." He is not saying that works **add** to our salvation, but that works **prove** our salvation is real. We are not saved **by** works but are saved **for** works. Justification (our status) leads to Sanctification (our growth).

8. Points of Reflection

The essence of the Great Harmony of Faith and Works in Justification is that you do not feel you "good enough", justification is based only on Christ’s performance, not yours.

| | | |
|----------------------|--|--------------|
| Justification | How we are made right with God (Legal Status). | Romans 5:1 |
| Faith | The hand that receives God's free gift. | Hebrews 11:1 |
| Works | The evidence and fruit of a transformed life. | Matthew 5:16 |

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Justification ***Abraham Was Justified By Faith***

Just as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Therefore, know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the Gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, In you all the nations shall be blessed. So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham. (Galatians 3: 6-9, NKJV)

Meaning of Justification In Hebrew and in Greek

- ✓ In the Old Testament, the primary Hebrew root word for justification is (tsādaq), meaning to be righteous or, in a legal setting, to declare righteous. Deuteronomy 25:1 describes where judges are commanded to “justify the righteous and condemn the wicked,” clearly describing a courtroom verdict rather than a moral transformation. The verb is opposite of (rāsha) which means to condemn.
- ✓ In the New Testament, the Greek verb (dikaioō) is commonly used for justification and is translated: to justify, to declare righteous, to vindicate, to acquit and to prove to be right. At its core, justification does **not** mean “to make morally good” in a transformational sense. It means to declare someone to be in right standing with God. To “Justify” in the above Scripture implies an immediately rendered judicial verdict.

✓

Abraham Was Justified By Faith

- ✓ Genesis 15:6 is the foundational text that says: And Abraham believed the LORD, and He counted it to him as righteousness. This event occurs before circumcision (Gen 17) and centuries before the Mosaic Law — meaning justification was not based on ritual or law-keeping but was based on faith in the LORD.
- ✓ Abraham’s faith was in God's promise to bring a Redeemer, looking forward to the same Christ that believers today look back to. Also, Abraham's faith was not passive; it was a living trust in God that led to his obedience, such as leaving his home and offering Isaac as a sacrifice. Paul’s conclusions in Romans 4 were: Justification was not by works; Justification was not as wages; but it was by faith in the LORD alone.

The Just Shall Live By Faith

- ✓ Considering the law of first mentioned the above Scripture phrase first appears in the Book of Habakkuk 2:4. The prophet Habakkuk was questioning God about injustice and the coming invasion of Judah by Babylon. God responded that: The proud and wicked will ultimately fall. The righteous (just) must remain faithful and trust God, even when circumstances appear unjust.
- ✓ The just shall live by faith teaches believers the following four principles:
 - a) To trust God during uncertain times like we are experiencing today.
 - b) It further teaches believers to depend on God rather than human strength.
 - c) Since all believers need encouragement, it reminds us to stay faithful even in difficulty and hardship.
 - d) Moreover, the above Scripture advises believers to walk daily in obedience and trust.
- ✓ Throughout Scripture, the above statement teaches that those whom God counts righteous are those who trust Him, rely on His promises, and continue in faithful dependence on His finished-redemptive work.

The Justification or Condemnation Verdict is in Your Mouth

- ✓ King Solomon said in Proverbs 18:21, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue.” Furthermore, the Epistle of James 3:9–10 says: With the tongue we bless God... and with it we curse men... My brethren, these things ought not so to be. James teaches that an uncontrolled tongue can destroy like fire, and that true faith should produce consistent speech and life.
- ✓ In Matthew 12:33–37, Jesus powerfully addressed and responded to the Pharisees after they accused Him of casting out demons by the power of Satan. Jesus said: “**O generation of vipers... out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things... But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you shall be justified, and by your words you shall be condemned.**”
- ✓ In this text, Jesus speaks courtroom language and judicial terminology. Jesus pulls back the curtain of eternity and shows the evidence presented will include something we treat so lightly every day: **our words**. The Lord

concludes: Your words will testify for you or against you. Believers must never forget in every situation of life; The Lord is listening closely to our every word.

We are Justified By the Lord's Grace

- ✓ Romans 3:24 says Being justified freely by His grace. This Scriptural phrase expresses Paul's central explanation of how sinners are declared righteous before God. The participle "being justified" connects to the preceding context (Romans 3:21–23), where Paul has demonstrated that all humanity—both Jews and Gentiles—stand guilty before God because "all have sinned."
- ✓ Therefore, justification is God's gracious act of declaring the believing sinner righteous despite their guilt. The word "**freely**" (**dōrean**) means "as a gift, without payment," emphasizing that justification cannot be earned through obedience to the law.
- ✓ The phrase "**by His grace**" highlights the source of this justification. The Greek term (**Charis**) refers to God's unmerited, unearned, and undeserved favor—His gracious disposition toward undeserving sinners. In the larger argument of Romans 3:24–26, this grace is made possible "through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, meaning that the believer's justification rests on Christ's redemptive work rather than personal righteousness.

Concluding Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank You through faith, You declare us righteous by Your grace through **Jesus Christ**. Teach us to live by faith, walk in obedience, and honor You in all we think, say, and do. Guard our tongues that our words may bring life, truth, and encouragement to others. May our lives reflect Your righteousness and always give You glory. In Jesus Name we pray, Amen.

Justification Role of Grace

“and all are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. Romans 3:24 (NIV)

Introduction: In Christian application, the legal declaration of justification by God establishes that a “sinner is made righteous” and the **role of grace** is not a supporting character but the **lead actor**.

Theological Application of Justification and Grace

In the landscape of theology, **Justification** is the legal declaration by God that a “sinner is righteous.” In application **Grace** is the unmerited favor of God toward those who have no claim on it. Grace is not a “reward for the righteous,” but a “bridge for the broken.”

Grace as the Legal Ground of Justification

Justification fundamentally, is a courtroom term that is describing a change in the status of a person moving from "guilty" to "righteous" in the eyes of the Divine.

1. The Impossibility to Merit Justification

“know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So, we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.” Galatians 2:16 (NIV)

Under legalistic framework, for one’s justification to be **merited**, would require the perfect adherence to moral law. Realistically, because of human fallibility merit is an impossible standard for humanity.

The Gift of Grace:

“all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.” Romans 3:23–24 (KJV)

Grace operates as the "**efficient cause**" of justification. It means that the basis for our Just standing with God is moved away from our and toward the **performance to Jesus' generosity by grace.**

The Substitution of Grace

“Therefore, since we have been justified [that is, acquitted of sin, declared blameless before God] by faith, [let us grasp the fact that] we have peace with God [and the joy of reconciliation with Him] through our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed) “Romans 5:1 (AMP)

The Justification formula of Substitution is **“Grace = Justification – Human effort.**

Grace is manifested through the work of Christ. In theological terms, the "Great Exchange" occurs: our sin is imputed to Christ, and His righteousness is imputed to us.

“Grace is not opposed to effort; it is opposed to earning. Earning is an attitude. Effort is an action.” — Dallas Willard

2. The Implications for Shifting the Believer's Identity

“he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.” Titus 3:5 (NIV)

The shift from a "works-based" identity to a "grace-based" identity carries profound psychological and spiritual implications. A "grace-based" identity changes how Believers view themselves, their failures, and their future.

3. Living in the “Already, But Not Yet”

Believers often struggle with the tension between their positional spiritual righteousness (being declared holy by grace) and their practical worldly reality (continuing to struggle with guilt).

Justification

Jesus Christ Justifies Everyone Who Believes in Him

For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption; but He (Jesus Christ) whom God raised up saw no corruption. Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses. (Acts 13: 36-39, NKJV)

The Law of Moses Could Not Provide God's Justification

- Bottom line, believers in the Old Testament and the New Testament could not be justified by the Mosaic Law.
- The law revealed God's standards and exposed human sin, but it could not remove guilt or provide complete righteousness.
- While the law pointed people toward holiness, it lacked the power to transform the sinner's standing before God. The law points out sin but cannot grant sinners righteousness. Also, the law reveals our need for justification but cannot save us from our sins.
- Warning: church goers and religious people must never rely on religious performance or theatrics for acceptance before God.
- The law came from God through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. One of the greatest things the law did and does is to point seeking sinners to Jesus Christ.
- The Lord Jesus Christ fulfills what the law could not accomplish by providing full and final justification through His sacrifice on the cross.

God's Faithfulness Justified King David – A Man After His Own Heart

- The life of King David provides a vivid example of God's faithfulness in justification, demonstrating that even a sinner can be declared righteous when God's covenantal mercy is trusted. Although David committed grievous sins, including adultery and murder (2 Samuel 11), Scripture repeatedly portrays him as a man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14)

and Acts 13:22), highlighting that God’s justification is grounded in His covenant faithfulness rather than human perfection.

- David, a man after God’s own heart, served his generation according to God’s will and fell asleep (Acts 13:22). Despite his faithfulness, he died and saw corruption. Even the most godly and obedient person cannot earn eternal life by their lifestyle.
- In Psalms 32:1–2, David celebrates the joy of forgiveness: “Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven...whose sin is covered,” showing that God imputes righteousness and grants peace to those who repent and trust Him.
- Exegetically, David’s life illustrates that justification is not automatic; it involves relational faith—acknowledging sin, relying on God’s mercy, and receiving His gracious declaration of righteousness. His example foreshadows New Testament teaching, where faith, not works, is the instrument through which God declares sinners righteous, and it affirms that the faithfulness of God, rather than human merit, secures justification.

Justification and Forgiveness are Available To All People

- Justification is available to all who believes in Jesus Christ, both Jews and Gentiles alike. God’s grace transcends cultural, national, and ritual boundaries. Salvation and justification are inclusive for all who put faith in Jesus.
- Jesus has made salvation accessible to all who come to Him in faith. The Gospel message is therefore universal, offering the opportunity for every person to be declared righteous before God.
- Since justification is available to everyone, the Gospel invites all people to respond in faith. God’s grace extends to those who believe in Jesus Christ and accept His offer of forgiveness.
- The message of justification reveals God’s desire to save all people. According to Acts 13:38–39, forgiveness of sins is proclaimed through Jesus Christ, and “everyone who believes is justified.” This shows that justification is not restricted to a particular nation, race, or social group.

Justification Is Only Through Faith In Jesus Christ

- Justification is solely grounded in the redemptive work of **Jesus Christ**, as Scripture consistently teaches that no human effort or obedience to the law can secure righteousness before God. Paul emphasizes this in Romans 3, declaring that all believers are “being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”
- Exegetically, the Greek verb (*dikaioō*) in this context conveys a judicial declaration: God declares the sinner righteous, not because of inherent merit, but because Christ’s obedience and sacrificial death satisfy the demands of divine justice.
- Furthermore, Galatians 2:16 underscores that justification “is not by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ,” confirming that Christ’s righteousness is imputed to believers, making them right in God’s sight.
- Thus, biblical justification is inextricably linked to Christ’s person and His finished work: He is the mediator, the substitute, and the source of all declared righteousness. God kind of faith rests in the risen Christ our Savior alone, not in human goodness.

Jesus Christ’s Victory Over Death and Resurrection Confirms the Offer of Justification

- The resurrection of Jesus proves that God accepted His sacrifice for the sins of the world. In Acts 13:37, Paul the Apostle proclaims that God raised Jesus from the dead and that His body “saw no corruption.”
- Jesus’ victory over death confirms that Christ’s work of redemption is sufficient for all people. Because He lives, the message of justification can be preached to every nation and every generation. Genuine faith rest in the risen Savior Jesus Christ on
- He whom God raised up saw no corruption; therefore, Jesus is the resurrected, incorruptible Savior.
- Therefore, Christ alone conquered sin and death and He offers every believer eternal life.

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father, We thank You for the truth of Your Word and for the gift of justification through Your Son, Jesus Christ. We praise and honor You for forgiving the sins of those who believe in Jesus and are declared righteous by Your grace. May we carry the Gospel message of grace and

Sanctification ***Steps to Grow in Holiness***

“So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with...the things of this world. [10] Put on your new nature and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like Him. Colossians 3:5a,10(NLT)

Introduction: Sanctification Journey Toward Holiness

Sanctification is the ongoing process by which a believer is set apart by God for His purposes and transformed into the likeness of Jesus Christ. While justification is a one-time legal declaration where God counts a sinner as righteous because of Christ, sanctification is the lifelong internal work of the Holy Spirit.

Goal of the “journey” is to: help believers understand their active role in Sanctification: to pursue **Holiness** through Spirit-empowered obedience; and importantly understand that **Holiness** is not perfectionism but steady growth.

1. Two Sanctification Perspectives: Positional vs. Progressive

To understand how we grow, we must first understand our standing. Sanctification is both a finished work and a continuing work.

* **Initiated Sanctification:** The moment you trust in Christ, you are “set apart” and declared holy. In God’s eyes, you are a “saint” (holy one) because you are “in Christ.”

“And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” Hebrews 10:10 (NIV)

* **Incremental Sanctification:** This is the practical outworking of your position. It is the daily process of dying to sin and living to righteousness. It is the “growth” phase of the Christian life.

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 3:18a (NIV)

2. The Divine-Human Partnership

“Therefore, my dear friends... 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 (NIV))

Sanctification is not “in your control” nor is it “letting go and letting God” while you remain passive. Rather it is a **partnership** in which God provides “the power”; we provide “the participation”.

- ✓ **God’s Part:** He provides the Holy Spirit to convict, guide, and empower us. He uses the Word and trials to refine us.
- ✓ **Our Part:** We are called to “work out” what God has “worked in.” This involves discipline, obedience, and the “mortification” (putting to death) of sin.

3. Core Concepts of the Divine-Human Partnership

- ✓ Transformation begins with how we think. We cannot live a holy life in unholy mindset
- ✓ Holiness is not a matter of sheer willpower; it is about dependence. To “walk” implies a steady, rhythmic reliance on the Spirit’s prompting.
- ✓ Sanctification involves a “wardrobe change.” We must actively discard old habits and intentionally adopt new, Christ-like ones.
- ✓ holiness is rarely achieved in isolation. We need the “iron sharpening iron” of a local Church body. (*Proverbs 27:17*)
- ✓ Sanctification involves both resisting (Put Off) sin and (Put On) Practicing virtue.
 - **Holiness Requires Action** — Believers resist sin and pursue righteousness.
 - **Renewing the Mind** — Transformation begins with shaping thoughts and desires.
 - **Spiritual Disciplines** — Prayer, worship, fellowship, and service cultivate holiness.
 - **Putting Off and Putting On** —

4. Disciplines to Grow in Holiness (Practical Application)

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” (Romans 12:2)

Sanctification ***The Role of the Holy Spirit***

“because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.” 2 Thessalonians 2:13c (KJV)

Introduction: Sanctification Set Apart by the Holy Spirit

Sanctification often feels like a daunting “Church word,” but its core meaning is beautiful: to be set apart. It is the ongoing process by which a believer is transformed into the image of Christ. Unlike justification (which happens the moment you believe), sanctification is a lifelong marathon.

1. The Role of the Holy Spirit

“...God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.” (2 Thessalonians 2:13)

If sanctification is the journey, the role of the Holy Spirit is as the Engine. You cannot “sleepwalk” your way into holiness; sanctification is a supernatural work at three levels:

First level: Conviction and Revelation

The Spirit acts as a divine spotlight, showing us where our lives do not align with God’s heart. He does not just point out sins to shame us; He reveals truth to free us.

❖ *“And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.” John 16:8*

Second Level: Empowerment (The “Helper”)

The Greek word for the Spirit is Parakletos—one called alongside to help. He provides the strength to say “no” to the flesh and “yes” to God.

❖ *“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.” Galatians 5:16:*

Third Level: Cultivating Fruit

Holiness is not just the absence of bad behavior; it is the presence of Christlike character. The Spirit “grows” these qualities in us like a gardener.

❖ *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” Galatians 5:22-23*

2. The Divine Cooperative

While we are called to obedience, the power to change comes entirely from the Holy Spirit. It is a cooperative work where God provides the power, and we provide the “yes.”

The Spirit Convicts: He points out areas of our lives that do not align with God’s character (John 16:8).

The Spirit Renews: He transforms our desires so that we actually want what God wants.

The Spirit Empowers: He provides the strength to say “no” to the flesh and “yes” to righteousness.

3. Living the Spirit-Led Life – “Fruit vs. Flesh” - Galatians 5:16,17(KJV)

The primary evidence of the Holy Spirit’s work in sanctification is the “Fruit of the Spirit.” As the Spirit matures us, our flesh begins to mirror the character of Jesus.

The Work of the Spirit

Internal Change

Relational Change

Personal Discipline

The Result in the Believer

Love, Joy, Peace, Patience

Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness

Gentleness, Self-control

(Scripture Reference: Galatians 5:22-23(KJV))

4. Perspectives on Steps for Growth

Lifestyle Change: Learn to “walk by the Spirit”

Submission: Start each day by yielding your will to God.

Word Immersion: The Spirit uses the Bible to “wash” our minds and align our thoughts with truth (John 17:17).

Mortification of Sin: This is a fancy theological term for “putting sin to death.”

We do not just manage sin; we kill it by the Spirit’s power.

Community Service - Staying accountable within the Body of Christ. (Hebrews 10:24)

Conclusion: A Work in Progress

Sanctification is often messy. It involves mountain peaks of growth and valleys of struggle. However, the believer can rest in the promise that the Holy Spirit never gives up on His project. If you feel like you are not “holy enough” yet remember you are a masterpiece under construction.

The most vital thing to remember about sanctification is that the Holy Spirit is persistent. On days when you feel you have failed or have not grown enough, remember that God is the One who initiated this work, and He is the one who will finish it.

❖ *“Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.” Philippians 1:6*

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Sanctification *Journey of Holiness*

"But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth" 2 Thessalonians 2:13 (KJV)

Introduction: Sanctification Sets Apart For A Holiness Purpose

Sanctifications Setting Apart For A Holiness Purpose explores the transformative journey of the Christian life, moving from the moment of salvation into a lifelong process of becoming more like Christ. Sanctification comes from the Greek word "hagiasmos," which means "holiness" or "consecration." Sanctification is the internal work of making us holy.

1. The Three Stages of Sanctification

*** Positional Sanctification (The Decisive Act)**

The first stage is the moment you believe, are then "set apart" as holy in God's sight. You enter into a "saint" position of your Decisive Act.

❖ *"And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." (Hebrews 10:10)*

*** Progressive Sanctification (The Ongoing Process)**

The ongoing process of spiritual growth. This is the "work in progress" stage where we struggle against sin and grow in grace.

❖ *"But we all... are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord." (2 Corinthians 3:18)*

*** Perfected Sanctification (Future Completion of Glorification)**

The final stage when we are in heaven, completely free from the presence and possibility of sin.

- ❖ *"Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him." (1 John 3:2)*

2. The Divine-Human Partnership Roles

A common misunderstanding is that sanctification is either 100% God's job (leading to passivity) or 100% our job (leading to legalism). The biblical perspective is synergistic: God provides the power, and we provide the participation. The Holy Spirit produces "fruit" (Galatians 5:22). Humans "clothe ourselves" with the new self (Colossians 3:10). God works in us to will and to act (Philippians 2:13). We "work out" our salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12). The Word of God cleanses us (John 17:17). Humans must "flee from youthful passions" (2 Timothy 2:22).

2: The Role of the Holy Spirit in Sanctification

The work from the role of the Holy Spirit is the primary agent of change which comes through:

Conviction: He points out areas of our lives that do not align with God's character (John 16:8).

Illumination: He helps us understand the Bible, which is the "tool" of sanctification.

- ❖ *"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth." (John 17:17)*

Empowerment: He provides the strength to say "no" to the flesh.

- ❖ *"Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh." (Galatians 5:16)*

3. The Fruit of the Spirit

- ❖ *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." Galatians 5:22-23*

The evidence of the Spirit's work is not found in "working harder," but in the "fruit" that naturally grows from a healthy connection to the Vine (Christ).

4. Practical Application - How we "cooperate" with the Holy Spirit in Sanctification

❖ *"For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live." Romans 8:13 (KJV)*

Mortification of Sin: This is the active killing of sinful habits. It is not just avoiding terrible things; it is starving the desires that lead to them.

Application: We are to identify recurring sins and "starve" them by removing the triggers

Conclusion - Concept - Description - Key Verse

❖ *"Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Romans 12:2*

Sanctification -- God's work in us (Internal change) - 1 Thessalonians. 4:3 |

The Spirit's Role -- Providing the power and the "fruit." - Galatians 5:22-23 |

Our Role -- Faith, obedience, and "killing" sinful things of the flesh - Philippians 2:12-13 |

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Sanctification

Sanctification + Justification = The Sacred Synergy

"But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." 1 Corinthians 6:11b (NIV)

Introduction: Understanding the key differences and highlighting the relationship between the theological terms of justification and sanctification is vital to have a healthy Christian walk. In Christian theology, the **sacred synergy** between Justification and Sanctification is often described as two sides of the same coin. While they are distinct concepts, they are inseparable in the life of a believer. Understanding how Justification and Sanctification interact is key to a healthy spiritual life that avoid traps of “**Legalism**” (trying to earn God's love), “**Antinomianism**” (salvation faith only) or “**Cheap Grace**” (ignore repentance).

Application of the Justification and Sanctification relationship

❖ *“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 3:18(KJV)*

It is important to realize that while Justification and Sanctification are distinct, they are inseparable. You cannot have one without the other, yet you must never confuse them. If you treat sanctification as the basis for justification, you will fall into **legalism**; or if you ignore responsibility to obey or fail to respond to the Holy Spirit growing you will constantly lead to **Antinomianism**, wondering if you have done “enough” to be saved.

* **Legalism** refers to the belief that salvation or right standing with God is achieved through strict adherence to rules, regulations, or human traditions rather than through grace alone.

* **Antinomianism** refers to the theological belief that because believers are saved by grace, they are freed from obligation to obey moral laws; that faith alone is sufficient for salvation; which suggests that to them, salvation creates a “license for them to sin.”

***Cheap Grace**” refers to extreme theological belief of receiving the benefits of salvation but ignoring the necessity of repentance and obedience in a believer’s life.

1. Justification and Sanctification Contrast

❖ *"For this is the will of God, your sanctification..." 1 Thessalonians 4:3a (KJV)*

Biblical terms- Justification and Sanctification describe the objective change in a person’s **salvation status**—from guilty to pardoned—based entirely on grace and received through faith, not by any merit of our own. While justification happens in an instant, sanctification is a lifelong journey of one being conformed to the image of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Justification is a **one-time** legal declaration by God a sinner is declared righteous. In contrast, sanctification is the **ongoing** process by which a believer is made holy progressively. *Faith alone saves, but the faith that saves is never alone.*” — *John Calvin*

2. Justification and Sanctification Relationship

❖ *"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 5:1(KJV)*

The Spirit is the Power Source" to Change the way to holiness. We are sanctified by the same grace source that justifies us. To understand the Justification and Sanctification relationship, we must first define the individual roles:

Justification (the Legal Status): A one-time act of God’s grace where He declares a sinner righteous based on the work of Jesus Christ. It is an external change in standing.

Sanctification (The Living Process): A progressive work of God and the believer that makes us more like Christ in our daily lives. It is an internal change in character.

2. The Root and Fruit of Justification and Sanctification

Theologians often use the Justification and Sanctification analogy of a root and its fruit. Justification is the root; sanctification is the fruit that inevitably grows from it.

Justification Root Features: **Duration** - Instantaneous; once and for all; **Source** - Entirely God's work; **Condition** - Perfect in this life; **Focus** - Our standing before God.

Sanctification Fruit Features: **Duration**- Progressive, lifelong; **Source** - God works, we respond (Synergism); **Condition** - Never perfect until after death; **Focus** - Likeness to God

3. Pursuit of "Positional" vs. "Progressive" Holiness

- ❖ “...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.” *Philippians 2:12-13 (NIV)*

Justification always come first. If we try to "be holy" (sanctification) to "be saved" (justification), then we fall into the "works-based" trap. However, if we claim to be justified but have no desire for holiness, the Bible suggests our faith may not be genuine. In Justification, God's acceptance of you is 100%. It does not fluctuate.

4. Conclusion

- ❖ Titus 2:11-12: *"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people [Justification] training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions [Sanctification]."*

We work out our salvation with fear and trembling precisely because it is God who is already at work within us. Justification provides the secure foundation of God's love, which then serves as the primary motivation for a life of joyful, holy obedience. AMEN!

Salvation, Sanctification, and Glorification

“Moreover, whom He did predestinate, them He also called: and whom He called, them He also justified: and whom He justified, them He also glorified.” Romans 8:30

This single verse captures the entire journey of the believer—from the moment God saves us, through the lifelong process of being shaped into Christ’s image, to the final promise of eternal glory. It is the believer’s spiritual timeline.

SALVATION — God’s Gift, Our New Beginning

Salvation is the act of God delivering us from the penalty of sin and giving us new life through Jesus Christ. It is **instant, complete, and entirely by grace**.

Supporting Scriptures:

- **Ephesians 2:8–9** – Salvation is by grace through faith, not works.
- **Romans 10:9–10** – Confession and belief bring salvation.
- **2 Corinthians 5:17** – In Christ, we become a new creation.

What Salvation Means for the Believer

- We are **forgiven** of all sin—past, present, and future.
- We are **justified**—declared righteous by God.
- We are **adopted** into God’s family.
- We receive the **Holy Spirit** as our seal and helper.

Life Application

- Salvation should produce **gratitude**. A saved believer lives with a thankful heart.
- Salvation should produce **assurance**. We do not have to wonder if God loves us—He proved it at the cross.
- Salvation should produce **witness**. A saved believer shares the good news with others.

SANCTIFICATION — Growing to Look Like Jesus

Sanctification is the **ongoing work of the Holy Spirit** that makes believers more like Christ in character, conduct, and conversation. It is **progressive**, meaning it continues throughout our entire Christian life.

Supporting Scriptures

- **1 Thessalonians 4:3** – “This is the will of God, even your sanctification.”
- **John 17:17** – “Sanctify them through Thy truth; Thy word is truth.”
- **Galatians 5:22–23** – The fruit of the Spirit marks a sanctified life.

How Sanctification Works

- The Holy Spirit convicts, corrects, and transforms us.
- God uses His Word to renew our minds.
- Trials and challenges refine our faith.
- Fellowship with other believers strengthens us.

Life Application

- Sanctification requires **daily surrender**. We must choose God’s will over our own.
- Sanctification requires **spiritual discipline**—prayer, Bible study, worship, and service.
- Sanctification requires **repentance**. When we fall, we get back up and keep growing.
- Sanctification requires **community**. We grow better together than alone.
- Sanctification is like polishing a diamond. The diamond is already valuable at salvation, but the polishing process brings out its shine. God is polishing us daily.

GLORIFICATION — The Final Victory of the Believer

Glorification is the **future and final transformation** of believers when we receive resurrected bodies and live eternally with God. It is **promised, certain, and eternal**.

Supporting Scriptures

- **1 Corinthians 15:51–53** – We shall be changed; mortality puts on immortality.
- **1 John 3:2** – We shall be like Him when He appears.
- **Revelation 21:4** – No more death, sorrow, crying, or pain.

What Glorification Means

- We will be completely free from sin.
- We will receive a new, incorruptible body.
- We will live forever in God's presence.
- We will experience perfect joy, peace, and fellowship.

Life Application

- Glorification gives believers **hope** in suffering.
- Glorification gives believers **courage** to endure trials.
- Glorification gives believers **purpose**—we live today with eternity in mind.
- Glorification gives believers **comfort** when facing death or loss.

Glorification is like the final chapter of a story where everything broken is restored. God writes the ending, and the ending is victory.

HOW THE THREE WORK TOGETHER

Salvation — Past

God **saved** us from the penalty of sin.

Sanctification — Present

God **is saving** us from the power of sin.

Glorification — Future

God **will save** us from the presence of sin.

These three stages show that God is involved in every part of our spiritual journey. What He starts, He finishes (Philippians 1:6).

CONCLUSION

The believer's journey is a beautiful work of God:

- **Salvation** gives us a new start.
- **Sanctification** shapes us day by day.
- **Glorification** secures our eternal future.

This is the full Gospel story—God saves us, grows us, and will one day perfect us. Every believer at Mount Canaan Baptist Church is living in this divine timeline. Let us walk worthy of the calling we have received.

LIFE APPLICATION FOR MOUNT CANAAN BAPTIST CHURCH

1. Live as a Saved People

Walk in confidence, not condemnation. Share your testimony. Invite others to Christ.

2. Grow as a Sanctified People

Commit to Bible study, prayer, and service. Seek accountability. Let the Holy Spirit lead your decisions.

3. Hope as a Glorified People

Face trials with faith. Encourage one another. Keep your eyes on eternity.

4. Serve as a United People

A Church that understands salvation, sanctification, and glorification becomes a Church that worships deeply, grows spiritually, and serves faithfully.

Commentary references and excerpts were derived from the following resources:

The Holy Bible

Logos Bible Software

The Preacher's Sermon Outline Bible

Life Application Bible Notes

Word Search Bible Study Software

Internet Resources