

Lesson #10

God's Plan After Salvation



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Preparation for study

The only thing that prevents the Holy Spirit from teaching us is our personal sin(s). King David of the Old Testament clearly put it this way:

If I regard wickedness in my heart, the Lord will not hear; (Psalms 66:18).

Therefore, if the Lord cannot hear a believer's prayer due to unconfessed sin in his soul, it follows doctrinally that the Holy Spirit will not teach the individual.

Here is the solution:

If we confess [acknowledge] our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness [sins, known or forgotten] (1 John 1:9).

At this point, you may want to pause and acknowledge directly to God any sin that may hinder you from being fully blessed through the Word of God.

After Salvation, What Next?

So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12).

Something very unique took place after the Lord Jesus Christ resurrected and ascended into the presence of His Father in Heaven (Acts 2). Ten days after the Lord ascended into Heaven the

Church Age began. You have the right to pause and ask yourself the following questions:
When Jesus Christ was physically present on earth, why did He say:

I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep [maximum protection] them from the evil one (John 17:15).

Why has God made a decision to leave us on earth after our salvation? After all, the Bible made it clear that we are God's property:

Do you not know that ... you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body (1 Corinthians 6:19-20b).

The Trinity-God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit-indwells every person who personally puts his trust entirely in the Lord Jesus Christ. Why does the Bible never say that God made His home inside the bodies of the great believers of the Old Testament like Moses? Why did God decide to live inside the body of every believer in Christ Jesus today?

Do you not know that you [believer in Christ] are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? (1 Corinthians 3:16).

What is the value of my spiritual progress? When Paul, the greatest apostle of human history, wrote a letter to his beloved church in Philippi he gave them a command:

So then, my beloved [believers] ... work out your salvation... (Philippians 2:12).

That command applies to every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ today. And in this command lies the main reason why believers are left behind after their salvation. God's plan after salvation is for the believer to bring glory to His name. The following prayer of the Lord Jesus Christ now makes sense:

"Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You. " ... " I do not ask You to take them [believers] out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one" (John 17:1b, 15).

It is alarming how many false teachings have sprung up from the command "Work out your salvation." To get to the true meaning of this important phrase, let us take a closer look. The Greek word erroneously translated "salvation" in Philippians 2:12, is soteria. This Greek word has several meanings. It means salvation all right, but it also means, "to save, preservation, deliverance," as well as "salvation." How do the Bible translators determine which word to use in Philippians 2:12? The task is indeed a serious one, as mistranslated Scripture can cause confusion among believers and give room for false teaching. The best way to translate any word in the Bible should be to not only examine the context and the author's other writings, but also to

examine the Bible as a whole. A translator has to determine if the use of a particular word will contradict other verses or cause ambiguity in other areas where the same word was used. Unfortunately in this case, the Greek word soteria was translated “salvation,” but should have been translated “deliverance.” The verse should have been written: “So then, my beloved“ work out your deliverance “ (Philippians 2:12). This is why it is so important for every believer to expose himself to sound teaching of the word of God.

A student of the Bible may read Philippians 2:12 and think that it contradicts many other verses such as:

Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity (2 Timothy 1:9).

He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy [in action] (Titus 3:5a).

For by grace you have been saved [saved in the past and remain saved] through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast (Ephesians 2:8-9).

But if it [salvation] is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works (Romans 11:6a).

To further illustrate that the apostle Paul was writing to believers, he began his letter by saying:

Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God in all my remembrance of you (Philippians 1:1-3).

So, if the apostle Paul didn't mean for the believers to work out their salvation from Hell, what did he mean?

Salvation: Past, Present, Future

To further explain Philippians 2:12, I will discuss the three phases of a believer's journey.

Phase 1: Past action.

The moment a person puts his undivided trust in Christ, God the Father saves him. At this point his salvation from the Lake of Fire is complete. He is saved forever. The prophet Isaiah records:

But My salvation will be forever, and My righteousness will not wane (Isaiah 51:6b).

Our Lord declared:

Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word [gospel message], and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed [completed action] out of death into life (John 5:24).

The apostle Paul added:

Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us [past action] to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. For he rescued [Greek: rhuomai - to draw or pull out of danger] us from the dominion of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (Colossians. 1:12-14).

When an unbeliever hears the gospel message and recognizes that Jesus Christ is truly the Savior of mankind, and believes in Him, God the Father gives him His perfect righteousness:

This righteousness of God comes through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe. There is no difference, (Romans 3:22 NIV).

This grace gift of God's perfect righteousness becomes the basis for everything that God does for the believer for both now and into all eternity.

Please join us for our next lesson where we will develop this concept and study some what God does for us in grace. Until then, may God bless you and keep you.