

## Lesson #11

# 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.

### **Salvation: Past, Present, Future, (Phase 1 continued)**

The 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. This includes, but is not limited to the following:

### ***Forgiveness of sin:***

As far as the east is from the west, so far has He [God] removed our transgressions [sins] from us (Psalm 103:12).

Blessed is he [every believer] whose transgression [sin] is forgiven, whose sins are covered (Psalm 32:1 NIV).

### ***Justification of the believer:***

Therefore, having been justified [perfect tense-justified now with the result that we keep on being justified] by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1).

### ***Cancellation of future judgment:***

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1).

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

### ***Assignment of God's own life-eternal life:***

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life (John 3:36a NIV).

### ***Eternal security of the believer:***

I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of My hand (John 10:28 NIV).

Finally, 1 Peter 1:5 states that the believer is shielded [kept] by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

### **Phase 2: Present ongoing action:**

This is the believers daily spiritual production and glorification of God. This is the phase the apostle Paul is referring to in Philippians 2:12. He encourages the believers in Philippi to continue in their spiritual production that he commended them for in Chapter 1. He reminds them

that they are responsible for their daily deliverance from personal sins and their consequences.

The apostle Paul wrote to the believers in Rome:

For if you [a believer] live [habitually] according to the sinful nature, you will die [the sin unto death], but if by the Spirit you put to death [bring under control] the misdeeds of the body, you will live (Romans 8:13).

This caution given by Paul is similar to that given by James:

Therefore, get rid of all filth [sins] and evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word [Bible doctrine] which can save [deliver] you [from death] (James 1:21).

And the one who wrote the book of Proverbs gave the same warning:

The fear of the Lord adds length to life, but the years of the wicked [carnal believer] are cut short (Proverbs 10:27).

**Phase 3:** Future action:

This is the final removal or separation of believers in Christ from the world-the conclusion of the unique age of the church. This conclusion will begin with the rapture, the exit resurrection of the church. The apostle Paul, in his anticipation of this wonderful event wrote:

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

This is my longing, and I believe it is yours also:

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality. But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and the mortal with [will have put on] immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:52-57).

This should be our total confidence for the future as the believer lives and serves in Phase Two of his spiritual journey.

### **Believers Have Been Sworn in to Serve**

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself. (Philippians 3:20-21).

I have often pondered over what the apostle Paul said to the Corinthian believers:

If any man's work is burned up [useless service], he [the loser believer] will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire (1 Corinthians 3:15).

Whatever this experience might be, the Word of God is totally silent about it. The only thing God, the gracious One did, was to warn us of the awkward experience awaiting those believers who disregarded His unique plan. The apostle Paul puts it this way:

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse (Romans 1:20).

Please join us in lesson 12 when we study some of the applications of this verse. Until then may the Lord bless you and keep you.

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