

HOW GREAT A SALVATION WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN. (*HEBREWS 2:3*) (*Salvation's Road Map: Starting Point, Journey's Route, and Finishing Point*)

These are the foundational truths that I teach Thai believers. These truths provide eye-opening encouragement, which helps them to better understand their unchangeable, God-ordained position or eternal standing: as being "*in Christ*." All done for them by God Himself!

Salvation occurs in 3 parts: ¹Salvation from sin's Punishment (past); ²From sin's power (present); and ³From sin's presence (future).

As believers, we *have been* given all things pertaining to Life and Godliness, according to God's promises, both for living a godly life while here on Earth, and ultimately for entry into God's Heaven. (Eph 1:3, Col 2:10, 1Pet 1:3-5, 2Pet 1:2-4)

This is the 3-fold story of Redemption. We are saved (delivered) from sin because the required price has been fully paid by Christ. His substitutionary death and resurrection released believers from ¹the *PENALTY OF SIN* (Justification, Past Tense); ²from the *POWER OF SIN* (Sanctification, Present Tense); and ³from the *PRESENCE OF SIN* altogether (Glorification, Future tense) when we see Him. Because, upon His return at the rapture to call His Saints up to heaven we shall be transformed like Him. (1 John 3:2, 1 Corinthians 15)

I. PAST – JUSTIFICATION: (*STARTING POINT—OUR CHRISTIAN JOURNEY BEGINS*)

THE VERY MOMENT WE RECEIVED CHRIST, WE **WERE** BORN-AGAIN BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD AND **JUSTIFIED*** OR **DECLARED RIGHTEOUS** BY GOD AS AN IMMEDIATE RESULT OF OUR FAITH. At that very moment, we were **SAVED OR FREED FROM THE PENALTY OF SIN FOREVER**. We were *DECLARED JUST OR RIGHTEOUS* by the Supreme Heavenly Judge Himself, *free of any and all guilt and absolved of any wrong doing*. Therefore, we will never come under condemnation or judgment since Christ was judged in our place. (2 Cor 5:21, Romans 8:1) **Justified or Made Righteous here is in the Greek Aorist tense—done precisely once, without regard to time.*

- ✓ *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that hears my word, and believes on him that sent me, has (possesses; Present-Active tense) everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but has passed from death unto life. (John 5:24)*
- ✓ *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: (Romans 5:1)*
- ✓ *For he (God the father) hath made him (Jesus: God the Son) to become sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. (2 Corinthians 5:21)*

NOTE: We who are *in Christ* have been endowed with His perfect, sinless righteousness (*imputed or deposited into our formerly bankrupt spiritual bank account at the moment we received Jesus as our Savior*). Therefore, we now stand perfectly acceptable in God's sight (*present-perfect tense—never changing*). Thus, as Believers, we will never-ever come under condemnation (*judgment*), based solely on the merits of Jesus Christ, who paid the full price for our sins by His shed Blood, at His death on the Cross on our behalf. In fact, Christ, in taking our place, became sin when he took our punishment upon Himself.

Justification by Faith means to be declared by God as right-standing in His sight, a result of Imputed Righteousness:

(1) The sin of Adam was imputed to all his descendants.

(2) The righteousness of Christ is imputed to all them that believe. (*1 Cor 15:22*)

The act of trusting in Christ, which secures our justification, also secures our sanctification. Thus, justification by faith does not lead to wantonness (Romans 6:2-7, 6:14, 7:6).

It leads to good works, while not the ground, are the certainly the consequence of justification. (Galatians 2:20, Ephesians 2:10)

II. PRESENT – SANCTIFICATION: (*TRAVELING THE ROADWAY OF LIFE—OUR JOURNEY IN PROCESS*)

There are two distinct aspects of Sanctification: ¹IMMEDIATE & ²ON-GOING. (*Sanctified means being set apart by God from the world & sin.*)

Pastor George Cuff concurred, saying that "*The Sanctification process is two-fold, both instantaneous and progressive.*" (Sun, Mar 6, 2016)

1) We **HAVE BEEN Sanctified** (set apart). **Have been delivered from SIN'S POWER. Our Eternal Standing:** (*Grk: past-perfect tense*).

Our English word "*Sanctify*" reflects the Greek root word (*Hagios*) meaning "Holy." Thus, God calls us His Saints or Holy Ones.

-AND-

2) We **ARE BEING Sanctified** (set apart). **Are being delivered from SIN'S POWER. Our Present State:** (*Grk: present-active tense*).

On-Going Sanctification is a maturing or growing process where God sets us apart from the world and sin unto Himself for His purposes. The Holy Spirit does the sanctifying work as we walk, yielded, step by step, conforming us to become more like Christ. (Romans 8:29-30)

1ST ASPECT: (Instantaneous and Unchangeable) Eternal Positional Truth—that is, where we presently stand as being "*in Christ*."

We have been Sanctified (perfect tense – completed action, i.e., our eternal, positional standing in Christ—Seated in Heaven w/Him)

Ephesians 1:4 *According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:*

Ephesians 2:6 *And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Christ Jesus in the heavenly realms.*

Titus 2:14 *Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify (set apart as being holy) unto himself a peculiar (unique) people, zealous unto good works.*

2ND ASPECT: (Life-long Maturing & Growing Process) Daily experience—where we live in the here and now.

We are being Sanctified (present active tense) as an on-going process. (Our Present State or Condition)

*Rom 8:28-29 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. ⁽²⁹⁾ For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be **conformed** to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

*Col 2:6-7 As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk you in him: ⁽⁷⁾ Rooted and **[being] built up in him, and established in the faith**, as you have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. (See NASB rendering)*

NOTE: Believers often beat themselves up by saying: "I know I'm not living like I should, doing as much as I should, etc..." As if God had abandoned them to live a works-based salvation. This is an entirely wrong view; an unprofitable and self-defeating mindset.

Remember this fact: As believers, we are given (possess) all things pertaining to Life and Godliness.

*Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who **hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings** in heavenly places in Christ:*

*2 Peter 1:3 According as his divine power **hath given (equipped) us with all things that pertain unto life and godliness**, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:*

We are the temple of the Holy Spirit and as such are encouraged to Glorify Christ by living Holy, separated lives (*i.e.*, *Walk in the truth, Put on Christ, Walk in the Light, Abide In the Vine, etc.*)

We are encouraged to: "**show forth His praise**" in our bodies, minds, and daily lives: (1 Cor 6:20; 10:31).

We cannot do this in the power of our own strength, no matter how much Bible knowledge we might have.

To do this, we are encouraged/told/commanded to walk/abide with God—various ways this is stated:

*John 15:4 **Abide in me**, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can you, except you abide in me.*

*Ga 5:16 This I say then, **Walk in the Spirit**, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*

*Eph 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that you **walk worthy of the vocation wherewith you are called**,*

*Eph 5:1-2 **Be you therefore followers of God**, as dear children;*

*Eph 5:2 And **walk in love**, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor.*

*1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that you also may have fellowship with us: and truly our **fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ***

*3 John 1:4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children **walk in truth**..*

We are encouraged in God's Word: to help each other grow in Grace through a balance of: ^{A)} personal example; ^{B)} prayer; ^{C)} exhortation. Also: We have three very real enemies: ¹⁾ this world's system, ²⁾ our own fleshly lusts and desires, ³⁾ Satan and his dark angels.

By Example:

Paul said: Follow Me as I follow Christ (Follow my example)

1 Cor 4:16 Wherefore I beseech you, be you followers of me.

1 Cor 11:1 Be you followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

1 Thes 1:6 And you became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit:

By Prayer:

Eph 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Eph 6:19 And, for me, that God would give the opportunity to boldly proclaim the gospel,

*Col 1:9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, **do not cease to pray for you**, and to desire **that you might be filled with the knowledge of his will** in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;*

1 Thes 5:25 Brethren, pray for us (your teachers / leaders).

James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that you may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

By Exhortation:

To Come Alongside (Paraklete), not blast someone out of the water in a negative, self-righteous, judgmental manner.

Exhort: To Come Alongside, to Build up, to encourage unto good works (same root word as paraklete = The Comforter – Meaning the Holy Spirit, who comes alongside)

*1 Thes 2:11 As you know how **we exhorted and comforted** and charged every one of you, as a father does for his children,*

*2 Tim 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season and out...; **reprove, rebuke, exhort** with all **longsuffering and doctrine**.*

By Functioning within the Body of Christ: Eph 4:11-17 *and he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastor-teachers (spiritual gifts); For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

By Encouraging Believers:

God's Word teaches that we are to encourage and help each other to in grow in Grace (The maturing process)

Heb 10:23-25 *Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)²⁴ And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:²⁵ Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as you see the day approaching. Day of Christ's return for His own (see: Eph 1:14)*

Approach → Present → Exhort → Encourage → Restore: (Goes against our human nature and culture)

Gal 6:1 *Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.*

Note: What does it mean to be "spiritual"? Simply: a Christian who is walking in truth or in fellowship, and probably more mature and steadfast in the faith (*yet, personally aware of his/her own potential to sin*).

1 Cor 5:1 *It is reported commonly that there is **fornication among you**, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have (เอากันกับ) **his father's wife** (probably illicit sexual activity).*

1 Cor 5:5 *To **deliver such a one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh**, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. (6) **Sufficient** to such a man is **this punishment**, which was inflicted of many. (7) So that contrariwise, you ought rather to **forgive him, and comfort him**, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with sorrow.*

Jas 5:20 *Let him know, that he which **converts the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.***

Mat 18:15 *if your brother shall trespass against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone: if he shall hear you, thou hast gained your brother. 16 But if he will not hear you, then take with you one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established*

III. FUTURE -- GLORIFICATION (OUR FINAL DESTINATION; ARRIVAL AT OUR ETERNAL HOME)

WE **WILL BE GLORIFIED** the moment we see Christ, upon His return. Meaning, **Saved Entirely From The Presence Of Sin**, forever. (*Our earthly bodies will be transformed—like His glorious body—to share in His Eternal Glory in an eternally-Glorified or Heavenly state of being*)

Receive Glorification: To be made glorious (John 12:28; 13:31, 32; 17:4-5). "...put on incorruption" (total holiness, Godly perfection)

Eph 2:7 *That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.*

Rom 8:17 *And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also **glorified** together [with Him].*

Rom 8:30 *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.*

1 Cor 15:52-54 *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible (immortality), and we shall be changed.⁵³ For this corruptible (body) must put on incorruption, and this mortal (body) must put on immortality.⁵⁴ So when this corruptible (body) shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal (body) shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.*

2 Cor 5:8 *We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be **absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.***

NOTE: Not "soul sleep," which teaches that, upon death, believers enter a state of unconscious spiritual hibernation (soul sleep) until the Rapture. Derived by taking a literal view of the metaphorical term "sleep," referring to death. (See 1 Thess 4:13-18)

1 John 3:2 *Beloved, now are we the Sons of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see him as he is.*

1 John 3:3 *And every man that hath this hope in him purifies himself, even as He is pure.*

WHAT IS HEAVEN LIKE? (Read Revelation Chapters 20 and 21)

Rev 21:2-5 *And I (John) saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride (Saints) adorned for her Husband (Christ).³ And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.⁴ And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying (no sadness), neither shall there be any more pain (no sickness); for the former things are passed away. (old man/old nature gone)⁵ And there shall be no night there; and they need no lamps, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God gives them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.*