

## Salvation/Deliverance From Our Creator/Redeemer

*\*This series was taught at North Christian Church, leading up to a marvelous series on "The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification". [www.nccdighton.org](http://www.nccdighton.org)*

With all the Spirit has been teaching us about the Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification, we have seen the flow and continuity of God's plan for mankind.

We have seen the unity of Salvation and Sanctification, and how being sanctified is really an inevitable continuance of being saved, and how they are inseparable according to the scriptures, or two sides of the same coin for the true believer.

We have seen that Deliverance is a movement by God from one place to another, in particular, from salvation to sanctification and from sin to righteousness.

**The saved individual, who is born again by the Spirit of Christ, WILL be sanctified by God His Savior, and God WILL complete the good work in him. It's simply what God does for all His children. Phil 1:6, 2:13, 1Th 2:13, 5:23-24**

**Phil 1:6** *For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.*

**Phil 2:12-13** *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; (why? Look at the next verse)*

*13 for it is God (your Creator!) who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.*

You have been called by the Creator of the universe!

What other than fear and awe are the proper responses to our Almighty God?!

And this all-powerful Creator is lovingly at work in the believer.

**1 Thess 2:13** *For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, **which also performs its work in you who believe.***

By the way, if you really believe the Bible is the Word of God, you would read it every day, wouldn't you?

And the more you do that, the more the Word is able to work in you.

**1 Thess 5:23-24** *Now may **the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely**; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 Faithful is He who calls you, and **He also will bring it to pass.***

God is delivering us believers every day, bringing us to righteousness!

For the true believer, the one who has surrendered his heart to God and Christ, **he is promised the glorious results of sanctification** as part of his salvation gift!

We have also seen that if a so-called believer has NO obedience, or NO love for God and his people, or NO evidence of following Christ, he is probably not saved; yet it's a matter to the heart between him and the Lord. **John 10:27-28**

**John 10:27-28** *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; 28 and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.*

Jesus tells us that His sheep WILL follow Him.

There are some people that use the name of God and Christ, but if they don't follow Him, that's a sign they're playing religion.

They may have bad motivations of all sorts.

And we also know this by now, from reading our Bibles in context...

**There is an unavoidable continuity in the life of the true believer. A changed heart will live a changed life, otherwise the heart hasn't been changed by God.**

As Jesus said, you will know them by their fruits. **Mat 7:16-20**

---

All that being review of what we've seen for many lessons now,..

**The Lord and His plan for saving and delivering mankind can be seen in His roles as Creator and Redeemer.**

That's what we will explore in this series. We see this pattern throughout the Word of God.

i.e. - God's will for mankind is that all men be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. **1Tim 2:4**

**1 Tim 2:3-4** *This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

**There we see our Creator and Savior desires not only salvation, but also our deliverance.** (We are saved daily by God's Word.)

This is similar to what our Lord said about being set free:

**John 8:31-32** *So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."*

The inevitable result of being saved is DELIVERANCE, both eternally and experientially (in our daily experience).

Stepping back for a minute...

**The fullness of the Gospel calls upon man to repent towards God and trust in Christ to be saved. Act 17:30, 20:21**

It's here that we must remember: **repentance and faith are two sides of the same coin!**

You can't give someone ONE side of a coin, can you?!

The larger point is that saving knowledge of Christ comes through a **conversion process**, which each person must go through, and it's unique to each.

And although it's unique for every single person in some way, it's also **the same pattern for everyone...** we're talking about the need for a **repentant heart towards God about one's sin, and a turning to Christ to be saved.**

See what Paul said in:

**Acts 20:21** *"solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of **repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.**"*

Notice this was Paul's way of preaching the Gospel, to both Jews and Gentiles, which means EVERYONE.

This was not only for one group or the other, and it was not only for the early church!

This was the approach of the great missionary to the world; the apostle Paul. This was how he preached the Gospel!

To be saved, every man in his short time on earth must first humble himself before God as his **Creator**, and he must also agree that God is his **Redeemer** as well, in the Person of Jesus Christ.

And this takes place in the heart of a man. It's a process between each person and the Lord.

In fact, **acknowledging God as one's Creator and Redeemer is a wonderful analogy to repentance towards God and faith in Jesus Christ.**

Look again at **Acts 20:21**: *"solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Notice repentance is towards God, our Creator, and faith is towards Christ, our Redeemer.

Salvation and Deliverance come from acknowledging our Creator and Redeemer, as we will continue to see.

**Repentance & Faith (as a pattern in life): This is also how we live the spiritual life, even after our day of salvation!**

This is how we are saved and sanctified in our daily lives, living in the Gospel reality; by repentance and faith towards our Creator and Redeemer!

This pattern is the same for salvation and for sanctification.

It's only when we believers forget about our victory in Christ, and our unchangeable position as His child, that we then forget to live in the Gospel reality.

In other words, it's understanding and knowing God's grace that really changes us. It must be personal!

**The very act of living life in the Gospel reality... that I am saved and already victorious in Christ... that is the very means of sanctification.**

When we live like that, we are actually living a life "set apart" for God. (Sanctification literally means to be set apart.)

We are called to live in our position in Christ, to live life for Christ, because that's where we are now, as believers!

**Eph 2:4-6** *But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,*

Again, the point is;

**The very act of living life in the Gospel reality... that I am saved and already victorious in Christ... that is the very means of sanctification.** (that's how we live a life set apart for God!)

In conjunction with the Word of God, we are more and more sanctified every day. We are able to live out the Gospel reality more and more through the Word and the Spirit. **John 4:24**

**John 4:24** *"God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."*

The Spirit helped me recently, He helped me change my perspective.

I was in a rut spiritually, and not sure why my faith wasn't more pure and trusting of the Lord.

And He reminded me of this simple truth:

**Life is temporary, so live it for God in fear of your Creator.**

It's always healthy to remind ourselves; He could take any of us Home any day He wants to!

Literally today, you're heart could give out. Or you might get in a deadly car accident.

YOU'RE LIFE might be required of you today, or tomorrow, or the next day, and that is TOTALLY dependent upon God's sovereign decision.

We literally have no say in the matter.

This helps me "live in the now", and not take any day for granted.

**Life is temporary, and we are all just passing through!**

When we forget that reality, we wrongly start living for ourselves and questioning why our own comforts aren't being met.

We start focusing on our life as though it were our own! What a big mistake.



Our life is NOT our own, it's a gift from God and it belongs to the Lord!

And when we remember that life is temporary, we acknowledge the pure gift that "life" is and we see the big picture, of which we are a very small part.

Look at the wonderful reminder James gave us by the Holy Spirit:

**James 4:13-15** *Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that."*

The first guy left Someone out. The second guy acknowledged Him when making plans.

Which guy will YOU be before it's all over?

And how about right now? (maybe you need to repent?)

**We should be SET FREE by this... set free from bondage to this world system and bondage to self.**

We shouldn't have any expectations from this world, and we certainly don't want to be friends with the world!

**James 4:4** *You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*

Expectations, if you think about, really come from arrogance (as though any of us deserve anything good at all!).

We should live one day at a time by His grace, knowing that it's ONLY His grace that keeps us alive.

**We should take advantage of today and live it for Him.**

We all know we will be face to face with the Lord very soon, each and every one of us.

And this reminds us of the way we should live our lives; **by repentance and faith towards God and Christ.**

We cannot go wrong if we remain living this way!

And so, we are set free from the entrapments of this world, from the TV shows that show us a different story, from movies that entice us to build a life for self, as though we are going to be here on this earth forever!!

What foolishness the devil has deceived us into. What a lie he has sold us, from childhood.

But the truth is: **Life is temporary, so live it for God your Creator and Savior.**

Allow this to change your perspective.

If you're a believer in Jesus as your Lord, God, and Savior, then you're a child of God, and you're only visiting here on earth; this is not your home.

**Phil 3:20-21** *But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.*

So, the encouragement is to live in the Gospel reality to which you were called... to live saved and victorious, doing good to all men (**Gal 6:10**), and to run the race set before us (**Heb 12:1**), one day at a time.

If you're a believer, you are **already victorious**, being "in Christ Jesus"! Let's live like it! **Rom 8:37**

**Rom 8:37-39** *No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

That, my friends, is the perspective that sanctifies us.

We mustn't allow our flesh to get in the way and lead us into bad thinking.

But if we live in the eternal life He purchased for us... that's how we become sanctified in this life, to God's glory.

**John 17:3** *And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.*

If you have not trusted in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, then you are not saved, and I'm here to tell you that you **do not** possess this same new life to rely upon.

If you're an unbeliever, you are separated from God, your Creator, because you are not in agreement with Him about your sin,... and one day, whether you believe it or not, you will face God and His judgment.

You, my friend, need to first acknowledge God as your Creator and that you've sinned against Him, and you'll be accountable to Him one day very soon.

You are called to repent towards God, humbly admitting that as a sinner you need His mercy, and that He is the founder of your life.

And turn to Christ as your Redeemer to be saved!

All of us have fallen short of the glory of God, **Rom 3:23**.

**The first step to eternal life is to admit your need for God's mercy, and it's between you and God. Lk 18:9-14**

**Luke 18:9-14** *He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: 10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' 13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."*

Therefore, let's talk about God as our Creator and Redeemer, because He must be acknowledged as both!

Salvation and the Gospel cannot be captured by a short, neat little definition.

In fact, I believe it's a story to be told.

**Salvation is the true story of the Creator and Redeemer and what His love has done for unworthy sinners.**

We saw this in the books of Acts, watching how Peter and Paul gave the Gospel, describing repentance and faith in various ways.

(remember **Acts ch. 2, 3, 10 and 17**, for example, where they told the whole story of God as our Creator and Redeemer, a little bit different each time, but with the same basic pattern)

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is not one memorized sentence. It's a conversation to have and a story to be told. (another good example is with Stephen in **Acts 7**)

Although there is accountability to God as our Creator and therefore the necessary judgment of sin, there is also grace and mercy available to those who humbly turn to Christ as their Redeemer. (and think about that biblical pattern of repentance and faith, as it holds true before and after the day of salvation)

And this begins by understanding your accountability to your Creator.

**Knowing God as your Creator results in good things, both before and after your day of salvation.**

It leads to a proper fear of God, as He is your Sovereign!

As King of the universe He can do whatever He pleases, and that should make all of us pause and realize we are NOT in control of our own lives.

And we're NOT talking about having a king ruling our country and if we don't like it we could go live in another country! We don't have that option!

**God is the Sovereign Creator of all mankind and all people will be judged by Him as the King of the Universe. There is no escaping that reality, for all eternity!**

Acknowledging God as your Creator can also set you free from the self-righteous, religious ways of trying to please God on your own.

You realize you CAN'T please a perfect God, no matter how moral or religious you try to be.

Therefore, you realize your need for repentance before a holy and righteous God who has the power and right to judge you and to even take your life from you any time He sees fit.

And so, in humility, you change your mind with the help of the Holy Spirit of God.

You repent towards God, **Acts 20:21**, and this humble attitude should continue after the day of your salvation. (that's why the Bible tells us to confess our sins to God whenever necessary)

**Being saved, and thereafter sanctified, includes this attitude of repentance and humility. In fact, they are intimately tied together.**

As we try to drop our own little religions in our souls, the reminder of your Sovereign Creator and a healthy fear of Him is often the only thing that can help us.

And so we humble ourselves before Him, again and again, day by day, and the Gospel reality increases in our souls, and more and more we live the life of freedom that Christ died for.

**One of the little religions that proper fear of God can help cast out for us is sexual idolatry. We should not be foolish and think there are not consequences for rejecting God in this area.**

**1Th 4:1-8**

*1 Thess 4:1-8 Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more. For you know what commandments we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.*

*For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. So, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.*

If we get out of our own way and humble ourselves before our Creator God, we will live the sanctified life, by grace through faith.



**Col 2:6-7** *Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.*

As we saw in **1Thess 4**, there is a proper place for fearing God's punishment, because He's a good Father who will discipline His children when necessary, by grace.

Here it is more directly stated in the NIV...

**1 Thess 4:6 NIV** *"and that in this matter (sexual immorality) no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you."*

**God as our Father loves us so much, and He has great, noble plans for His children. But when we repeatedly violate His commands, He will faithfully discipline us to humble us, so we don't just waste our life away.**

As 1Thess 4:4 says, His plans are for us to possess our own vessel in "sanctification and honor".

See what the Bible says about God's discipline upon His children:

**Heb 12:3-11** *Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?*

*"My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.*

We would all be wise to remember this: **God is not a puppet, and we are not entitled to anything!**

That's a shock to some of us in America. "I thought I was due these things. I thought I should expect these things." (well, ask yourself, who taught you that??)

"And if I'm not getting what I want, well, I'm going to force it!"  
And that might include sexual immorality.

Well, here's a news flash: **We are here for God, not for ourselves.**

We need to fear God properly, and realize all blessings He gives us are from Him, and also FOR HIM! **Rom 11:36**

We have no problem with the first part, but the second part?

**Rom 11:36** *For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.*

That, my friends, is the truth about life!

All the good things our Father in Heaven gives us are ultimately for HIS glory...

... to show Satan how gracious our God is to sinners, and how God can turn sinners into sanctified creatures who can live sanctified lives!

We are to give God glory for His gifts and realize a divine purpose in them... not selfish purposes that come from a false attitude of entitlement.

The point is that our humility can only grow as we learn more about God as our Sovereign Creator,... and that's what the Spirit wants us to learn FIRST in this series.

**The more we see the Lord's sovereignty and omnipotence, the more we will humbly remember our proper place, and that is extremely valuable in living a life of true freedom with God.**

**John 8:32**

**John 8:31-32** *So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

And knowing that life is temporary, resting in His hands alone, we will develop a proper fear of the Lord, which will help deliver us every day.

Because that's what He is and will always be; LORD.

**We all need to have a growing realization of God as Lord and Master, and Creator and King. This is an important part of being sanctified for Him. We are to be set apart to a life of righteousness.**

So let's talk a little bit more about this.

Just think about the title "Creator of the heavens and the earth".  
(**Gen 1:1**)

This implies there is no one anywhere that can interrupt His authority and power, and that's what the Bible reveals about our God and Creator.

And yet, this Almighty Creator wants to be our God and Father!

**Isa 43:1** *But now, thus says the Lord, your Creator, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine!*

**Jer 31:33** *"I will be their God."*

Dwell on that: the Creator of heaven and earth, and of you and your very life, wants to be your God forever!

And He makes this promise to those who will humbly turn to His precious Son with their God-granted free will.

**Gaining Humility from God's Sovereignty: As you look into the sky on a clear, starry night, step back and fathom that our God and Creator spread out the infinite universe with His fingers, Isa 40:12. And this was AFTER He created it all by just saying a word! Gen 1, Psa 33:6,9, 148:5**

Let's visit these verses and quake and rejoice in His majesty!

*Ps 33:1-9 Sing for joy in the Lord, O you righteous ones; Praise is becoming to the upright. Give thanks to the Lord with the lyre; Sing praises to Him with a harp of ten strings. Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a shout of joy. For the word of the Lord is upright, And all His work is done in faithfulness. He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the lovingkindness of the Lord.*

*By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, And by the breath of His mouth all their host. He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deeps in storehouses. **Let all the earth fear the Lord; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.***

There again we see a proper fear and awe of God our Creator.

When we have that, in humility, we can then grow spiritually, by His grace.

**Ps 148:1-5 Praise the Lord!**

*Praise the Lord from the heavens;*

*Praise Him in the heights! Praise Him, all His angels;*

*Praise Him, all His hosts!*

*Praise Him, sun and moon;*

*Praise Him, all stars of light!*

*Praise Him, highest heavens,*

*And the waters that are above the heavens!*

*Let them praise the name of the Lord,*

*For He commanded and they were created.*

He commanded, and they were created. Boom! Done!

Some of you are afraid of storms, or earthquakes... but those are NOTHING compared to what took place at Creation!

That's our God and Savior, and by His grace we are fearfully and wonderfully made!

**Ps 139:13-14** *For you formed my inward parts;*

*you knitted me together in my mother's womb.*

*I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.*

*Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.*

**Isa 40:12** *Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand,*

*And marked off the heavens by the span (His fingers),*

*And calculated the dust of the earth by the measure,*

*And weighed the mountains in a balance*

*And the hills in a pair of scales?*

Proper awe and praise for God as our Creator is essential in surrendering to the Lord as our Redeemer as well.

Our God and Creator wants to save us from sin, and deliver us to His righteousness. **2Co 5:21**

In fact, that's what Christ did for us on the cross. He died for sin, and rose for righteousness!

**2 Cor 5:21** *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

His death and resurrection is the literal deliverance from sin to righteousness!

**Rom 4:19-25** *Without becoming weak in faith he (Abraham)*

*contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb; yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform. Therefore IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS. Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him, but for our sake also, to*

*whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.*

We are saved from sin and delivered over to righteousness by His power and grace.

We've been saved and sanctified as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, and He continues to perform a good work in those who believe. **Phil 1:6,2:13**

**Phil 1:6** *And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*

**Phil 2:12-13** *Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, 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.*