

Salvation/Deliverance From Our Creator/Redeemer

Part 2

**This series was taught at North Christian Church, leading up to a marvelous series on "The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification". www.nccdighton.org*

Today I suggest you sit back and relax, as the first part of our lesson will be review from Part 1.

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; 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 this reality?!

If you saw God right now, in all His glory, what might you do?

What did they do in the Old Testament when they had a glimpse of God?

They fell flat on their faces, in fear and awe.

And it is that same God and Creator and Savior that lives in us and works in us!

And our main point has been: The Lord's plan for saving and delivering mankind can be seen in His roles as Creator and Redeemer.

That's what we will explore this week. We will see this **pattern** in the Word.

As 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, towards both Jews and Gentiles.

To be saved, every man in his short time on earth must first recognize God as his Creator, and then also as his Redeemer as well, in the Person of Jesus Christ.

In fact, **Acknowledging God as Creator and Redeemer is a wonderful analogy to repentance and faith. Acts 20:21**

Just take a moment to think about that.

Salvation and Deliverance come from properly acknowledging our Creator and Redeemer, as we will see more of.

Just as Jesus said the following:

Luke 12:8-9 *"And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God."*

Repentance & Faith (as a pattern): This is also how we live the spiritual life, AFTER the day of our salvation. This is how we are saved AND sanctified in our daily lives. This is how to live in the Gospel reality; by repentance and faith towards our Creator and Redeemer, every day.

As we've seen, it's only when we believers forget our victory in Christ and our unchangeable position as His children, that we forget to live in the Gospel reality!

The very act of living in the Gospel reality that I am saved and already victorious in Christ; THAT'S the very means of our sanctification. We must not forget this vital truth.

When we live like that, in the victory of Christ, we're actually living the life set apart for God. (sanctification)

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.*

1 Thess 4:1 *Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to live*

and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more.

2 Cor 5:7 *for we walk by faith, not by sight.*

We are called to **live in our position in Christ**, because that's who we are.

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***

But how can one fully live in the victory unless he knows all about the victory?

We are more and more sanctified the more we live in the Word of God. When we do this, we are able to live the Gospel reality in the FREEDOM that Christ purchased for us as children of God! Heb 4:12, Joh 17:17

How does the righteous man live by faith? - He needs the Word of God as his guide, and for his encouragement.

After all, isn't it the Word we are having faith IN?

When the Lord Jesus was praying for us all before His crucifixion, He said to the Father:

John 17:17 *"Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth."*

That short statement from our Lord says a whole lot.

Heb 4:12 *For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

I also shared with you, what has helped me recently to live in the Gospel reality is this:

Life is temporary. Let's remind ourselves; God could take us Home any day He wants!

You're life might be required of you today, or tomorrow, or the next day... and that is TOTALLY dependent on God's sovereign decision. It's totally up to God!

i.e. - There are many people that try to commit suicide and it doesn't work. Why not? Why are they still alive today?

There will be people in the Tribulation that will try the same to escape the torture of that time, but they won't be able to die unless God allows it to happen.

Remembering how TEMPORARY life is helps us LIVE IN THE NOW, and to not take any day for granted.

Life is temporary, we are all just pilgrims passing through!

When we forget that reality, we 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. But that's living in deception, my friends.

But when we remember 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.

When we remember that life itself is only temporary, that should snap us back into place; into the reality that is the sanctified life, set apart for Him, because we have no choice in the day of our death!

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."*

In this passage, the first guy left Someone out. Are you finished with that guy in your soul?

The second guy **acknowledged God** when making plans.

And in between is the "vapor" that is your life!

Which guy will you be before you "vanish away"?

Will you be the guy that lives for self or lives for the Lord?

And so, we should be set free from bondage to this world system and bondage to self, thinking life is all about us.

Don't have any expectations in this world. Expectations, if you think about, really come from our arrogance (as though we sinners deserve anything good at all)!

We are on this earth on a mission from God to help seek and save the lost.

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

That's a change of perspective that might help us.

We can take advantage of today and live it for Him, as long as it is called today,... because it may be our last, and we will be face to face with the Lord very soon, each and every one of us.

And so, **be 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,... they sell us a life that we're going to live here on earth forever!

If you think about it, what foolishness the devil has deceived us into! What lies he has sold us since 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 need it.

Snap out of the malaise that keeps you in a confused cloud in your mind.

If you're a true believer, then you are a child of God and you do not belong here on earth... not for long anyway. So we are to live the Gospel reality to which we were called, to live saved and victorious! And we are to do good to all men, as the Bible tells us, one day at a time.

You are already victorious, being in Christ Jesus! Therefore, live like it!

Amen?

Eph 2:19-22 *So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.*

And that's the perspective that sanctifies us, some of us faster than others due to how much we let our flesh get in the way, or how much we're willing to humble ourselves before the Lord.

But living in the salvation He purchased for us, that's how we become sanctified in this life, for God's glory.

Therefore, **let's talk about the Creator and Redeemer**, because that's who God must be acknowledged as, by all of us.

Isn't it interesting, here's another thing we've been learning that's for believer and unbeliever.

That's been a theme if you've been paying attention.

We're back to **Rom 1**, what gives us the power to live as a righteous man? - It's the Gospel!

Rom 1:16-17 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."*

The righteous man shall live by faith in the Gospel... in the promises of God, especially regarding eternal salvation!

The very same Gospel that saved us continues to be the way of our daily deliverance, resulting in our sanctification.

Thus the term, "living in the gospel reality".

This shows us even more that it's not about us, but it's about God and His solutions to life. It's always HIS WAYS, by grace through faith, and therefore He gets all the glory even as we grow up spiritually. (**Phil 1:6, 2:13**)

As Pastor Collins has mentioned, salvation and the Gospel cannot be captured by a short, neat definition.

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

Salvation is the story of the Creator and Redeemer and what He's done for us sinners.

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

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

The Gospel is not one memorized scripture, or sentence. It's a conversation; a story to be told. (remember Stephen in Acts 7?)

There's some good homework for you. :)

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

But this begins by understanding our accountability to our Creator.

Understanding and knowing God as your Creator can do many things for you, before and after your day of salvation. It leads to a proper fear of God, as He is sovereign.

As the King of the universe, God can do as He pleases, and that should give every man pause, that he is not in control of his own life, whatsoever.

We're not talking about having a king ruling your country, and if you don't like it you could leave, and go live under another government.

NO. God is the Sovereign Creator of all mankind, and ALL will one day be judged by Him as the King of the Universe. There is no escaping Him, for all eternity!

Therefore, we realize our need for repentance before a holy and righteous God that has the power and right to judge us, and to take our lives from us any time He sees fit.

And so, we must repent towards God, we must change our minds and turn around...

... and this humble attitude continues after the day of our salvation. (that's one reason the Bible tells us to confess our sins whenever necessary, as in **1Jo 1:9**)

"Living in the Gospel reality", being delivered every day, requires an attitude of repentance and humility. It's this attitude that allows us to be sanctified, to the glory of the Father.

Sanctification is a lifelong process, remember, because we all have a little religion in us that holds us back.

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

A healthy fear of God will help us rely upon to His grace alone, instead of relying on the flesh for self-righteousness!

We know the Lord is perfect and therefore we know we cannot please Him on our own, in "the flesh". **Rom 8:8**

Rom 8:1-8 *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set

*their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. **Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.***

As we humble ourselves before the Lord day by day, the Gospel reality increases in our souls and we live the life of freedom that He died for, more and more!

Again, to have a right fear of God is our friend because it keeps us humble.

1 Peter 5:6-7 *Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.*

One of the little religions in our souls that fear of God can cast out for us is sexual idolatry. We should not be foolish and think there are no consequences for rejecting God in this matter. 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 that brings Him glory! **Jam 4:10**

James 4:6-10 *But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE." Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. **Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.***

And we would be wise to remember that God doesn't hold the rod for nothing.

There is a proper place for fearing God's punishment, as He is a good Father who will discipline His children, even harshly if necessary, but all motivated by His grace and love for us.

If anyone has the BIG PICTURE in mind, it's God! And He'll do or allow whatever is best to bring us to sanctification. He doesn't want us to have regrets about our earthly life.

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 noble plans, He will discipline us when necessary so we don't just waste our life away.

As **1Th 4:4** says, He desires us to possess our own vessel in "sanctification and honor".

We will live in sanctification and honor when we live in the victory Christ purchased for us (live in the Gospel reality!)

As my dear Pastor Collins said: ***God is not a puppet. You're not "entitled" to anything!***

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

“And if I’m not getting it, well I’m going to make it happen!”
And that might even include sexual idolatry.

Why do we follow any idol? Is it because we are impatient for God’s blessings?

Because we selfishly want blessings NOW, we try to find a substitute to satisfy our desires.

If God says "no", we often whine and complain and then we follow other "gods". Our fleshly minds start wandering.

BUT, if we truly fear God and His power, we won’t go there.

We will accept God's Fatherly wisdom and simply continue to trust He has a plan for our lives.

We mustn't obey the desires of the FLESH. It leads to all kinds of DEATH in our lives!

But if we have the fear of the Lord, He actually blesses us and protects us, giving us true confidence!

Look at this amazing verse; it sums it up perfectly.

Prov 14:26-27 *In the fear of the Lord one has strong confidence, and his children will have a refuge. 27 The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, that one may turn away from the snares of death.*

Remember, you're Creator knows you perfectly, and therefore He also knows the perfectly right time to bless you with certain things.

If you believe God knows all things, and He even knows your heart, then that means God knows the right time to bless you!

Therefore, if God says "no" for now, then IT'S FOR YOUR BEST.

For example, we might first need to "grow up", so we'll appreciate the blessing and the blessing won't distract us, or even ruin us.

So, we wisely say "OK Dad. I'm good, I trust You and Your timing."

And then we live freely in the salvation He purchased for us, being content in all things!

Here's the news flash for some of you:

YOU ARE HERE FOR GOD, NOT FOR YOURSELF.

Our flesh cringes just reading that, doesn't it?! That's because our flesh is out for SELF.

But maybe we should make that into a neon sign, and have it blinking right outside our bedroom windows.

Kind of like the Kenny Rogers Chicken sign outside Kramer's apartment window. :)

If there's something good to be obsessed about, it's God's truth in God's Word. Because only the Truth sets us free, as Jesus taught us in John 8:32.

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! Col 1:16, 1Co 8:6

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

Since we've been talking about acknowledging God our Creator...

Col 1:15-16 *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him **and for Him.***

Jesus Christ is our God and Creator, in the flesh! And all things were created through Him and also FOR Him. (also see **Joh 1:1-14**)

And of course, the Bible says He is ONE with the Father.

1 Cor 8:6 *yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist **for Him;***

"FOR HIM": All good things the Father gives us are ultimately to show Satan and the fallen angels how gracious our God is to us sinners, AND how God can turn sinners into sanctified creatures who can live sanctified lives.

But if we choose to bring glory to ourselves, or live selfishly with His gifts, then we fall into the trap of the Galatians,... who didn't use their freedom for God's glory, but instead they fell back into bondage.

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

This requires humility!

Our humility can only grow as we learn more about God as our Sovereign Creator, and that's what the Spirit's been harping on.

The more we see the Lord's sovereignty and omnipotence, the more we will remember our place, and that is extremely valuable in living **a life of humility, and ultimately true freedom!**

Knowing that life is so temporary, that our life rests in His hands alone,... we will develop a proper fear of the Lord,... which will help save us every day, including saving us from ourselves.

What God will always be is LORD... The Sovereign Lord.

We would be very foolish to forget that.

Here's what the Spirit's saying to us:

We need to have a growing realization throughout our whole lives of God as our Lord and Master and Creator and King.

This is part of being sanctified, or set apart FOR HIM. This is part of being set apart to a life of righteousness in Christ Jesus.

What humbled Joseph in the OT so much that he was a great man of God? In his HUMILITY, He said "how can I even think about sinning against my God?!"

He had proper fear and respect for the Lord, His Creator and Redeemer.

Gen 39:6-9 *Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. It came about after these events that his master's wife looked with desire at Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me." But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Behold, with me here, my master does not concern himself with anything in the house, and he has put all that he owns in my charge. "There is no one greater in this house than I, and he has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. **How then could I do this great evil and sin against God?"***

We would probably do ourselves good to memorize the end of vs. 9. BUT, it also needs to become real in our own hearts,

which the Lord will do for us **IF** we humble ourselves before Him.

“How then could I do this great evil and sin against God?”

In other words, *“look at all that God has blessed me with! This is all from Him, and for Him. How can I now sin against Him?”*

And we as believers need to follow Joseph's example, and submit to the proper awe and respect for our Creator.

Just think about the title : “Creator of the heavens and the earth”.

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

And yet... this Almighty God 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 and Father forever!!!

And He makes this promise to WHOEVER will turn to His Son in humility, from their own free will.

Humility from recognizing 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, AFTER He created it all by just speaking the word, Gen 1, Psa 33:6,9, 148:5.

Ps 33:1-9 Sing for joy in the Lord, O you righteous ones; Praise is becoming to the upright. 2 Give thanks to the Lord with the lyre; Sing praises to Him with a harp of ten strings. 3 Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a shout of joy. 4 For the word of the Lord is upright, And all His work is done in faithfulness. 5 He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the lovingkindness of the Lord.

6 By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, And by the breath of His mouth all their host. 7 He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deeps in storehouses. 8 Let all the earth fear the Lord; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. 9 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!

2 Praise Him, all His angels;

Praise Him, all His hosts!

3 Praise Him, sun and moon;

Praise Him, all stars of light!

4 Praise Him, highest heavens,

And the waters that are above the heavens!

5 Let them praise the name of the Lord,

For He commanded and they were created.

There probably was a "big bang" when He spoke the universe into existence!

That's my God, and by His grace I am fearfully and wonderfully made. And so are you!

Let's take a detour to remind us the Creator of the infinite universe is also the Creator of your delicate body and soul.

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

You wove me in my mother's womb.

I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

Wonderful are Your works,

And my soul knows it very well.

Same God! Same Creator!

Now that's good perspective, isn't it?

Then, add to that the fact that there are microscopic cells in the human body that are more complex than modern day computers!

And for God, this was EASY. Our God truly is an awesome God!

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?

Awe and respect for God as our Creator is vital to surrendering to Him as our Redeemer as well.

Our God and Creator wants to save us from sin and deliver us to righteousness. In fact, that's what Christ did for us on the cross... He died for sin, and rose for righteousness! Rom 4:25

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; 20 yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform. 22 Therefore IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS. 23 Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him, 24 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, 25 He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and **was raised because of our justification.***

By grace, we believers are saved from sin, and delivered over to righteousness.

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!