

Salvation/Deliverance From Our Creator/Redeemer

Pt. 3

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

Salvation and deliverance can only come from the Lord, and He must be acknowledged as Creator and Redeemer for any person to receive salvation and deliverance. Acts 20:21

Acts 20:21 AMP *But constantly and earnestly I bore testimony both to Jews and Greeks, urging them to turn in repentance [that is due] to God and to have faith in our Lord Jesus Christ [that is due Him].*

The righteous man shall live by faith in the Gospel, and in the promises of God related to the Gospel, as he travels the road to sanctification.

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. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."*

The very same gospel that saved us continues to be the method of saving us daily, and even sanctifying us!

Thus the term; “living in the gospel reality”.

This reveals to us that it’s not about us, it’s about God and His solutions.

It’s always about HIS ways, by grace through faith, and therefore He gets all the glory, even as we grow up spiritually.

As we've seen in this series, "living in the Gospel reality" requires an ongoing attitude of repentance and humility. Being sanctified necessitates this as well.

In fact, salvation and sanctification are supernaturally and spiritually unified. (something for us to ponder)

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!

If anyone has the big picture in mind, always, it’s God!

And as a good Father, He’ll do whatever it takes to bring us to sanctification, to help us have minimal regrets when we meet Him once for all.

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 whenever needed to help us get out of our own way, so we don’t just waste our life away.

He cares too much to sit back and watch us destroy ourselves, therefore He will use His power and authority to correct us and discipline us whenever necessary.

We've also asked ourselves this question...

WHY do we follow any idol? Is it because we are impatient for God's blessings? So we try to find a substitute to satisfy our desires NOW?

Following Idols: If we truly fear God and His power, we won't go there. Fear of God is vital to denying ungodliness and living in humility.

Remember this wonderful passage the Spirit gave us to summarize it all?

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.*

This goes against our instincts, but it is a spiritual reality!

Fear of the Lord is what saves us, in many ways.

It teaches us to not obey the flesh.

And let's be honest, you know when you're being tempted by the flesh. You know when something is NOT from God; that's why God gave you a conscience.

And your Creator knows you perfectly, and therefore **He knows perfectly** the right time to bless you with certain things.

Therefore, if He says "no" for now, then it's for our best. We must need to "grow up" first in that area of our lives.

So we say: "OK Dad. I'm good, I trust you. I'm content right where You have me now."

And then we can go live freely in His grace gift of salvation; we are free to go and live in the Gospel reality, not worrying about the details of life!

Here's the news flash: **YOU ARE HERE FOR GOD, NOT FOR YOURSELF.**

The reason our flesh cringes when reading that is because our flesh is out for self.

But our spirit rejoices within us because we know only God gives us true purpose in life.

If there's something that's good to be obsessed about in this life, it's God's truth and God's plan for us.

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 FOR HIM! Col 1:16, 1Co 8:6

All the good things our Father gives us are ultimately for HIS glory, not our own.

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. 16 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.

And in context, we see this passage is talking about Jesus Christ!

Most of the time, we think of God the Father as Creator and Jesus as the Redeemer. Yet, the Bible also assigns these titles interchangeably to each.

In the Old Testament, God is called the Redeemer,... and in the New Testament, Jesus is acknowledged as the Creator, as we just saw in **Col 1**.

This is another picture of the perfect unity of the Trinity, and how God is One.

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.

It's all for God's glory.

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

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

The more we accept the Lord's sovereignty and omnipotence, the more we will rightly remember our place,...

... and that is extremely valuable in living a life of humility, and ultimately true freedom.

Knowing that life is so temporary and 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, even as those who are already saved by grace through faith in Jesus.

We need to have a growing realization throughout our whole lives of God as our Lord and Master, and Creator and King. This is how we are set apart (sanctified) to a life of righteousness.

What humbled Joseph so much that he was a great man of God? He said at one point “how can I even think about sinning against my God?”

Joseph had proper fear and respect for the Lord; He KNEW the Lord as his Creator and Redeemer.

Gen 39:6-9 *Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. 7 It came about after these events that his master's wife looked with desire at Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me." 8 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. 9 "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 a heart issue, 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?”

What a heart for God that Joseph had.

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

And we believers need to follow his example and possess awe and respect for our Creator as motivation.

Just think about the title “Creator of the heavens and the earth”. (see **Gen 1**)

This implies there is no one anywhere that can interrupt His authority and power. He truly is the Sovereign of the universe!

And that's what the Bible reveals about our God and Savior!

This reminds me of the wonderful ending to **Romans 8**.

Rom 8:31-39 *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised— who is at the right hand of God, who indeed*

is interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written,

*"For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."*

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 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.

Now, let's think about this.

This means that even Satan, the greatest creature ever created by the hand of God, has no power to interrupt the steadfastness of God's love for His children!

We truly have nothing to fear if we are in God's hands.

And yet, this Almighty God wants to be our God!

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 Son in faith, 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, and that was AFTER He created it all by just speaking the word! Gen 1, Psa 33:6,9, 148:5

Here again we see an appropriate fear and awe of God our Creator.

When we have that humble attitude, we can then grow spiritually, by His grace.

Let’s take a detour to remind us the Creator of the infinite universe is also the Creator of your delicate, intricate 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.*

This is the same God Who created the heavens and the earth by a word!

**Our God possesses all the power to boldly create the universe,
and all the gentleness to intimately weave us together!**

Now that's perspective, isn't it?

Then consider that scientists now say the microscopic cells in the human body are more complex than modern day computers!

How can that be?!

But for God in His perfect majesty and wisdom, 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 our Creator is essential in 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 at the cross. He died for sin and rose for righteousness!

At the end of Romans 4, it speaks of Abraham's faith being credited to him as righteousness, and then we see Christ rose from the grave to seal our justification as believers!

Rom 4:22-25 *That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness." 23 But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, 24 but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, 25 who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.*

Our Lord's death and resurrection are the literal deliverance from sin to righteousness!

There we see the "coin flipping" in our Lord's life.

He became a sin offering on our behalf, but then He rose from the grave victorious in righteousness!

2 Cor 5:21 *He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

We who believe are saved from sin, and delivered 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. Phil 1:6,2:13

But until a person acknowledges God as his Creator, he is stuck in arrogance and deception.

This is why Holy Scripture tells us to have repentance towards God (our Creator), and faith in Christ Jesus (our Redeemer). i.e.
- **Acts 20:21**

Until one recognizes the guilt of his sin before a holy and righteous God, he will not turn to Christ for redemption.

Roman 1 speaks about God-consciousness being the first step in the conversion process.

If one doesn't even believe in or acknowledge God as his Creator, there is nowhere he can go.

And without humility, there is no good soil in which the fruit of righteousness can grow.

The conversion process begins with repentance towards God; a sorrow for one's sin against Him. **Mar 1:15, Luk 13:1-7, Act 2:38**

Luke 13:1-9 *There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 And he answered them, "Do you think that*

these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? 3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. 4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? 5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

6 And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. 7 And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' 8 And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. 9 Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Again, the conversion process begins with repentance towards God; a sorrow for one's sin against Him. **Mar 1:15, Luk 13:1-7, Act 2:38**

We see a description of this necessary attitude of repentance in **2Co 7:8-11**.

2 Cor 7:8-11 *For even if I made you grieve with my letter, I do not regret it—though I did regret it, for I see that that letter grieved you, though only for a while. 9 As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into*

repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us.

10 For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. 11 For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter.

Here we see that godly repentance produces something good in us. It prepares the soil of our souls for genuine faith in Jesus Christ!

In sharing the fullness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, this is essential, as we have seen in our studies.

Rom 1:18-23 *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. 20 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. 21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23*

and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

Rom 1:28 *And just as they did not see fit to **acknowledge** God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper,*

Fear of God is a very good thing. I think in the past I have underestimated the importance of this truth.

We might think because there is ‘no fear in love’, 1Jo 4:18, that we should not fear God. But ‘no fear in love’ refers to having no fear in this world because you know God's love for you.

1 John 4:15-18 *Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 17 By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.*

This is clarified in the scriptures when Jesus told us to **not fear man** who can only destroy the body, but we **should fear God** who can destroy both body and soul in hell.

In other words, there is no fearing man if we know how we are loved by God, but the one we rightly fear is God Himself.

Our Lord Jesus instructed his disciples towards this proper fear of God:

Luke 12:4-5 *"I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that have no more that they can do. 5 "But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!"*

I remind you, in context, Jesus said this to His disciples, not to a bunch of unbelievers.

Here are a couple on interesting perspectives on this verse:

Adam Clarke on Luke 12:5: *"[Fear him] Even the friends of God are commanded to fear God, as a being who has authority to send both body and soul into hell. Therefore it is proper even for the most holy persons to maintain a fear of God, as the punisher of all unrighteousness. A man has but one life to lose, and one soul to save; and it is madness to sacrifice the salvation of the soul to the preservation of the life."*

John Calvin on Luke 12:5: *“Christ must be viewed as saying, that when we give way to the dread of men, we pay no respect to God; and that if on the contrary we fear God, we have an easy victory in our hands, so that no efforts of men will draw us aside from our duty.”*

Thankfully, Jesus then goes on in Luke 12 to tell His friends they are more valuable to God than many sparrows, and the very hairs of their heads are all numbered.

But don't forget the One you serve! Don't forget His power and authority! That reality will keep us humble and give us courage to serve Him without hesitation, even in the face of the threats of man.

Now, as believers, we are being perfected in the love of God, and because we abide in Him, we can have confidence in the day of judgment, as John said.

But let's never forget where we came from, nor the sovereignty of God.

Even after our day of salvation, we are called to keep an appropriate fear of God our Creator, as we've also seen in **Phil 2**.

We must always remember our place. Our lives are temporary, and totally in His hands!

“You only come this way once”... as Pastor Collins has often said.

We have only one life to live, so what will we make of our few remaining days?

Just look at Ananias and Sapphira in **Act 5!**

We can live for ourselves and possibly be taken home early, OR we can live in fear of God and bring Him maximum glory with this one chance we have at "life".

We ARE to have fear for Christ, and also fear God. Eph 5:21, Ecc 12:13

Eph 5:21 and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

Ecc 12:13-14 The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. 14 For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.

The pattern remains the same!

Fear God, and live. Fear your Creator and turn to your Redeemer for true life. Repent and believe. Confess and press on.

We are saved from sin and delivered to righteousness for our whole lives... when we stay living in the gospel reality.