

From Redemption to Sanctification

Purpose: to help believers to understand what it means to be redeemed, justified, glorified and sanctified so that they will allow God's processes to shape them.

Do you ever get discouraged as you try to live the life of a Christian?

Do you ever feel like giving up?

If so, then this is a message for you: don't be discouraged! Don't give up! If you fall, or make a mistake, get up and try again. Don't miss what God has for you!

So far, in our series on the book of Exodus, we have seen:

- The children of Israel were slaves in Egypt and in bondage
- God raised up Moses to deliver them
- Through the "Passover", the people were saved from bondage and brought safely through the Red Sea
- There was great joy!

What happens next?

In the next section of the book we are going to see the way that God takes a people from slavery and bondage and makes them a holy people fit for service.

Before we get to the end of chapter 15, we will consider 3 aspects of our salvation:

- Redemption
- Sanctification
- Glorification

The first is "Redemption"

Definition:

- The action of saving or being saved from sin, error, or evil.
- The action of regaining or gaining possession of something in exchange for payment, or clearing a debt.
- Jesus redeemed us (saved us, cleared our debt) through His death on the cross!

Through redemption we have "justification"

Definition:

- The action of declaring or making righteous in the sight of God (Oxford Dictionary).
- *Theology*: the act of God whereby humankind is made or accounted just, or free from guilt or penalty of sin.
- Because our sins are paid for, we are declared righteous!

Redemption is the act, and justification is the result! This is what we saw in the first part of the book of Exodus – God acting to save his people from sin, error and evil.

They didn't do anything!

This was a picture (type) of what happens to every believer – God acted (through Jesus Christ) to save us from sin, error and evil.

We don't do anything!

The 3rd and final part of our salvation is “Glorification”

Definition:

- The act of glorifying or state of being glorified

Glorify

- To give glory, honour, or high praise to; exalt.
- To give glory to, especially through worship.
- This is when all of those who belong to Jesus will be finally transformed, which includes our entire being
- 1 Corinthians 15:51,52

In-between Redemption and Glorification, we have what we call, “Sanctification”

Definition:

Sanctification is the act or process of acquiring sanctity, of being made or becoming holy.

What is the difference between Justification and Sanctification?

- Justification is the work of God – God does what you are unable to do; He declares you righteous
 - Romans 4:3
 - Romans 5:1,9
- Sanctification is the process of being made into the image of Jesus. God works with you to produce Christ’s character in you.
 - Phil 2:12,13
- Justification happens instantly – the moment you put your faith in Jesus (baptism) you are justified.
- Sanctification happens over time – because it is not the work of God alone; you are involved. Those who have been made right with God must work with Him. We must submit to His will, strive to become holy, resist sin; but all through Him.
- Galatians 5:22-25

Sanctification also means to be set apart for holy use. Some verses speak of God’s people being already sanctified because God has already set us apart for special use.

1 Corinthians 1:2

1 Corinthians 6:11

2 Timothy 2:19-21

From Exodus 15 all the way to the book of Deuteronomy, we will see how God takes his redeemed people, who have been justified by faith (Passover), and forms them into a sanctified people.

- Every Believer has been redeemed by the blood of Jesus and is justified.
- One day, every Believer will be glorified
- Right now, every believer is undergoing the process of sanctification. We have been set apart for His use and are being made into the image of Christ.

Why are we talking about this at this point?

1. Because this is where we are!
 - a. In the same way that God shaped the children of Israel, so He shapes us

b. They were set apart for His use, and so are we

c. We can learn from their victories and mistakes (1 Corinthians 10:1-12)

2. Because we must understand what is happening to us:

So that we are not surprised

So that we are not discouraged

So that we don't miss all that God has for us

So that we allow the process to shape us

So that we can develop patience through difficulties

Conclusion

- I am redeemed!
- I have been justified!
- One day I will be glorified!
- I will have a new body!
- I will be free from sin.
- Right now, I am being sanctified!
- I am becoming more like Jesus!

With God's help:

- I will not be discouraged when God works on me!
- I will not miss what God has for me!
- I will allow God's processes to shape me!