

HOW GREAT A SALVATION WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN. (*HEBREWS 2:3*)

(*Salvation's Road Map: Starting Point => Journey's Route => Our Final Destination: Heaven*)



These are the same foundational truths that I teach Thai believers. They 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 or deliverance occurs in 3 parts:

- 1) **Salvation by Justification:** (past-perfect tense) Deliverance **from sin's Punishment**. Christ having received it for us, in our place.
- 2) **Salvation by Sanctification:** (present-active tense) On-going deliverance **from sin's power**. Growing day-by-day in our condition.
- 3) **Salvation by Glorification:** (future tense) Total deliverance **from sin's presence**. We receive our glorified bodies.

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 three-fold story of Redemption. We are saved (delivered) from sin because Christ has paid the required price. His substitutionary death and resurrection released all believers:

FROM:

- ✓ The **PENALTY OF SIN** – Justification, Past Tense; Declared Righteous and Sinless by the Righteous Judge Himself.
- ✓ The **POWER OF SIN** – Sanctification, a) Positional (*Our Standing "In Christ"*) and b) Present Tense (*Currently Ongoing*); and
- ✓ The **PRESENCE OF SIN** altogether – Glorification, Future tense (*In Our Immortal, Heavenly Bodies; Sin Completely Gone*)

"Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is." (1 John 3:2) When we see Him, we shall be like Him. Because upon His return at the Rapture to call His Saints home to Heaven, we shall be transformed like Him. (1 Corinthians 15:52-54)

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

WE **HAVE BEEN DELIVERED** (past-perfect tense) from the penalty of sin forever.

THE VERY MOMENT WE RECEIVED CHRIST, WE **WERE** BORN-AGAIN – ONCE FOR ALL TIME – 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 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 guilt and absolved of all wrongdoing*. Therefore, we will never come under condemnation or judgment since Christ was judged and took our punishment in our place. (2 Cor 5:21, Romans 8:1)

**To Justify or to Declare Righteous is in the Greek Aorist tense – done precisely once at a certain point in time continuing into infinity.*

- 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 3:36, 5:24, Romans 8:1)
- 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 Christ or God the Son) to become sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him (in Christ). (2Corinthians 5:21)

NOTE: We **in Christ** have been given His righteousness – deposited into our formerly bankrupt spiritual bank account – when 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 price for our sins in full by His shed Blood when he Died on the Cross on our behalf. Christ became the embodiment of sin for us when he took our punishment upon Himself in our place.

Justification by faith means to be declared by God as being right-standing in His sight, a result of receiving Christ's Imputed Righteousness:

- (1a) The sin of Adam was imputed to all his descendants. (1b) Every member of the Human Race willfully chose to sin instead of seeking to obey God.
- (2) The righteousness of Christ is imputed to all believers at the moment of Salvation, which remains forever (1 Cor 15:22).

Trusting in Christ secures our Justification, our Sanctification, and our Glorification – integral aspects of Salvation. It leads to a life of peace and liberty – apart from feelings of anxiety and guilt – as we live in the light of our position in Christ (Romans 6:2-7, 6:14, 7:6).

Note: Salvation by Grace, through faith, results in doing good works to glorify God, not as a part of Salvation (Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 2:10).

II. PRESENT TENSE-- SANCTIFICATION: (*TRAVELING LIFE'S ROADWAY—OUR JOURNEY IN PROCESS*)

WE ARE BEING DELIVERED OR SET APART (present tense) from the power of sin in our daily lives.

TWO ASPECTS of Sanctification: ¹)IMMEDIATE and ²)ON-GOING. (*Sanctified means set apart by God for Himself from the world and sin.*)
Pastor George Cuff concurred, saying that "The Sanctification process is two-fold, both instantaneous and progressive." (Sun, Mar 6, 2016)

ETERNAL ASPECT: An Unchangeable Eternal Positional Truth – Where We Stand as Being "In Christ."

1) We HAVE BEEN SANCTIFIED or 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.

We have been Sanctified (perfect tense – completed action, i.e., our eternal positional or 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.*

–and–

CONDITIONAL ASPECT: A Life-Long Growing and Maturing Process – Our Condition in the Here and Now.

2) We ARE NOW BEING SANCTIFIED or Are being delivered from SIN'S POWER. Our Present Condition: (*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, conforming us to become more like Christ as we walk in truth. (Romans 8:29-30; 1 Peter 1:2)

We are now being Sanctified experientially (present active tense) as an ongoing process. (Our current 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 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 1995 NASB rendering)

NOTE: These are some of the things we are directed to do as we anticipate Christ's return – "Occupy Till I Come" (See: Luke 19:11-13)

Believers often condemn themselves by thinking: "I know I'm not living as I should, doing as much as I should, yadda yadda yadda." God has not abandoned us to work out our own Salvation – a wrong view of Philippians 2:12, an unprofitable and self-defeating mindset. It is God who works in you, changing you to exhibit a life more like His own Son, Jesus. It's called the sanctification process (Philippians 2:12–13).

FACTS TO REMEMBER: As believers, we have been given all things pertaining to Life and Godliness. (We Lack Nothing)

Ephesians 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:*

Colossians 2:9-10 *For in Him (Christ) dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily (in a human body); and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.*

2 Peter 1:3 *According to 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 FREED FROM SIN: Romans 6:6-7 *"knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin."*

WE ARE NOT ABANDONED: JESUS SAID: Hebrews 3: 5 Let your [lives] be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For Christ, Himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." (A negative to the fifth power in Greek.)

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 and through 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 Show Forth His Praise: We are encouraged to walk/abide with God—below are 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 fulfill 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.

Philippians 2:12 **Show forth** (exhibit) your own Salvation with (awesome) fear and trembling.

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 genuine enemies: ¹⁾this world's system, ²⁾our own fleshly lusts and desires, and ³⁾Satan and his demonic angels.

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

By Prayer: (See Paul's Prayers for Believers – and what he prays for: Eph 1:15-23; Eph 3:14-21; Phil 1:9-11; Col 1:9-12)

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 (shortcomings, weaknesses) 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 (Paraclete), not attack someone in a negative, self-righteous, or judgmental manner.

Exhort Means: To Come Alongside, to Comfort, to Build up, to Encourage Unto Good Works (The same root word as paraclete = The Comforter – Meaning the Holy Spirit, who comes alongside as a personal helper)

1 Thess 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 Encouraging Believers:

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

(Hebrews 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 (also see: Eph 1:14)

By Restoring A Brother in Christ Back To Fellowship: (Observe => Approach => Present => Exhort => Encourage => Restore)

Wait to see an established pattern – not jump on someone immediately. (All this goes against our nature and culture)

Gal 6:1 Brethren, **if a man is 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 (in fellowship) and most likely more mature and steadfast in the faith (yet, personally aware of his/her own potential to sin).

1 Cor 5:1 It is commonly reported 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 5:5-7 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

2 Cor 2:6-7 Sufficient to such a man is **this punishment** inflicted by many 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 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 hears 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 TENSE – GLORIFICATION (*OUR FINAL DESTINATION; ARRIVAL AT OUR ETERNAL HOME*)

WE **WILL BE GLORIFIED** (future tense) when we see Christ upon His return for us in the air (The Rapture).

MEANING, **Delivered Entirely From the Presence of Sin Forever.** (*Our earthly bodies will be transformed—like unto 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 also be 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.*

1Cor 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 is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.*

2Cor 5:8 *We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and 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 biblical metaphorical term "sleep," referring to death. (See 1Thess 4:13-18)*

1John 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.*

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

WHAT WILL HEAVEN BE 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. (This world's system, old man/old nature are gone forever.)*

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 forever and ever.*