
I – Pressing On (Not Yet)

We are Pilgrims in the Wilderness of this World

- A. The Christian's journey is on the right road to the journey's end, home (Jn 14.2-7)
- B. We're *already* delivered from 'Egypt' (slaves to sin) but *not yet* in Promised Land
Heb 3.7–4.13; 1Pet 1.17; Php 3.19-21; Jn 17.14-18; 15.19; 1Jn 2.15; Jam 4.4; Rom 12.2

We Have Not Yet “Arrived” (Php 3.12-16)

Php 3.12 *Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. 16 Only let us hold true to what we have attained.*

- A. Paul: We not yet *obtained* our goal (v.11: “resurrection,” v.12: “perfection”)
 - 1. We need to *think* this way: v.15 *Let those of us who are mature think this way*
 - 2. We need to *live* this way: v.16 *Only let us hold true to what we have attained.*
- B. We are *already* justified, but we are *not yet* glorified. Both make up our salvation
 - 1. Our salvation is something *already* begun (Col 3.1; Eph 2.5,8)
 - 2. Our salvation is *not yet* consummated (1Pet 1.5; Rom 8.23; Eph 4.30)
 - 3. The inseparable relationship between Justification & Sanctification (Rom 8.28f-20)
- Where do Justification and Sanctification differ ?” (LC 77)

In Justification (declare righteous)

- Deals with our *legal standing*
- Righteousness (of Christ) is *imputed*
- Sin is *pardoned*
- Gives us our title for Heaven
- All Christians equally & perfectly freed from God's wrath

In Sanctification (make righteous)

- Deals with our *moral state*
- Grace is *infused* (by Spirit)
- Sin is *subdued*
- Makes us fit for Heaven
- All Christians *not* equally freed from sin's power, but all grow to perfection

II – United To (Already)

“your life is hidden with Christ in God” - Col 3.3

What is “Union with Christ?”

A. It is the inextricable bond between Christ and the Christian

1. New Testament: *“in Christ,” “in Christ Jesus,” “in him,” “with him”*

A Christian... [has] “every spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus (Eph 1.3); is “created anew in Christ Jesus (Eph. 2.10); their “life is hidden with Christ” (Col 3.3); “has grace given... in Christ” (1Cor 1.4; 6.15); are “brought near to God... in Christ Jesus” (Eph 2.13); receive “the love of God in Christ Jesus” (Rom 8.39); will be “made alive in Christ (1Cor 15.22); are “heirs with Christ” (Rom 8.17); Christians are “all one in Christ Jesus” (Gal 3.28); are “sanctified in Christ Jesus” (1Cor 1.2); and we “will appear with him” (Col 3.4)

2. United to Christ in all his work

Christ...	We...
suffered	<i>we suffer with him</i> (Rom 8.17)
crucified	<i>was crucified with him</i> (Rom 6.6)
died	<i>we have died with Christ</i> (Rom 6.8);
was buried	<i>having been buried with him</i> (Col 2.12)
resurrection	<i>raised us up with him</i> (Eph 2.5,6)
session (“seated”)	<i>seated with him in heavenly places</i> (Eph 2.6)
second coming	<i>we may also be glorified with him</i> (2Tim 2.12)
future reign	<i>we will also reign with him</i> (2Tim 2.12)

B. Eph 1.3-14

1. The salvation we have *in Christ* (in him)

2. Trinitarian

- a. Father - predestined union
- b. Son - historical union (died/live with him (Rom 6.3-8)
- c. Spirit - faith union

SC 30 - The Spirit applies to us the redemption purchased by Christ, by working faith in us, and thereby uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling

Why is this Important?

A. Father never sees us outside *of* Christ; only in union with Christ

1. We are inseparably Joined to Christ (Col 3.1-4)
2. God will not separate us from Christ or his love (Rom 8.31-39)

B. It is a broad & inclusive doctrine (“umbrella”)

- It is central (organizing principle) in the doctrine of redemption

WLC 69 - “The communion in grace which the members of the invisible church have with Christ, is their partaking of the virtue of his mediation, in their justification, adoption, sanctification, and whatever else, in this life, manifests their union with him.” (LC 168)

John Murray, *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*, 161, 165

“It is not simply a step in the application of Scripture, in its broader aspects it underlies every step of the application of redemption. Union with Christ is really the central truth of the whole doctrine of salvation not only in its application but also in its once-for-all accomplishment in the finished work of Christ.”

“It embraces the wide span of salvation from its ultimate source in the eternal election of God to its final fruition in the glorification of the elect. It is not simply a phase of the application of redemption; it underlies every aspect of redemption both in its accomplishment and in its application.”

John Calvin - “We see that our whole salvation and all its parts are comprehended in Christ... This union (with Christ) alone ensures that, as far as we are concerned, he has not unprofitably come with the name of Savior.”- *Institutes* 2.16.19; 3.1.3

John Owen - “This is the cause of all other graces that we are made partakers of; they are all communicated unto us by virtue of our union with Christ. Hence is our adoption, our justification, our sanctification, our fruitfulness, our perseverance, our resurrection, our glory.” *Exposition of Hebrews, Works* 21.149-150.

Robert Letham - “Union with Christ is, in fact, the foundation of all the blessings of salvation. Justification, sanctification, adoption and glorification are all received through our being united to Christ.” - *Work of Christ*, 80.