

## Last Lesson Notes: 5/30/2020

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Last time we looked at **Romans 13:11** and tried to understand it in reference to the rest of the scripture and what we have previously studied about salvation in its full scope.

**Rom.13:11** “And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.”

This is the opportune time to arise and continue to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling knowing that our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. This is clearly telling us that apart from the salvation that we currently possess, there is another salvation that we are awaiting for and it is we are getting much closer to the time when we will possess it.

We looked at different verses to show that salvation is spoken of in scripture as a past (finished) salvation, a present process (continuous) salvation and a future salvation. In other words, according to the scriptures, we have been saved, we are being saved and we are about to be saved. This is also the process of Justification, Sanctification and then Glorification.

- I. Let's look at the first of these - **Eph 2:8** “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast”
  - a. Please notice – ‘you have been saved’ – this is past tense.
  - b. This is an act that was completed in time past that exists in its completed form.
  - c. Salvation here in Ephesians is brought about by grace through faith, something accomplished completely in time past through the finished work of Christ and is the present possession of every believer.
  - d. The salvation we presently possess is a free gift not an inheritance - Rom 5:18b....through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. This free gift gives us eternal salvation and since it's a free gift, we cannot lose it.
    - ❖ Please read these: **(John 1:12; 3:6; 3:16)**
  - e. There is a work involved but not our works. It is the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ **(Joh. 17:4; 19:30)**
- II. And for the second we go to - **1Cor. 1:18** “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God”
  - a. Please notice – ‘us who are being saved’ – this is present continuous tense
  - b. This is entirely different to that which we see in Ephesians 2 – It's not completed!.

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- c. This refers to a present continuous work of salvation in the life of the believer.
- d. Notice that Paul uses the pronoun 'us' thereby including himself, who is already eternally saved in this process? This being so, our scripture can have nothing whatsoever to do with the eternally lost, this is a scripture referring to the eternally saved.
- e. So then those who are already in possession of an irrevocable eternal salvation (Ephesians) are also to be involved in a present continuous work that will also result in a salvation that we do not presently possess – **Phil 2:12** *"Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling..."*

❖ Please read: **(1 Pet. 1:3-9; Heb. 10:39; Jam. 1:21)**

- III. And thirdly in - **Heb 1:14** *"Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?"*
- a. Please notice – 'those who will inherit salvation' – Future tense
  - b. Nothing here is past or present. The receiving of this salvation is placed completely in the future.
  - c. Not only is it entirely in the future, but it is a salvation that is to be inherited. Distinguishing it completely from the salvation we presently possess.
  - d. The salvation we presently possess is a free gift not an inheritance
  - e. Inheritance in scripture is a family term – inheritance is received only within the family structure. **Please note: The free gift of eternal salvation that we presently possess places us within the family of God and thereby in a position whereby we may receive an inheritance. But this can only be subsequent to our eternal salvation, never a part of it.**
- Gal 4:4** *"Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, **2** but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father. **3** Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. **4** But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, **5** to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons"*
- Rom. 8:16** *"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, **17** and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together ...**23** eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body"*
- Adoption** here means son-placing – being placed into a **first born son** status after which glorification takes place.

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f. And of course notice here in our scripture from Romans that there is a distinction made between being an heir of God and a joint heir with Christ. Both speak of receiving an inheritance, but receiving an inheritance as a joint heir with Christ is clearly conditional – ‘if indeed we suffer with Him’ – if we don’t suffer with Him, we will not be a joint heir with Him. Although as a child we will remain an heir of God, but we will not have been adopted as a first born son.

- ❖ In Summary then, it should be very obvious to us, through the evidence of scripture, that there is far more to the word salvation than would be admitted in most Christian circles.
- ✓ a). We have irrefutable proof that we are three part beings and that to fulfill God’s purpose for us, all three parts of our being must be saved.
- ✓ b. We have clearly seen that the salvation of our spirit is a free gift based on Christ’s finished work on the cross, is eternal in its scope and irrevocable.
- ✓ c). We would also now realize that there is a salvation which we presently possess, yet we still have an unsaved soul and an unsaved body. The current process continues until we receive the salvation of our souls and the redemption of our bodies.
- ✓ d). And that scripture clearly outlines a past salvation, a present process of salvation, and a future salvation and understanding this is very critical to understanding God’s purpose for us.

**1. How do we view salvation in scripture and what scriptures did we look at?**

2. What are the differences from question 1?
3. In the scripture from Romans, what distinction is made between being an heir of God and a joint heir with Christ?
4. From our previous studies and what we have studied in this lesson, how do we understand 1 Thes. 5:23 in relation to the creation, fall and redemption of man is concerned? Please provide your scripture references.
5. If Christ returns today, how must we be found and why? Does Romans 13:11 make more sense now?
6. What do you think is the next event on God's calendar?