

Our Salvation – rests on these two great pillars of truth

Salvation, the root meaning of which is “To be made safe from being lost” both now, in this life; and for the life to come; consists of the following two great pillars of truth:

1. CONVERSION – to be turned, from running away from God, to coming back to Him.

Matt 18:3 (Jesus) ...**Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.**

Acts 3:19 (Peter) **Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,**

When we receive, by faith, the forgiveness of our past sins, because Jesus bore them on the Cross, we are made righteous – that is, our spirits are cleansed from those past sins.

CONVERSION IS – BEING MADE RIGHTEOUS FOR THE FIRST TIME

But sin which lurks in the world, our own flesh and the devil, still often has power over us. All sin is unrighteousness. Whenever we sin we are no longer righteous. Repeated re-forgiveness, received by faith, can restore us to righteousness but only to be despairingly snared by sin again. Conversion therefore is only the first part of salvation. The second?

2. SANCTIFICATION – to be separated from sin itself, to God, and conformed to Christ.

Acts 26:18 (Jesus) ...**That they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.**

2 Thes 2:13 (Paul) ...**God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,**

1 Cor 1:2 (Paul) **To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints...(those made holy)**

When we, having unconditionally surrendered our lives and wills to God, and being full of God’s Spirit, believe the truth that Christ died to our sinful human nature or flesh on our behalf; And, we receive the daily engrafting of God’s words into our hearts to conform us to Christ; Then we are sanctified. Now freed from sin’s power by believing we participated in Christ’s death to sin, we are kept righteous, having been made holy as saints of God.

SANCTIFICATION IS – BEING KEPT RIGHTEOUS, BY BEING MADE HOLY

Eternity with Christ in Heaven is dependant on our being righteous at the time of our departure from this life, either at our death or if we are still alive, at Christ’s second coming. Only righteousness exists in God’s kingdom and the bride of Christ, the true Church, consists of those He has both made righteous and kept righteous at His coming:

Rom 14:17 **For the kingdom of God is...righteousness...in the Holy Spirit.**

Rev 19:7-8 **...The marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready...And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.**