

**DISCIPLESHIP 3
GOD'S PLAN
SERIES**

**UNIT IV - LESSON 1, 2
GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION
CULTIVATE YOUR SALVATION**

for

**CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
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UNIT IV - GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION**LESSON 1 - THREEFOLD SALVATION - PHILIPPIANS 1:6**

Our Father God would remind us , Psalm 81:8-16, that He desires to:

- completely and quickly subdue our enemies;
- bring even the unrighteous into submission to Himself;
- to give you, His children, the very best He has;
- completely satisfy you.

Our Father God is telling us that He will do all those things **IF** we will walk in His ways; if we will order the course of our lives according to His plan for us. Father God wants us to live in victory. Amen? Thank you Jesus.

Previously, we have discussed that the foundation and beginning for ordering one's life according to God's Plan is FAITH TOWARDS GOD. Romans 1:17 says, "The just shall **live** by faith." Galatians 5:6 tells us that the faith by which we are to live is faith that is activated, turned on, energized by selfless, self sacrificing acts of love, "**... but faith which worketh by love.**"

This love which activates faith toward God will be evident in our lives as we deny ourselves and let Jesus in us live His life through us.

Now specifically God's ways for you, His children, has the purpose of accomplishing in His children His goal for their lives. This goal of God for you is that you "**...grow up into Him in all things...**" (Ephesians 4:15).

You see, our Father God's desire for us is that we grow-up and become spiritually mature.

As we have seen, our Father God is at work "perfecting the saints" and to accomplish this He has outlined for us in His Word the plan which He in His infinite grace and mercy has designed to accomplish his purposes in our lives.

Now this lesson as we continue to learn the ways of God so that we can walk in them and receive God's full blessing in our lives, we want to understand and see (lest we get entangled and caught-up in striving) that the accomplishment of God's plan for the "Perfecting of the Saints" is **NOT OUR WORK**, but rather, is **HIS (GOD'S) WORK**.

"Being confident of this very thing that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform (lit. Gk., complete) it until the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:6)

You see, God began that good work in you, when the Holy Spirit through the Word of God created faith in you which received Jesus (latched unto/received Jesus Christ) as your personal Savior. God began that good work. You had nothing to do with it. The faith which accepted Jesus and His atoning sacrifice on the cross of Calvary was a gift of God's grace.

"For by grace are you saved through faith; and that (faith) not of yourselves; it is (faith) the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:8,9) "

"...when we were DEAD in sin, (God) hath QUICKENED (lit. Gk., made alive) US together with Christ, for by grace are you saved." (Ephesians 2:5)

Let us understand that this life which we now have in Jesus Christ is solely and completely the work of God's grace and mercy. It is a miracle "new birth". It is a resurrection from DEATH TO LIFE.

I want to lay to rest the idea many have that salvation is a result of a sinner (one who is dead in sin) REPENTING AND MAKING A DECISION FOR CHRIST.

QUESTION: Have you ever seen or have personal knowledge of a dead person who had the ability to make any kind of a decision; much less the ability to make the decision to begin living?

Now, isn't that what you would be saying if you contend that a dead person must repent of being dead and make the decision, while he is still dead, to accept Jesus as his Deliverer, Savior from that state of death? Or, how can a dead person resist being dead?

The Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 4:3,4 puts it this way,

"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are! lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

Lazarus, in John, chapter 11, is a picture of what we are talking about. Lazarus was dead. Jesus, who is the Word of life, speaks to this dead Lazarus and life begins to flow through Him. Lazarus had nothing to do with it. It was a resurrection from death to life.

That's what the new birth is all about. It is God, the Holy Spirit, speaking the "Word of Life" to the one who is "dead in trespasses and sin"; the one whose mind is spiritually blinded by satan; to the one who is an enemy of God. The "word of Life" which is the power of God unto salvation, creates out of death, life and that person who was dead is now alive. He has been "born again". He is now a new creation in Jesus Christ.

"So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." (Romans 10:17)

The point is that the new birth which makes us a member of the family of God is the BEGINNING of God's Work in us. Which work is solely and completely accomplished without any help on our part. IT IS THE WORK OF GOD.

Let us now see from the Word of God what this beginning work of God has accomplished.

- John 1:12,13
- 2 Peter 1:4
- 1 John 4:17
- 2 Corinthians 5:17

- Romans 8:11
Why no condemnation?
Corinthians 15:3
Romans 7:20
John 10:28,29

NOT BAD FOR A BEGINNING, IS IT?

BUT, THAT IS NOT ALL - IT IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF OUR SALVATION.

Philippians 1:6 continues by saying,

" . . . He . . . will perform it (will complete it) . . . "

God will complete the work which He has begun. Amen?

QUESTION: What else needs to be done?

ANSWER: The sin in us needs to be gotten out of us.

The first phase of salvation was an instantaneous act and delivered, saved us from the guilt and condemnation of sin, The second phase of salvation is both progressive and conditional. Here as God is continuing His work in us we are being delivered, saved from the power and control of the sin which dwells in us.

There is yet a third phase of salvation which will take place when Jesus returns for those that are His. This is the beginning of what is know as the day of Jesus Christ. This phase of our salvation is referred to as the redemption of the body. Here we will be delivered, saved from the very presence of sin.

LESSON 2 - CULTIVATE YOUR SALVATION - PHILIPPIANS

2:12,13

In the previous lesson we began talking about GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION. We said that salvation is NOT our work, but is a work of God in us. A work of God which we can add nothing to or take any thing away from it.

"...He which bath begun a good work in you will perform it (continue to completion), until the day of Jesus Christ." (Phil. 1:6).

God began that good work when the Holy Spirit through the Word of God created faith in you which received Jesus as your Savior.

Now that good work which was begun in you was solely a work of God, without any help from you. Amen.

"For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God; Not of works, lest any man should boast. for we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:8-10).

As we talked about in the previous lesson, this good work is the FIRST PHASE of a "threefold salvation" which God in His grace and mercy has begun in us.

The purpose of this beginning work of God was to give us a new STANDING, RELATIONSHIP with God. This beginning work of God ushers us into the kingdom of God.

We who were "dead in trespasses and sins", who were enemies of God; are now through this beginning work of God re-created in Christ Jesus; resurrected from death unto life; being born into the family of God.

THEREFORE, our new STANDING before God is that of a CHILD OF GOD. God is our Father, we are His children. Amen?

In this lesson we want to begin talking about the 2nd phase of God's plan of salvation.

Which, once again, is NOT LABORING, WORKING TO KEEP OUR STANDING WITH GOD. When you were born again you entered into that COMPLETED WORK OF GOD BY FAITH. 1 Peter 1:5 says that you are

"...kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last times."

As Paul would say in Colossians 2:10, **"You are complete in Him..."** Amen! Glory! Thank you Jesus!

Why is it so important for us to see and understand that we are to cease from our effort to keep our STANDING with God? WHY? because if we don't we will be so caught up in working and striving to keep our standing and relationship with the Father that we will not produce the fruit of the 2nd phase of our threefold salvation.

This 2nd phase of salvation, or sanctification, is God our Father conforming us into the image of Jesus. Here we are being delivered from the power and control of the sin dwelling in us.

Philippians 2:12,13 is speaking about this phase of your salvation or deliverance.

"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye 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. FOR IT IS GOD WHICH WORKETH IN YOU both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

Notice it does not say "work for your salvation". What it literally says is "work" your salvation. Work your salvation as a farmer works the land. You are to cultivate your salvation in Jesus Christ so that it will bring forth good abundant fruit. You are to cultivate that completed salvation, that work which God has begun in you through faith in Jesus Christ.

That salvation which has been worked in you and which you then are to work is beautifully summarized in 2 Corinthians 5:17.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature (Lit. GK. creation): old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

With that thought in mind, look again at Philippians 2:12, "Cultivate your own salvation", would mean that you are to cultivate this new creation (person) which you have become as a result of the good work which God began in you.

This, then agrees with I Corinthians 3:9 which says that,

"...we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry (lit. Gk. tillage), ye are God's building."

The born again child of God is **GOD'S TILLAGE (GARDEN)**. Our soul is the garden of God and we are to keep it, tend it, cultivate it (Genesis 2:15).

Now, when you cultivate a garden (especially a new garden spot), what do you do?

- clear the ground
- break the ground (plow it up)
- fertilize the soil - add the needed nutrients for specific seeds you are to plant
- plant the seed
- water the seed
- hoe out the weeds
- keep out the insects and birds of prey that would destroy the plants before they can be harvested
- harvest the fruit, so that you might enjoy the fruit of your labor

How does this relate to the cultivating of who we are in Christ Jesus? The cultivating of our salvation?

As the purpose of planting and cultivating a garden is the fruit which it produces, so the cultivating of our soul is for the purpose of producing good, godly fruit in the garden of our soul.

Now look, once again at verse 13 of Philippians, chapter 2.

"For it is God which WORKETH in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure."

BOTTOM LINE - sanctification is God completing the good work which He has begun.
AMEN? AMEN!! Thank you Jesus!!

END of Series

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