

**DISCIPLESHIP 3  
GOD'S PLAN  
SERIES**

**UNIT IV - LESSON 5, 6  
REASONS TO CULTIVATE SALVATION - 3  
REASONS TO CULTIVATE SALVATION - 4**

for

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**UNIT IV - GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION****LESSON 5 - REASONS TO CULTIVATE YOUR SALVATION # 3 -  
THE BETTER RESURRECTION (PART 2) - THE BRIDE OF  
CHRIST**

In this lesson we want to continue talking about 3 Fold Salvation which is God's plan of complete salvation for His children.

We have talked about how the 1st phase of our salvation has birthed us into the family of God, as His dear children and therefore has delivered us from the eternal punishment of sin, giving us an eternal, permanent standing with God as a child of God.

We have, also talked about the 2nd phase of our 3 fold salvation, which salvation Is In the process of delivering us from the power and control of the sin dwelling in us.

As we have noted this phase of our salvation is progressive and here we are co-labours with our Father and are working, cultivating that salvation for the purpose of producing in our lives the good fruit for which we were re-generated, re-created in Jesus. Which good fruit is to be useful to the Father in the work of the kingdom.

Now for the two previous lessons we have been talking about REASONS for cooperating with our father as co-labours in getting the sin dwelling in us, OUT OF US. Why we should be cultivating this new creation which we have become by faith in Jesus Christ as our personal Savior.

REASON # 1 says, "Even though the eternal consequence of sin has been removed from the child of God through being birthed into God's Family as a child of God, there still remains, even for the child of God, the TEMPORAL consequence of sin which according to Hebrews 12:6 is our Father chastising and whipping His children for their acts of disobedience."

Why the chastising? Because He loves them.

Therefore to the degree that we get our act together, that is get ourselves, our attitudes, our thinking, our life style in line with who we really are in Christ Jesus, to that extent we will not be on the receiving end of God's corrective measures.

REASON # 2 which we began talking about in the previous lesson says, "For those who yield themselves in obedience to the will of the Father, cultivating their salvation, they will receive a REWARD (PRIZE) for being co-labors with their Father God in this phase of their salvation."

Specifically the reward for overcoming the sin which is in us is according to Hebrews 11:35, **A BETTER RESURRECTION.**

This better resurrection is identified and described in Philippians 3:11. It is a resurrection, out from, distinct from, separate from, before the general resurrection of those belonging to Jesus.

This better resurrection is known as the Rapture which takes place before the Tribulation. Thus those who are in the process of overcoming the sin dwelling in them, watching and praying (Luke 21:36), persevering in the Word (Revelation 3:10) will be RAPTURED before the Tribulation starts. As a result they will escape the suffering of those children of God, who through their disobedience and carnal living will go into the Tribulation.

First of all we see that the BETTER RESURRECTION is an escaping of the suffering under the persecution of the anti-christ during the 1st 3/12 years of the Tribulation for those overcomers who are alive here on earth at the time of the Rapture by being raptured out of the world before the Tribulation.

Now, since the Tribulation will be a physical tribulation, a persecution of the believers who are living on earth, the overcomers who will benefit by being raptured as we stated above will be those who are still living on earth when the rapture takes place.

Keeping this in mind, how will the overcomers who have passed on to be with the Lord before the Rapture benefit from the better Resurrection? What will be their Reward/Prize for persevering in the Word, as they will automatically escape the suffering of the Tribulation by virtue of having gone on to be with the Lord? What will the OUT-RESURRECTION have, for them?

It is to the BETTER RESURRECTION for the overcomer who has passed on, who is asleep in Jesus, as well as to the ones living at the time of the Rapture we want to address in this lesson.

To answer these questions we must carefully consider what Paul says in 2 Corinthians 11:1-3.

**2 Corinthians 11:1-3, "Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly and indeed bear with me. For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."**

In this passage we see that those who belong to the Father through the new birth have been ESPOUSED, PROMISED TO Jesus. These espoused ones are to be presented to Christ having been prepared and made ready, A CHASTE VIRGIN (pure [undefiled], pure [undefiled]). Ones who have not been deceived by; Satan; whose minds are not corrupted; whose minds have been transformed; who have their minds on Jesus.

What is the basic process of becoming an OVERCOMER, A PURE PURE BELIEVER (a chaste virgin)? Is it not a process which begins with the Holy Spirit convicting us of the sin in our lives with the purpose of bringing us to repentance? That is bringing us to the realization that we have sinned against God our Father, which brings on godly sorrow, resulting in our decision to get that sin out of our life and then doing it through the power of God dwelling in us.

Thus daily repentance, or as Luke 21:36 says, "Watching and praying always", KEEPS US A CHASTE (PURE) VIRGIN (PURE) BELIEVER, AN OVERCOMER.

It is the **CHASTE VIRGIN, the OVERCOMER** (the one watching and praying always, persevering in the Word **WHO WILL BE IN THE BRIDE OF CHRIST**).

*Note: The Bible does not say, nor does it even imply that the church/Body of Christ or the body of believers is the Bride of Christ; but rather it is espoused, engaged to be the Bride. Amen?*

We see this more clearly in Matthew 25:1-13.

- verse 1, all are virgins (new creations in Christ Jesus, having been made pure through the blood of Jesus, all are born again)

- verse 2, there are 5 wise virgins and 5 foolish virgins

- verse 3, the 5 foolish had their lamps but no reserve of oil. Oil = Holy Spirit. They either have not been baptized with the Holy Spirit or if they had received the Holy Spirit Baptism they had grieved and quenched the Spirit or had neglected continually being filled. Which ever, they are called foolish.

- verse 4, the 5 wise took oil for their lamps. Even though the wise child of God has sin in his life, he knows that through repentance he is restored to the close presence of God. Thus he daily repents of sin in his life and is full of the Holy Spirit) through daily praying to be filled. He applies the Word of God to his daily life. Thus he is wise. Wisdom = applying your knowledge of the Word to your life.

- verse 5, While bridegroom tarried all 10 virgins slumbered and slept. Even the wise at times slumber, rest from their active obedience of the ways of God. However, when Jesus, the Bridegroom comes, that which keeps them prepared, CHASTE VIRGINS, is their watching and praying. Even in their slumbering and sleeping their heart is on the Bridegroom. They are filled with the Spirit of Promise.

- verse 10, shows the foolish virgins not being prepared when Jesus returns for His Bride, so they miss the Rapture and go into the Tribulation where they will be persecuted by the Antichrist (there we be weeping and gnashing of teeth).

- verse 12, Jesus says to the foolish "I know you not", literally it says I did not have a close intimate, relationship with you. The foolish virgins did not hunger and thirst after Jesus and His righteousness. Amen?

As this applies to those virgins (born again children of God) who are living when Jesus returns, so also it applies to those who are asleep in Jesus.

If those who are asleep in Jesus were watching and praying when God took them home, they are the wise virgins, the OVERCOMERS, and thus will be in the Bride of Christ.

If they were not watching and praying when God took them home they will miss out on being in the Bride of Christ.

***To be part of the Bride of Jesus is then another of the BENEFITS OF THE BETTER RESURRECTION and thus is A REASON for Godly living. Amen.***

## **LESSON 6 - REASONS TO CULTIVATE YOUR SALVATION # 4 - TEMPORAL REWARDS**

Beloved in our previous lessons we have within the context of three fold salvation, been looking at reasons, motivations for cultivating the salvation which we have through our new birth in Jesus Christ.

This question has been asked in relationship to reasons for cultivating our salvation, "Shouldn't our love for Jesus, be enough reason for living according to God's ways?" "Didn't Paul, the Apostle, say in 2 Corinthians 5:14, **"The love of Christ constraineth us (compel, motivate us)"?**

Let me answer the question this way - For the Spiritual man or woman, that is the person who is fully, completely, at all times walking in the Spirit - Yes, his/her love for Jesus is certainly enough motivation for cultivating his salvation - walking the walk as well as talking the talk. Galatians 5:16 says,

**"...walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfill the lusts (desires) of the flesh (body).**

However, which one of us is that "Spiritual Man or Woman" who all that time is walking in the Spirit? 1 John 1:10 says,

**"If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and His word is not in us."**

Therefore, for those times we are not completely walking in the Spirit, we need other motivation for the cultivating of our salvation.

Beloved, not only us today, but, also, the Apostle Paul, who said,

**"...the love of Christ constraineth us..."**

...also, said as recorded in 1 Corinthians 9:27,

**"But I keep under my body and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."**

Let me make a point of clarification right here: "cast-away" does not have the meaning of being rejected by God. Paul was not saying God would reject him and thus he would lose His eternal salvation.

Castaway means not to pass the test, it means to be disqualified.

Thus Paul is saying that he did not want to fail the test and therefore be disqualified and lose out. What was Paul not wanting to be disqualified from and thus lose out on? THE PRIZE OF THE OUT or BETTER RESURRECTION. Paul says in Philippians 3:14,

**"I press toward the mark for the PRIZE of the high calling of God in Jesus Christ."**

Thus Paul was not only motivated by the love of Christ; but he was, also, motivated; by the fact that he could be disqualified, set aside, lose his reward. Or to look at from the positive side, Paul was motivated by the REWARD which he would receive if he pressed on and pressed into Jesus by bring his body into subjection.

So what is the answer to the question, "Shouldn't our love for Jesus, be enough motivation, sufficient reason for living according to God's plan. The answer is YES IT

SHOULD BE ENOUGH REASON. And it is reason enough when we are walking in the Spirit. But when we are struggling in our spiritual walk, when we are weak spiritually, we need other motivations and reasons for cultivating our salvation. Amen?

Previously, we have looked at 2 reasons why we should be working, cultivating our salvation in Jesus Christ.

Reason #1 says, that for the child of God, there will be temporal consequences for acts of disobedience, as Hebrews 12:6 says,

**"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth or corrects and scourgeth/whips every son whom He receiveth."**

Therefore to the degree we get our act together - getting ourselves, our attitudes, our thinking, our life style in line with God's ways - to that extent we will not be on the receiving end of God's corrective measures.

Thus to that extent we will escape the temporal consequences of the sin sin dwelling in us. Amen?

Reason #2 says, for those who yield themselves in obedience to God's ways, cultivating their salvation as a co-labourer with the Father, will receive reward/prize.

This reward or prize is according to Hebrews 11:35, "**...A better resurrection...**"

Now the "better resurrection" is twofold. The first is identified by Paul in Philippians 3:11, in his use of the Greek word meaning "out resurrection", instead of the normal word used for resurrection in the New Testament.

The out resurrection is a better resurrection because it is out from, distinct from, before the general resurrection of those belonging to Jesus. Which general resurrection will not take place until mid way through the Great Tribulation.

The out resurrection will take place before the tribulation which means that for those who qualify for the out resurrection through their watching and praying always, will escape the suffering of those believers who because of their disobedience and carnal living will be persecuted and suffer in the tribulation at the hands of the antichrist.

The second part of the better resurrection is that those who are prepared and thus qualify for the out resurrection, also, know as the overcomers resurrection, will according to Matthew chapter 25 be in the BRIDE OF CHRIST. Whereas, those disobedient children will miss out on being in the Bride of Christ.

NOTE: the entire church will not be in the bride of Christ. Only those who are watching over their lives, cultivating the garden of their soul and who are praying to keep the vessel full of the Spirit will be in the bride of Christ.

Now before we take up reason # 4 for cultivating our salvation. let us look at what many of God's children, wrongly consider as motivation for Christian living which reason, motivation is a lie of satan.

This lie of satan which holds many of God's children in the bondage of legalism says, "If you do not do this or that, or if you do, do this or that, or if you do not keep yourself pure

in a oneness with the Father, THEN YOU WILL LOSE YOUR ETERNAL SALVATION.

This lie of satan is based on scripture passages which are either taken out of context and mis-interpreted; or passages of scripture which are either referring to sanctification, or progressive salvation in our soul or referring to those who were never born-again.

We will not discuss these passages in this lesson, however, there is a paper entitled "PASSAGES WRONGLY USED AGAINST ETERNAL SALVATION" which is available upon request.

Beloved I want you to know and understand having absolutely no doubt, YOU CANNOT LOSE YOUR ETERNAL STANDING BEFORE GOD. Through the new birth in Jesus Christ you have a permanent standing as a child and heir of the Father. This is a finished, completed work which you may with complete assurance REST IN.

You have been once and for all time delivered from the eternal consequence, punishment of sin. Jesus being made that sin for you, in your place was the object of God's wrath and judgment for your sins, past present and future. Jesus was condemned and received the punishment of that condemnation for you. Amen!

Beloved, anything less than salvation completed in Jesus Christ, less than salvation that is eternal is a lie of satan. Your eternal salvation is not conditioned on you doing or not doing anything. It, your salvation is wholly the work of God. Amen!

**Let us now look at reason #4 for cultivating our salvation.** Which reason is to receive God's abundant blessings in this life - thus if we will order the course of our lives in obedience to the ways of God, cultivating the garden of our soul **THERE WILL BE TEMPORAL REWARDS.** We will be able to enjoy in this life the fruit of our labors.

In John 10:10 Jesus says,

**". . . I have come that you might have life, and have it more abundantly."**

Beloved, Jesus through the moving and working of the Holy Spirit, came into your life to deliver you from death, giving you life and He wants you to have that life abundantly. Now, whereas, the life which He came to give you is unconditional, without any effort on your part; the abundant life is conditional as it requires of you growth in your soul. It requires you ordering the course of your life in accordance to God's plan.

Deuteronomy chapter 28 verses 1-13 shows this quite clearly.

- verses 1-2 gives us God's plan that will produce the abundant life.

First we are to hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord. To hearken diligently means to listen carefully to what God is saying with an attitude of obedience. Then we are to observe and do what He then tells us to do. Amen?

Now, what is God saying to you?

Philippians 2:12 is the Word of God telling you to work your salvation. To cultivate the garden of your soul.

What are the steps in the process of cultivating a garden?

- get weeds, junk and trash out
- break up the ground
- build up the soil
- plant good seed. The good seed you are to plant in your soul is to replace bad attitudes, thinking habits, and bad habits of doing with good godly habits.
- water the seed. Water speaks of the Word of God.
- prune for better growth. We are pruning our soul when we are denying ourselves.
- keep grass and weeds from growing back. You must keep self under subjection.
- then enjoy the fruit of your labor.

Deuteronomy 28:3-13 describes for us this fruit, which is the temporal reward and thus the third reason for cultivating your salvation. Read it again.

**AMEN! THANK YOU JESUS! AMEN!**

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**END of Series**

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