

THE BELIEVER'S TWOFOLD RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Introduction

- A. The puzzle: The Bible describes the believer as "clean" (John 15:3) and yet he is to "cleans himself" (II Cor. 7:1), as "holy" (Eph. 1:4) and yet he is to "be holy" (I Pet. 1:15). How can we explain this seeming enigma?
- B. The Answer: All believers have a twofold relationship with God--salvation and sanctification.
1. The salvation relationship is the believer's standing before God. It is a perfect relationship. The believer is "complete" in Christ.
And ye are complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power. Col. 2:10
 2. The sanctification relationship is the believer's state before God. It is always in the process of development. The believer is exhorted to "grow."
As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby. I Pet. 2:2

I. THE BELIEVER'S STANDING BEFORE AND AFTER SALVATION

<u>Before Salvation</u>	→	<u>After Salvation</u>
Once Unclean (Isa. 64:6) But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags		Now Cleansed (Isa. 1:18) Come now and let us reason together, saith the Lord, though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow
Once Dead to God (Eph. 2:1) And you hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins.		Now Alive to God (Eph. 2:1) And you hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins.
Once Guilty (Rom. 3:23) For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.		Now Forgiven (Col. 2:23b) . . . having forgiven you all trespasses.
Once Unrighteous (Rom. 3:10) As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.		Now Righteous (Rom. 5:1) Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God
Once Enslaved to Satan (Eph. 2:2) Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air		Now Free From Satan (Col. 1:13) Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son.

II. THE BELIEVER'S STANDING AND STATE

The Salvation Standing

The Sanctification State

Cleansed (Isa. 1:18)

Cleanse Yourself (II Cor. 7:1)

(See front page)

. . . Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit

Alive to God (Eph. 2:1)

Live Abundantly (John 10:10)

I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly.

Forgiven (Col. 2:13b)

Confess Your Sins (I John 1:9)

If we confess our sins, He is faithful to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Righteous (Rom. 5:1)

Live Righteously (Eph. 5:8, 9)

. . . Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth.

Free From Satan (Col. 1:13)

Resist the Devil (James 4:7)

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the Devil and he will flee from you.

(Conclusion: the believer is complete.)

(Conclusion: the believer is to grow.)

III. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BELIEVER'S STANDING AND STATE

The Salvation Standing

The Sanctification State

All

1. Given as a gift (Rom. 6:23)

All

1. To be received/claimed (Jn. 16:24)

These

2. Without degree (Col. 2:13b)

These

2. With degree (II Pet. 3:18)

Benefits

3. Permanent (Rom. 11:29)

Benefits

3. Transitory (I Cor. 9:27)

Are:

4. Based only on the person and work of Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:3)

Are:

4. Based on the Person and work of Jesus Christ and our cooperation by obedience (James 4:2, 3)

Conclusion: It is very helpful to keep from confusing our salvation and our sanctification relationships.