

GROW

AN SMBS SERIES

Lesson 2 – The Right Start



We often think of salvation simply in terms of forgiveness and eternity. We forget that our lives here on earth are radically impacted by what happened on the day we received Christ. Scripture is clear, however, that when we are saved everything changes for us. This lesson will attempt to show that you can only truly change if you have been saved, and that once you have been saved everything has changed!

THE _____ OF SALVATION

1. _____: **Death to life (Ephesians 2:1-10)**
 - We were dead in our sins (2:1-3).
 - God made us alive by grace through faith (2:4-9).
 - God's purpose was right living (2:10).
2. _____: **Bought and paid for (Romans 6:5-14)**

Scripture portrays those without Christ as being slaves to sin. Once someone accepts Christ, however, they are no longer slaves to sin but have been ransomed and are now slaves of Christ.
3. _____: **Made a new creature (2 Corinthians 5:17)**

Scripture also describes those who are saved as being made totally new. The God who made everything takes broken and sinful people who are totally self-focused and changes them from the inside out so that the way they think and live is totally new.
4. _____: **Born again (John 3:3-8)**

Nicodemus was a religious teacher who no doubt thought that he had been born into God's family since he was an Israelite, but Christ showed him that even he needed to have a new start. He was born of the flesh, but he needed to be born of the Spirit (3:6).

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THE _____ OF SANCTIFICATION

Salvation is the first step in a series of steps whereby God makes us holy. In this process of becoming holy (i.e. set apart), theologians have noted three distinct steps.

1. _____ **Sanctification** – The point in time in which we are justified (declared righteous based on what Christ has done for us). At this point, we are free from the **penalty** of sin.
2. _____ **Sanctification** – Everyday life where we are slowly made more holy. At this point, we are free from the **power** of sin.
3. _____ **Sanctification** – Also known as glorification. We will be made completely holy when we see Jesus Christ (1 John 3:2). At this point, we will fully and finally be free from the **presence** of sin.

THE _____ OF SALVATION

1. **A New _____** – Over and over the New Testament describes the Christian as being “in Christ.” Christ himself describes our new position as “in him” with the illustration of a branch being connected to a vine (John 15:1-5).
2. **A New _____**
 - **New _____.**
Although we still have the flesh, we also have the new man and the help of the Spirit. Paul describes this battle as the spirit and the flesh warring against each other (Galatians 5:17), yet this battle should give us hope. The conflict in our hearts is evidence that there is a new set of desires, desires that can only be there if God puts them there.
 - **New _____.**
God not only changes what we want, he changes how we think about life, him, sin, and ourselves. We are given a whole new perspective on life (Ephesians 4:17-21). This change of thinking happens once we are saved (2 Corinthians 3:14-16) but also needs to continue to happen as we progress in our spiritual lives (Romans 12:1-2).
3. **A New _____** – a critical difference between before we are saved and after we are saved is the presence of the Holy Spirit to help us in our battle with sin (Galatians 5:16).

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