



Statement of Faith - Salvation

Salvation - We believe God is Sovereign in all things, which includes the salvation of men. In eternity, God the Father, knowing that all men if left to themselves would reject Him, and coming under His judgment would die in their sin, by an act of His own will graciously determined to save a people for Himself. Being a free gift of God, salvation from sin is offered to all men, which God Himself provided by His grace (alone), through the granting of faith (alone), because of the redemptive work of His Son, Christ Jesus (alone), to His glory (alone). In its broadest sense, salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. Regeneration is the divine act of God whereby the sinner is granted the capacities needed to repent and exercise saving faith. Justification is an act of God whereby He declares the sinner righteous based on the merits of Christ and imputes that perfect righteousness of Christ to the sinner. Sanctification is the work of God in which the believer cooperates with God in the practical outworking of his/her new birth. Glorification is the work of God, which is the consummation of one's salvation whereby the believer is given a glorified, spiritual body that is immortal and no longer subject to sin. The believer lives in this state of glory thereafter, forever, world without end. (John 3:3-6, 14-21, 6:37, 44, 65, Rom 3:19-30, 8:28-30, Eph 1:4,11, 2:1-10, 3:10-11, Phil 1:29, 2:12-13, 1 Thes 4:3-8, 2 Tim 1:9-10, 2:25)

Justification is an act of God whereby He declares the sinner righteous based on the merits of Christ and imputes that perfect righteousness of Christ to the sinner. – It is clear from scripture that in the death of Christ upon the cross, that God's wrath because of sin has been satisfied by Christ's payment of death. This is called "*propitiation.*" Because Jesus was without sin, His was qualified to pay the debt for all sin by His death. He died as a substitute or in place of sinners, and bore the wrath of God Himself. It means that the death of Christ affected a real and fundamental change in our relationship to God by taking our place and bearing the guilt of our sins as an offering to appease the holy wrath of God.

1 John 4:10 - 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and **sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.** NASB

Jesus paid a very real price.....He literally bore the penalty for our sins! Our chastisement became His! He carried our griefs....and our sorrows! Let's look at how this was expressed by the prophet Isaiah.....chapter 53...

Isaiah 53:4-6, 11-12 - 4 Surely **our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried;** Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But He **was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.** 6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the **LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.** 11 As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, **My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities.** 12 Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty

with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet **He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors.** NASB

Further, the actual guilt of sinners has been removed by Christ's payment, because He paid the full price of that guilt. This is called "**expiation.**" Jesus removed our guilt having paid the full price of redemption for sins. Christ made a fundamental change in our relationship with God by expiating our guilt. Having paid the full price of our sin by His death, **our guilt was removed.** We were bought with a price, a ransom.....we were redeemed by the price of the sinless Son of God, Jesus Christ. Our guilt has been canceled because the debt of it has been paid. All of this was done by God.....it is God who justifies.....and so the scripture says...

Romans 8:33-34 - 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? **It is God who justifies.** **34 Who is he that condemns?** Christ Jesus, who died — more than that, who was raised to life — is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

1 Timothy 2:5-7 - 5 For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, **6 who gave Himself as a ransom for all,** the testimony borne at the proper time. NASB

This is why the scripture can say, there is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. The guilt of our sins has been removed.

Romans 8:1-2 - 8:1 There is **therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.** 2

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. NASB Now having our guilt removed and God's wrath because of our sins satisfied, we also have the righteousness of Christ credited to us. This is called "**imputation.**" Jesus perfect righteousness has become ours through faith in Him. It is clear from scripture that Christ's perfect righteousness is now ours by faith, and why the scripture addresses believers as blameless.

1 Corinthians 1:30-31 - 30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, **who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,** 31 that, just as it is written, "Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord." NASB

Romans 5:19 - 19 For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so **through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.** NASB

2 Corinthians 5:21 - 21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, **that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.** NASB

Colossians 1:21-22 - 22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to **present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation-**

Therefore when we say that the sinner is "**declared righteous**" by God it is because the sinner is not actually righteous in himself but in Christ has received a **foreign righteousness which is not his own, but is from God in Christ.** Since Jesus life was one of sinless perfection, this righteousness which is received is also therefore perfect.

Philippians 3:8-10 - 9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, NASB

Romans 3:21-24 - 21 But now apart from the Law **the righteousness of God** has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even **the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe;** for there is no distinction; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; NASB

And all of this has brought about Justification before God.

Romans 5:9- 9 Much more then, **having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.** NASB

Sanctification is the work of God in which the believer cooperates with God in the practical outworking of his/her new birth. - It is clear from scripture that there is a distinction to be made in sanctification. We *have been sanctified in POSITION* before God eternally. This is why the scripture speaks of us as “holy and blameless and beyond reproach. We have had the righteousness of God imputed to our account.

Hebrews 10:10-14 - 10 By this will **we have been sanctified** through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. 14 For by one offering **He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.** NASB

1 Corinthians 6:11 - 11 And such were some of you; but you were washed, but **you were sanctified,** but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God. NASB

Although this is true, we have not been completely sanctified PRACTICALLY in our behavior. Thus this distinction between what we call positional and practical sanctification. It is clear from scripture that we are in a PROCESS of being sanctified in our practice, in our behavior, in our daily lives. Although we have been sanctified in position before God, the Lord is actively sanctifying us in our conduct and practice.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 - 23 Now **may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame** at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass. NASB

Philippians 1:6 - 6 For I am confident of this very thing, **that He who began a good work in you will perfect it** until the day of Christ Jesus. NASB

We are therefore exhorted in scripture to pursue holiness and sanctification. We are to purify ourselves and/or cooperate with God in this process. This is the practical aspect of salvation, we are to pursue Christ in our behavior and to bring honor to His name by our holy and righteous conduct.

Philippians 2:12-13 - 12 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your salvation with fear and trembling;** 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. NASB

1 John 3:3 - 3 And **everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself,** just as He is pure. NASB

2 Corinthians 7:1 - 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, **let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness** in the fear of God. NASB

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 - 3 For **this is the will of God, your sanctification;** that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that **each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,** 5 not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; 6 and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you. 7 **For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.** 8 Consequently, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you. NASB

2 Peter 3:14 - 14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, **be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless,** NASB

This ongoing process of sanctification also aids in our assurance. As we see ourselves becoming like Christ in our practice, we are assured that God is working in us and see the evidence of true saving faith being born in our lives by the Holy Spirit of God. The pursuit of purity is evidence that true saving faith exists. We are not to live in a manner as to invite compromise, rather we are to pursue holiness and purity. *The one who walks in darkness and sin profanes the name of Christ and proves himself a sinner rather than a child of god.* Those who have been born of God (regenerate), walk in obedience to

Christ. The New Testament clearly teaches that true saving faith gives evidence of itself through word and deed. We have been made holy by the sacrifice of Christ, it is therefore God's will that we be sanctified in our behavior displaying the good work He has done in our hearts by our ready and willing obedience to His commands.

Romans 8:12-14 - 12 So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh — 13 for **if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.** 14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. NASB

1 John 1:6 -6 If we **say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;** NASB

1 John 3:9-11 - 9 No one who is born of God practices sin, **because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.** 10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother. NASB

Glorification is the work of God, which is the consummation of one's salvation whereby the believer is given a glorified, spiritual body that is immortal and no longer subject to sin. The believer lives in this state of glory thereafter, forever, world without end. – It is clear from scripture that God will ultimately glorify the believer at the consummation of our salvation, either at death or at the second coming or rapture, whichever comes first.

Colossians 3:4 -4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, **then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.** NASB

1 Thess 4:15-17 - 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and **the dead in Christ shall rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord.** NASB

1 Cor 15:50-54 - 50 Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Behold, **I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. 53 For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.** 54 But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory. NASB

If you are in Christ, spiritually you have been born again and raised up with Christ from that dead state of sin that you were formerly in. Your mind, will, and emotions have been transformed by the Spirit of God, you have experienced regeneration. But you still live in a mortal body, which is subject to sin and temptation, which will shortly die physically. But this physical death for the Christian is the portal by which we enter into glory. ***Here is our great and blessed hope, that our earthly, physical and mortal body will be transformed to be like Christ's heavenly, spiritual and immortal body is!*** Our bodies will no longer be subject to sin and temptation, indeed we will put on immortality and being immortal, we will never again be subject to death or dying or pain.

1 John 3:2-3 - 2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is. NASB

1 Cor 15:42-44 - 42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, **it is raised an imperishable body; 43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory;** it is sown in

weakness, it is raised in power; 44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. NASB

Phil 3:20-21 - 20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; 21 **who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory**, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself. NASB

In this glorified state, we will no longer be subject to sin because sin and death will be terminated forever. This is why we are called imperishable and immortal (no longer subject to death), which also affords the absence of sin. We cannot die because we cannot sin. This is what the scripture means when it says "death shall be swallowed up in victory." (1 Cor 15:54), or that death shall be swallowed up by life." (2 Cor 5:4) There will be no more dying or crying or pain in the eternal kingdom of God.

Revelation 21:1-4 - 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them, 4 and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and **there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.**" NASB
2 Corinthians 5:4-5 - 4 For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed, but to be clothed, in order that **what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.** 5 Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge. NASB

It is clear from scripture that this state of glory is eternal and lasts forever.

1 Peter 5:10-11 - 10 And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you **to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.** 11 To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen. NASB

2 Corinthians 4:17- 17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an **eternal weight of glory** far beyond all comparison, NASB

2 Timothy 2:10- 10 For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, that they also may **obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.** NASB

Psalms 16:11 - 11 Thou wilt make known to me the path of life; In Thy presence is fulness of joy; In Thy right hand **there are pleasures forever.** NASB