

Berrus, Ron S.

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To: Berrus, Ron S.
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Ron and Val Berrus

...Laboring for the Laborers Saved! - JCI #80 Feb 1, 2010

All 80 JCI's are available at www.ronberrus.abwe.org along with sermons and other resources. You can also get Ron's most current messages online at www.bbcpa.org under the sermons link. Ron will be transitioning to Bible Baptist, Shiremanstown, as lead pastor April 1, but will continue his JCI devotionals from there.

Just Checking In #80 Saved! February 1, 2010

Pilgrim's Process

Psalm 39:12 "Hear my prayer, O Lord... for I am a 'pilgrim' with You..."

"For by grace you have been SAVED through faith..." Eph 2:8

"Saved" It's a common word among us who believe in Christ Jesus. Saved means rescued, delivered, reserved, restored, preserved, protected, and treasured. And the bible uses many different words to describe our being rescued from sin and death. Each of the words that portray *salvation* also point out the *condition* from which we are rescued as well as the "means" that brought this rescue to pass. Let's look at some of these special words and the wonderful riches of "so great a salvation" we have received in Christ Jesus.

Man is a law-breaker. God is just. God's justice must be satisfied and the demands of His broken law be fully met. God's forgiveness never operates apart from or contrary to His justice. **Therefore we have God's saving work of PROPITIATION.** God Himself is fully satisfying His own justice and the demands of His own law for us. GLORY! Lev 16:1-34; Heb 9:1-26; Heb 10:12-23; 1 John 1:8-2:2

Man is a rebel. God is perfect. Since man is an incorrigible rebel with neither the inclination nor ability to seek God, it is God who seeks lost man. God's character and standards are unchangeably perfect, and man is unchangeably evil and opposed to God. It is God, through the death and resurrection of His perfect Son, and the power of the gospel and the Holy Spirit's regenerating work, that draws man to Himself in repentance and faith. **This is God's saving work of RECONCILIATION.** God has removed the obstacle of sin

and welcomes man back into a relationship with Himself, securing it by His own work on man's behalf.

GLORY! Gen 3:1-21; Eph 2:1-3; Col 1:20-22; 2 Cor 5:17-21

Man is spiritually dead. God is life. Since man is dead in sins, it takes a miracle of sovereign grace to bring this dead sinner to spiritual life. **This is God's saving work of REGENERATION.** By means of the gospel accompanied by the Holy Spirit's application of it to the heart, a dead sinner is made alive in Christ exercising repentance and faith as fruits of this new life. GLORY! Eph 2:1-3; 1 Peter 1:23; Romans 5:12-21; 8:1-11; Col 2:13, 3:1-10; 1 Cor 2:11-16

Man is unrighteous. God is holy. Since man has no righteousness, cannot make his own righteousness, yet must have perfect righteousness to be accepted by a holy God, then God must provide this righteousness to man as a gift. **This is God's saving work of JUSTIFICATION.** It is both the removing of man's sin (cleansing) and the imputating of God's own perfect righteousness (justifying) to the man who believes in Jesus Christ. We have no righteousness of our own, but we have the absolute and perfect of righteousness of God clothing us. GLORY! Isa 61:10; Matt 22:11-14; Rom 3:9-26; Acts 13:38-39; Isa 53:11; Rom 4-5

Man is a slave to sin. God is a restorer. Since man is completely a captive to sin and completely helpless to escape its power and consequences, God must step in and set man free. This is God's saving work of REDEMPTION. Man owes a debt of perfect obedience to God that he is incapable of meeting. Therefore God sent His own perfectly obedient Son to live that perfect life of obedience on our behalf. Having satisfied God's demands of obedience, He then laid His life down as the perfect, substitutionary sacrifice for us and for our sin. **This is God's saving work of REDEMPTION.** We owed a debt we could not pay, He paid the debt He did not owe, and we are free from the debt and bondage of sin. GLORY! Ex 6:6-8; Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 Cor 6:19-20 Book of Ruth

Man is a citizen of darkness. God conquers our old king and changes our citizenship. Man is under the dominion and domination of the Prince of Darkness. Man is a willing accomplice to the rebellion against God Almighty, yet lives in misery and fear under the ruthless tyranny of the Evil One. The only hope for man is that God would somehow rise up and defeat the forces of darkness yet spare man who deserves the same fate of destruction as a co-conspirator of evil. **This is God's saving work of TRANSLATION.** God defeats and destroys the Old Serpent yet chooses to spare us, releasing us from the old tyrant and making us citizens of the kingdom of life and light. GLORY! Col 1:12-13; Phil 3:18-21; Eph 2:11-12

We have been saved BY God.

We have been saved FROM God.

We have been saved FOR God.

By His grace, from His wrath, for His fellowship, forevermore!

Self Check:

1. Make a list of the ways God has changed you by saving you. (This includes both positional as well as observable changes in your life.)
2. What areas of your life are still following the old patterns and habits of darkness?
3. What should you do to get the help you need? Admit your need? Talk to a pastor or elder? Search the scriptures on the subject? Ask for a good book or get some spiritual advice for making changes?

For further study:

These six key terms describe aspects of God's remedy for our sin. But they also refer to six aspects of our own need because of sin. Do some further study on these great words and find at least one Biblical illustration for each. For example: Redemption/Redeemer Ruth and Boaz; Israel in Egypt

"Lord, I was condemned, guilty, alienated, dead, enslaved, wicked, and captive. You did everything in saving me. I was helpless, unwilling, blind, deaf, hiding, hateful, filthy, and vicious. I hated Your law, crucified Your Son, cursed Your name, and loathed Your love. But You saved me! Who is a God like You? Paying so high a price, experiencing so deep a suffering, satisfying so high a law, keeping so infinite a holiness, showing so measureless a love... for such a wretch like me. Worthy is the LAMB, to receive all glory, and all honor, and all blessing, and all praise, and all worship, and all service, and all authority, and all power, for all ages, for ever and ever, Amen!"

Remember, you are very special to us and we pray for you continually.

Living with leaving in view.... Jn 9:4 Ron & Val

Seeing The Invisible, embracing The Unapproachable, declaring The Unexplainable, changed by The Immutable, running after The Irresistible with inexhaustible joy in our inexpressible sorrows, spending our time on eternity, owning nothing yet possessing everything that matters and lasts. We are Pilgrims in Paradox. Welcome to THE JOURNEY.

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