

Octavius Winslow

Oh, see what costly blessings are bound up in the exaltation of Jesus! All sanctification to make us holy - all love to make us happy - all wisdom to guide - all grace to uphold - and all glory to crown. "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of His grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."



KEACH'S CATECHISM – Benjamin Keach 1640 - 1704

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Q. 40. What are the benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?

A. The benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification, are, assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Spirit, increase of grace, and perseverance therein to the end.

(Rom. 5:1-5; 14:17; Prov. 4:18; 1 Peter 1:5; 1 John 5:13)

Q. 41. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death?

A. The souls of believers are at death made perfect in holiness, and do immediately pass into glory, and their bodies, being still united to Christ, do rest in their graves till the resurrection.

(Heb. 12:23; Phil. 1:23; 2 Cor. 5:8; Luke 23:43; 1 Thess 4:14; Is. 57:2; Job 19:26)

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WCWV 92.9 FM – 8:00 AM Sunday Morning

THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST REPORT

THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

“The Pillar and ground of the Truth” -- 1 Timothy 3:15

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THE NATURE OF THE NEWBORN

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17

When the question, “what is it to be saved,” is asked the answers are many and varied. Perhaps the reason for that is found in this assessment given to the Corinthians by Paul. If the New Birth is not understood, salvation cannot be understood. It is the absolute necessity given before there can be any consciousness of the Kingdom of God and Christ the King. Without the New Birth there is no entrance into the Kingdom of God. That is, there can be no salvation. Our Lord declared it as essential to both seeing and entering. In spite of the fact that Our Lord told Nicodemus that the New Birth was a sovereign and mysterious work of the Spirit, men persist in the belief that they can make a contribution or even to make it happen. There have been books written on how to be born again. Christ declared that salvation was impossible with men but that with God all things are possible – even the salvation of poor undeserving sinners.

Several things come to mind as to the nature of those born again of the Spirit of God. The first here is that they are in Christ. To be in Christ is a mystery in itself. But, the aim of Christ was that their lives would be “hid” in Him. In this way allusion is made to full identity and being partakers together with Him of all things Heavenly. Words fail at describing the relationship between Christ and His people, but they who are in Christ know that they are. The change is so drastic that they have a consciousness of having passed from death unto

life. The love of Christ is foremost and evident to them and to those who observe them. They are secured from justice and judgment and they abide under the shadow of His wings. It is to be partakers of the divine nature. To be in Christ is to be one with Him and this was His design all along.

The Prophet Jeremiah assessed the matter of human inability well. *Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil. Jeremiah 13:23.* Yet, it is just such “old things” that are passed away. Old are the thoughts that persist with man that somehow he controls his own destiny. Old is the idea that one might produce a form of righteousness in and of himself that would be acceptable to God. Old is the way of life that complies with the god of this world and follows the course of this world. The wise man wrote: *The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun. Ecclesiastes 1:9.* How often then do men aspire to something new and yet their change is no change at all. *I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit. Ecclesiastes 1:14.*

This and more is corrected because of a drastic divine intervention. The change wrought in the believer is more profound than the work of the natural creation. The thought here is of observing the result of a work of creation in the

soul of a man. It is not because of an act of will on the part of men. It is not merely a changing of one's ways. Even Nicodemus asked "how can these things be?" Men have no control over their natural birth. It was no accident that our Lord chose this figure to describe the work of regeneration. Even Nicodemus in his unsaved state knew that man could not bring about such a change. In fact it is not a change. Rather, it is a beginning. The Bible begins with "In the beginning God..." The regeneration of one of the Lord's people is the same thing. Their existence in Christ has its beginning in God and not in themselves. The "born again" believer is a work of divine creation.

The confirmation is drawn to the attention of the true believer in the declaration "...behold all things are become new." The thought here is that they become new and stay new. The life of believers is one of continuous revelation of Christ and the things of Christ. The love of righteousness is new. There is greater joy in giving than receiving. There is the desire to imitate Christ in sacrificial love. The contempt for this present world is new. The desire for and

the pursuit of holiness is new. The desire to ever draw nigh to God is new. The center of his world shifts from self to Christ. The greatest sources of delight are found in relation to Christ. Such things as worship, praise and thanksgiving are entered into with great joy. The fruit of the Spirit within is new life indeed. Faith, as a way of life leads to the ultimate resource in all things – Christ Himself. Because of faith there is acceptance with God where there was total rejection before. We who were discovered as sinners before God now trust that we have been forgiven through the Blood of Christ our Lord. Through faith God is pleased with us.

Being a Christian is not merely being a changed person. It is being a "new person." It is to have been created from on High and thus led on to repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. It is to see Jesus as Master and Lord and to behold the glory of God in His face. It is a life of continuous discovery of such things that have been purchased to our benefit by the blood of Christ. And we rejoice therein. *bhs*

"Love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."--1 John 4:7-8

If ever you have loved Jesus with a pure affection; if ever you have felt him near, dear, and precious to your soul, that love can never be lost out of your heart. It may lie dormant; it does lie dormant. It may not be sweetly felt in exercise; but there it is. "If any man loves not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema" (1 Cor. 16:22). You would be under this curse if the love of the Lord Jesus Christ were to die out of your heart. But this love is often sleeping. When the mother sometimes watches over the cradle and looks upon her sleeping babe with unutterable affection, the infant knows not that the mother is watching its slumbers; but when it awakes, it is able to feel and return its mother's caresses.

It is so with the soul sometimes when love in the heart is like a babe slumbering in the cradle. But as the babe opens its eyes, and sees the mother smiling upon it, it returns the smiles, and stretches forth its arms to embrace the bending cheek; so when the eyes of the soul are opened to see the smiling face of Jesus stooping to imprint a kiss of love, or drop some sweet word into the heart, and there is a flowing forth toward him of love and affection--this is the power of love.

--J. C. Philpot

When Jesus cried, "It is finished," all His sorrow was over – all His grief was at an end; for then He "made an end of sin, and brought in a new and everlasting righteousness." It is on the ground of His finished work the soul that believes in Him sees the entire putting away of all his transgressions, and complete acceptance of his person before God. "It Is Finished!" Wondrous words! Glorious declaration! The law is honored – justice is satisfied – the debt is paid; and now, whoever believes in Jesus shall not come into condemnation, but has everlasting life! Child of God! see your finished salvation! Mourning soul! dry your tears; look to Jesus and be saved. Sin-bound laboring sinner! cast your heavy burden and your deadly doings down at the foot of the Cross; Atonement is all made, the work is all done; trust in Jesus, and you shall find rest unto your soul. Oh, blessed announcement of the Gospel, that you have nothing to do but believe! That, freer than the water springing from the fount, freer than the light flowing from the sun – freer than the air laden with earth's scents, is the finished salvation Christ has provided for poor, lost sinners. How clear the teaching of God's word touching this precious truth! "Being justified freely by His grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God has set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood." Resting in this finished salvation of Christ, the vilest sinner shall be saved, the feeblest saint shall not be lost. They only will fail of the glorious blessings of this great charter of salvation – the finished work of Christ – who, refusing to accept it as it is, presumptuously dare to supplement it by their own work of human merit. Attempt, if you will, to add luster to the sun, beauty to the landscape, value to the pearl – but attempt not the profane, the criminal act, of adding anything of your own merit, worthiness, or doing, to the Finished Work of the Lord Jesus Christ. Despise and reject His finished salvation, and though you were the most scrupulously moral, and strictly religious, and profusely charitable, dying, robed in this your own righteousness, you will be lost forever. But, believe in Christ, accept in faith His finished work, and although you were the vilest sinner and the feeblest saint, you shall be forever saved.

– Octavius Winslow (1808-78), minister in USA and England quoted by Daniel Parks

I have finished the work which You have given Me to do -John 17:4

The death of Jesus Christ is the fulfillment in history of the very mind and intent of God. There is no place for seeing Jesus Christ as a martyr. His death was not something that happened to Him- something that might have been prevented. His death was the very reason He came.

Never build your case for forgiveness on the idea that God is our Father and He will forgive us because He loves us. That contradicts the revealed truth of God in Jesus Christ. It makes the Cross unnecessary, and the redemption "much ado about nothing." God forgives sin only because of the death of Christ. God could forgive people in no other way than by the death of His Son, and Jesus is exalted as Savior because of His death. "We see Jesus . . . for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor . . ." ([Hebrews 2:9](#)). The greatest note of triumph ever sounded in the ears of a startled universe was that sounded on the Cross of Christ- "It is finished!" ([John 19:30](#)). That is the final word in the redemption of humankind.

Anything that lessens or completely obliterates the holiness of God, through a false view of His love, contradicts the truth of God as revealed by Jesus Christ. Never allow yourself to believe that Jesus Christ stands with us, and against God, out of pity and compassion, or that He became a curse for us out of sympathy for us. Jesus Christ became a curse for us by divine decree. Our part in realizing the tremendous meaning of His curse is the conviction of sin. Conviction is given to us as a gift of shame and repentance; it is the great mercy of God. Jesus Christ hates the sin in people, and Calvary is the measure of His hatred. *Oswald Chambers*