

Renewed Unity Salvation

All will stand before the judgment seat of Christ to be recompensed for deeds done in the body, whether good or bad. Judgment is rightly fearsome to those outside of Christ. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. The wages of sin is death. Separation from God is the second death. When Judge Jesus asks the Holy Spirit to lay out our deeds, if outside of Christ, the amount of good deeds done will not matter. The Spirit will reveal all our sins and we will pay the price for them. The Heavenly Father justly will pour His wrath on us and we shall be separated from God to hell. What could be worse? Nothing.

Judgment is rightly loving to those saved by Christ—to those inside of Christ. All our sins have been paid for by Judge Jesus Himself. Jesus already died for us. When Judge Jesus asks the Holy Spirit to lay out our deeds, since inside of Christ and saved by Him, the amount of sins done will not matter. We will stand before Jesus covered by His perfect righteousness. The Spirit will reveal all our good deeds and we will be rewarded for them. The Heavenly Father justly will welcome us to the new heavens and the new earth to enjoy God's triune presence and reunion with all those also saved by Christ. What would be better? Nothing.

Topic: God's holy wrath will be poured out on all the unrighteous. Of course, no one is righteous apart from God. God loves us so much that the Father sent the Son to live, die for, and be raised for us. When we place our faith in Jesus, we are filled with the Holy Spirit and covered by Christ's perfect righteousness and we seek to live up to that righteousness. Since we are covered by Christ's righteousness, we do not receive wrath. Instead, we will receive reward for all the good things done as prompted by the Spirit. We who place faith in Jesus have been saved from the penalty of sin (Justification), are being saved from the power of sin (Sanctification), and will be saved from the presence of sin (Glorification).

-What saves us? Below is a list of things that the Bible says saves us. Which takes priority and why?

God—It is God who justifies. Romans 8:33

Grace—Ephesians 2:5; 2:8; Titus 2:11

Mercy—Titus 3:5

Calling on the name of Yahweh—Acts 2:21; Romans 10:13

Belief in Jesus—John 3:16

Jesus' Name—Acts 4:12

Jesus' Blood—Hebrews 7:27

Jesus' Life—Romans 5:10

Jesus' Death—Romans 5:9

Holy Spirit—Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 6:11

The Word—James 1:21

Believing the preaching—1 Corinthians 1:21

Gospel—Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 15:1-2

Faith through hearing—Romans 10:17

Repentance—2 Corinthians 7:10

Confession—Romans 10:10

Baptism—1 Peter 3:21

Enduring to the end—Matthew 10:22

Sound Doctrine—1 Timothy 4:16

- What saves us, God's works or our works? (Read Ephesians 2:8-10 and Titus 3:4-8)
- What are examples of God's grace?
- What are examples of our faithful response to God's grace?
- How can salvation be past tense and present tense and future tense?
- Which aspect of salvation includes our good works (justification, sanctification, or glorification)?
- Why does justification require no works of ours at all?
- Is baptism a part of justification or sanctification?
- Will faith placed in Jesus results in good works?

Association: Salvation is not always clearly articulated or described.

- Have you ever heard it preached/taught that you needed to do some bodily action to be justified?
- Why do you suppose so many people/groups want salvation to be dependent on our action?
- Is the justification/sanctification distinction one that relieves or stresses you?
- When were you justified? Share your story.
- How are you growing in sanctification? Share your progress.
- Have you ever baptized someone?
- How confident are you in sharing the gospel with someone? Have you shared it?

Guidance: Share the gospel with one another, emphasizing God's gracious gift and our appropriate response to His grace—placing faith, growing in Christlikeness, and awaiting resurrection bodies.

- What areas can you hold each other accountable for increasing sanctification?
- For whom can you pray about accepting Christ?
- Pray with and for one another.