

A photograph of a stone tunnel with a bright light at the far end, creating a strong lens flare and illuminating the path. The walls are made of rough-hewn stone, and the floor is also stone. The light at the end is a warm, golden-yellow color, contrasting with the darker, cooler tones of the tunnel's interior.

Philippians

THE HOPE OF JOY

Philippians: The Hope of Joy

“God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

- *Philippians 2:9-11*

Philippians 2:12-30

“We do not draw people to Christ by loudly discrediting what they believe, by telling them how wrong they are and how right we are, but by showing them a light that is so lovely that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it.”

- Madeleine L'Engle

Walking on Water: Reflections on Life and Art

There are at least three stages in the Bible's account of salvation:

1. Justification - immediate salvation from the *penalty* of sin, at the point of our conversion
2. Sanctification - progressive salvation from the *power* of sin, present and ongoing process
3. Glorification - ultimate salvation from the *presence* of sin, upon the return of Christ

Concurrence in spiritual growth

[sanctification]:

God's part = working in

Our part = working out

“Working out salvation does not mean ‘working for’ salvation, but making salvation operational. Justification must be followed by the experiential aspects of sanctification, by which the new life in Christ is consciously appropriated and demonstrated.”

- Homer A. Kent, Jr.

“Their salvation is a process...
in which they themselves, far from remaining
passive or dormant, take a very active part.
It is a pursuit, a following after, a pressing on,
a contest, fight, race.”

- William Hendriksen

If sanctification looks like something,
what does it look like?

- Resting in being the “beloved”
- Habitual loving obedience to God and His Word
- Joyful fear and trembling
- Freed from grumbling and disputing

If sanctification looks like something,
what does it look like?

- Blameless, innocent, above reproach
- Shining as lights
- Holding fast / forth the Word
- Rejoicing and sharing joy

“The light of Christian character is an uninterpreted parable if we do not speak about Christ. Equally, speaking about Christ is futile if our lives do not back up what we say.”

- J. Alec Motyer

“The Christian life is a journey, a race,
and a battle.”

- Brian G. Hedges
Watchfulness

“The conversion of a soul is the miracle of a moment, but the manufacture of a saint is the task of a lifetime.”

- Alan Redpath