

God's Complete Salvation is of Two Aspects: Judicial and Organic

“For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled.”

Romans 5:10

I. God's complete salvation is of two aspects—the judicial aspect and the organic aspect

II. The judicial aspect of God's salvation was accomplished in the physical realm of Christ's earthly ministry objectively by Christ in His flesh

John 1:14 *And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.*

Colossians 1:22 *He now has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy and without blemish and without reproach before Him.*

1 Peter 2:24 *Who Himself bore up our sins in His body on the tree, in order that we, having died to sins, might live to righteousness; by whose bruise you were healed.*

Galatians 3:13 *Christ has redeemed us out of the curse of the law, having become a curse on our behalf.*

III. The organic aspect of God's salvation is carried out through Christ's heavenly ministry subjectively by Christ as the life-giving Spirit

1 Corinthians 15:45 *The first man, Adam, became a living soul; the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.*

Romans 8:10-11 *But if Christ is in you...He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.*

Hebrews 8:6 *But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry inasmuch as He is also the Mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted upon better promises.*

Acts 23:11 *But in the night following, the Lord stood by him and said, Take courage, for as you have solemnly testified to the things concerning Me in Jerusalem, so also you must testify in Rome.*

The Two Aspects of God's Complete Salvation

The complete salvation of God has two aspects: the judicial aspect and the organic aspect. It is not that easy to understand what *organic* is and what *judicial* is. However, by the word *judicial* we know it has something to do with the law, and by the word *organic* we know it has something to do with life. Therefore, God's complete salvation has both the judicial aspect, an aspect related to the law, and the organic aspect, an aspect related to life.

The Passover

Concerning the judicial aspect and the organic aspect of God's salvation, there are some illustrations in the Bible, both in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. In the Old Testament the most evident illustration is the keeping of the Feast of the Passover by the children of Israel. God charged the children of Israel not only to sprinkle the blood of the lamb but also to roast the flesh of the lamb and eat it inside the blood-sprinkled house. The blood saved them from God's judgment and the flesh of the lamb enabled them to leave Egypt and journey with God (Exo. 12:11-12). The redeeming aspect, signified by the blood of the lamb, is according to God's judicial requirement; the saving aspect, signified by the flesh of the lamb, is according to God's organic provision of life. Christ is the real Passover Lamb, and He has been sacrificed for us, not only to redeem us but also to satisfy us. His blood redeemed us, and His life satisfies us.

The Robe and the Calf

Next, let us look at an illustration in the New Testament. Luke 15 speaks about a son who left home to wander abroad and became a prodigal son. One day the prodigal son clothed in rags returned home. Although he was still his father's son, he appeared outwardly as a prodigal son. When he was still a long way off, his father saw him and ran to embrace and kiss him. Afterward, his father immediately ordered the servants, saying, "Bring out quickly the best robe and put it on him" (v. 22). The son had become the prodigal son, and even though he came back to the father's house, he still had to put on that robe so that he might look like a son before his father. This is the aspect of redemption. The father had certain qualifications, and to be his son there were certain requirements. When the son left home to wander abroad, he lost his status as a son and became a prodigal son. When the father put that robe upon him, he immediately became a son again. This refers to the judicial aspect of God's salvation.

However, it is not sufficient merely to be clothed with the robe and become a son. At that time, on the one hand, the son was happy, but on the other hand, he must have said in his heart, "Father, what I need now is not to be clothed with a robe outside. I am not fed inside. I was feeding on pigs food for several years. Today I come back with an empty stomach. Please hurry and give me some food." Perhaps the son was ashamed to say it, but the father went on to say, "Bring the fattened calf; slaughter it, and let us eat and be merry" (v. 23). At that time the son must have been dancing with joy. After eating the fattened calf, the son was satisfied and no longer hungry. Hence, the robe signifies the judicial aspect of God's salvation, and the calf signifies the organic aspect of God's salvation.

With those in your group, practice speaking one of these examples from the Old or New Testament to highlight the two aspects of God's complete salvation.