

- Our **GROWING IN CHRIST** is a result of our **STANDING IN CHRIST** (*grammar of the gospel*) ... With a **DETERMINED MIND** that's **FOCUSED AND CLEAR**, set your hope completely on **THE GOSPEL** ... We're called by a Holy God to imitate His holiness in every aspect of our life ... Our success in obeying the call to be holy, and to conduct ourselves in reverence, is dependent upon **THE SUCCESSFUL OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST**, and **IN CHRIST ALONE** ... His Holiness and Righteousness must be the only holiness and righteousness you and I cling to in this life ... Only His alone saves us and fulfills what God requires from us
- **Knowing that you were redeemed** – *don't allow yourself to forget this truth and motivation* ... **KNOWING** speaks of an awareness and assurance the Holy Spirit plants in us ... He nurtures this understanding as we **GROW IN CHRIST & WALK WITH HIM** ... What do we keep before us: **our redemption** – *what Christ has done for us & continues to do in / thru us*
- **Vs18-19** – Contrast between what we were enslaved to, and what Christ has freed us to enjoy in / thru Him ... We were opposed to God, now we're joined to God ... Contrast between **HUMAN REDEMPTION** and **DIVINE REDEMPTION** – **silver and gold** vs. **precious blood of Christ** ... For redemption to occur, a high-valued price needs to be settled upon and paid in full, otherwise, the enslaved person cannot be set free (*Mar10:45*)
 - The blood poured out, and the life laid down, are not ordinary ... Both are common in that they represent us – so it can be said, the blood poured out and life laid down are done so on my behalf ... **IN MY PLACE HE STOOD** ... Yet both are uncommon in that the blood is of infinite worth, and the life is of sheer perfection ... And it's because of **WHO** the blood and life belong to that give them this distinction ... By raising Christ from the dead and restoring His glory, **GOD DECLARES**: the life and death of Jesus has paid the debt of sin, and has fulfilled the requirements of the law ... Nothing else can be added ... Nothing else compares ... It is finished
 - **Sproul** – *Our salvation rests not only in Christ's atoning death (passive obedience), but also in His life of perfect, active obedience (His righteousness earned for us) ... By His sinless life He achieved positive merit, which merit is imputed to all who put their faith in Him. Christ not only died for us, but He lived for us as well.*
 - His conception (*Lu1:26-38*) ... His growing up (*Lu2:51-52*) ... His baptism (*Mt3:13-17*) ... His time of testing (*Mt4:1-11*) ... His ministry (*Mt5:17; Jo6:38, 17:4*) ... His necessary pursuit (*Lu24:26, 44*) ... His death (*Jo19:30; Mt27:51*)
- **Rom5:18-19, 2Cor5:21** ... **JUSTIFICATION** – as Judge, God declares a sinner not guilty and removes sin and penalty ... **Easton** – *The law is not relaxed or set aside, but is declared to be fulfilled in the strictest sense; and so the person justified is declared entitled to all advantages and rewards arising from perfect obedience to the law* ... Just as if I had never sinned, and had always obeyed ... We are justified based on the active and passive obedience of Christ ... **HIS IMPUTED RIGHTEOUSNESS** (*Rom4, 5:12-21, 2Cor5:21*)
 - God does not declare us to be righteous and in good standing with Him, then make us earn this reality by way of our own merit ... To do so causes us to be the means of our own salvation ... Our justification then is not a firm reality, but something that's in name only until we prove to be worthy of receiving it ... This is NOT the gospel ... **Sproul** – *If a sinner relies on his own works or on a combination of his righteousness and that of Christ, then he is not trusting in the gospel*
 - The basis of God declaring you and me not guilty and perfectly obedient is Jesus Christ ... He alone is our justification, righteousness, holiness, and freedom ... No other foundation do we stand upon or live upon
- **Vs21** – **Through Jesus do we believe in God, so that our faith and hope are in God** ... Thus, we place our faith in the One who justifies us according to His own obedient life and substitutionary death ... Faith is the instrument by which God transfers the righteousness of Jesus to our standing ... Being **UNITED INTO HIM**, He's our life and hope ... **THUS, THE ASSURANCE OF OUR SALVATION IS GROUNDED IN CHRIST ALONE** ...