



GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#146)
Eternal salvation CONSEQUENCES!

SCENARIO #1: Consider your life as an unsaved person.

IF YOU ARE SAVED... you'll have to look back to the past.
And consider what it would have been like if you had stayed that way.

MUCK!! YUCK!!

IF YOU ARE NOT SAVED... you're still in the muck of sin.

WHAT IF YOU STAY UNSAVED?

The following would be "the story of your life": →

FOR THOSE WHO REMAIN UNSAVED

This is how you started life, and how you will continue life until the day you die:

YOUR NATURAL ATTITUDE TOWARD THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD. "I don't want it!"

- You have *suppressed the truth* you already know. (Romans 1:18+, 32; 2:14-15; etc.) – whether you do this by openly rejecting the truth, or by pursuing a counterfeit.
- If you want to "go to heaven," it will be for self-centered reasons – not because of a desire to love and serve God.
- In your *rebellion*, you are worse-off than a dumb animal. You are *without hope, destined for destruction*. IT'S WHAT YOU DESERVE.

This will remain your condition, UNLESS God intervenes and does a work of grace in your heart.

This is your condition, **UNLESS** God intervenes and does a work of grace in your heart...

- They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. 2 Thessalonians 2:10b (NIV)
- ... lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God ... 2 Timothy 3:4b (CSB)
- ... without hope and without God in the world. Ephesians 2:12b (CSB)
- ... 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels!' Matthew 25:41b (CSB)
- "... their share will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death." Revelation 21:8b (CSB)

Their destiny is destruction ... Philippians 3:19a (NIV)

For the wages of sin is death ... Romans 6:23b (CSB)

And he has NO OBLIGATION to intervene.

What IF???

What if God decided to give you something you DON'T deserve?

Would you deserve it? Would you consider yourself entitled to it? Would you say you earned it? Would you accuse God of being "unfair" if you didn't get it?

"UNDESERVED" is what salvation is all about!

SCENARIO #2: Consider your life as a saved person.

(If you are unsaved, you can see what you're missing.)

⇒ God began a good work in you; and he will complete what he began.

... being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:6 (NIV)

⇒ God will use everything that happens in your life (even your failures) to accomplish this good.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28 (NIV)

Nothing, good or bad, can prevent God from accomplishing his goal in your life! (Romans 8:31-39)

As we look at what God is doing, we must remember that sovereignty and responsibility work together.

- **OUR RESPONSIBILITY:** We will make choices, and will be held accountable for those choices.
 - OUR ORIGINAL SITUATION ...** We chose to hate the true God. *We will be held accountable for our choice.*
 - BUT THEN...** Some of us hear the Good News and choose to repent and trust Jesus. We begin to follow him, with a desire to live in obedience to his commands. *We will be held accountable for our choice.*
- **GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY:** As we read Scripture, we discover that God chose to give us (who are saved) something we don't deserve. That "something" is: 

WHAT is God doing? (Part 1)

Things that happened before you were born.
(You would have never known about them, if they weren't in the Bible.)

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.
Romans 8:29 (NIV)

⇒ Even before creation God chose to deliver (= "save") you out of your rebellion and wickedness, and into a new way of life.
[God] chose us in [Christ] before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.
Ephesians 1:4b (ESV)

★ He had **NO** obligation to do this. He could have rightfully chosen to leave you in your rebellion, with the consequences you earned. ★

GOD KNEW IN ADVANCE ("FOREKNEW") HIS PLANS FOR YOU!

[You] who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: ...
1 Peter 1:2 (NIV)

- The Father knew his intentions beforehand, and acted upon them, by choosing you.
- His ultimate goal was to change you into someone who would want to be obedient to Jesus Christ. This was made possible by the sacrificial atonement of Jesus Christ.
- He sent the Holy Spirit to accomplish this work in your life – specifically, to make you holy [= the meaning of "sanctify"].

(Don't ever get the arrogant attitude that you deserved this!)

GOD DETERMINED IN ADVANCE ("PREDESTINED") HOW HE WOULD ACCOMPLISH HIS PLANS FOR YOU!

In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will ...
In [Christ] we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ...
Eph 1:4b-5, 11 (NIV)

- He chose to adopt you into the family of God... simply because it pleased him to do so (NOT because you deserved it).
- This adoption is possible only because of your connection to Jesus Christ (and what he accomplished on your behalf).

(Don't ever get the arrogant attitude that you deserved this!)

WHAT is God doing? (Part 2)

Things you experienced in your life (and the Bible explains them).

And those he predestined, he also called ...
Romans 8:30a (NIV)

"CALLING" RESULTS IN CHANGES IN YOUR LIFE!

⇒ If God has called you, your hate for him will change into love. You will want to love him, AND you will recognize his role in your life.
We love because he first loved us.
1 John 4:19 (CSB)

⇒ This change is the reason you know that Romans 8:28 applies to you. God will use all things to accomplish good for you!
And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.
Romans 8:28 (NIV)

God CALLED you.

⇒ Out of sin.
... the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
1 Peter 2:9c (CSB)

⇒ Into holiness.
He has saved us and called us to a holy life ...
2 Timothy 1:9a (CSB)

But as the one who called you is holy, you also are to be holy in all your conduct; ...
1 Peter 1:15 (CSB)

(Those who reject this calling are unsaved.)
For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.
1 Thessalonians 4:7-8 (NIV)

⇒ Possibly to suffer.

But when you do what is good and suffer, if you endure it, this brings favor with God.

For you were **called** to this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

1 Peter 2:20-21 (CSB)

⇒ Definitely to proclaim the greatness of God.

... so that you may proclaim the praises of the one who **called** you ...

1 Peter 2:9b (CSB)

NOTE: In these verses, the word "call" has to do with God saving us. Some passages use the word "call" in other ways. Here is a passage, where it refers to an invitation or opportunity, and not the results.

Two translations:

"For many are called, but few are chosen."
Matthew 22:14 (ESV)

"For many are invited, but few are chosen."
Matthew 22:14 (CSB)

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God JUSTIFIED you.

... those he called, he also **justified**; ...

Romans 8:30b (NIV)

⇒ In order for you to fulfil this calling, he accomplished changes in your life: He justified you.

"JUSTIFIED"—
WHAT'S THAT?

"TO BE JUSTIFIED"
MEANS "TO BE
DECLARED RIGHTEOUS"

IT'S A LEGAL TERM—
SOMETHING A JUDGE
DOES.

- You are guilty; you deserve death.
- But because of what Jesus has done, you are now declared righteous. You are no longer considered guilty!

MORE AT ANOTHER TIME.

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God GLORIFIED you.

... those he justified, he also **glorified**.

Romans 8:30c (NIV)

⇒ This is a *future* event. But it is so certain, that it is described here as though it has *already* happened.

- IN GOD'S SIGHT: It's as good as done.
- IN YOUR SIGHT: You're heading toward that goal.

⇒ The end result of all this is yet to come: "Glorification."
What this means is described in the previous verse:

... **conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

Romans 8:29 (NIV)

MORE AT ANOTHER TIME.

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GLORIFICATION: HOW DO WE GET THERE?

⇒ Right now, you are in the process of going from "JUSTIFICATION" to "GLORIFICATION." This process is called "**SANCTIFICATION**" (= "being made holy"). *YOUR PRESENT LIFE IS OCCURRING HERE.*

JUSTIFICATION
"DECLARED RIGHTEOUS"
"WE ARE JUSTIFIED."
THE PAST

GLORIFICATION
"WE ARE GLORIFIED"
"LIKE CHRIST"
THE FUTURE

SANCTIFICATION
"BEING MADE HOLY"
(THE TRANSITION)
THE PRESENT

Romans 8:28 tells us that what God started (= **justification**), he will complete (= **glorification**).
"**Sanctification**" is process of getting from the one to the other.

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SANCTIFICATION

And those he predestined, he also **called**; those he called, he also **justified**; those he justified, [] he also **glorified**.

Romans 8:30 (NIV)

SANCTIFICATION OCCURS HERE

This transition is where verses such as these fit in!

⇒ God's people look to the Scriptures to learn how to live.

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things [= daily needs] will be provided for you.

Matthew 6:33 (CSB)

⇒ God is using all things to accomplish good in their lives.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

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BEING "SANCTIFIED" means BEING "MADE HOLY"

That's why so many verses tell us that God called us to holiness.

⇒ God's calling: God has called us to live **holy** lives, not impure lives.

1 Thessalonians 4:7 (NLT)

⇒ Jesus' prayer: "**Sanctify** them by the truth; your word is truth."

John 17:17 (CSB)

⇒ Our obligation: Pursue ... **holiness**, for without it no one will see the Lord.

Heb 12:14 (NET)

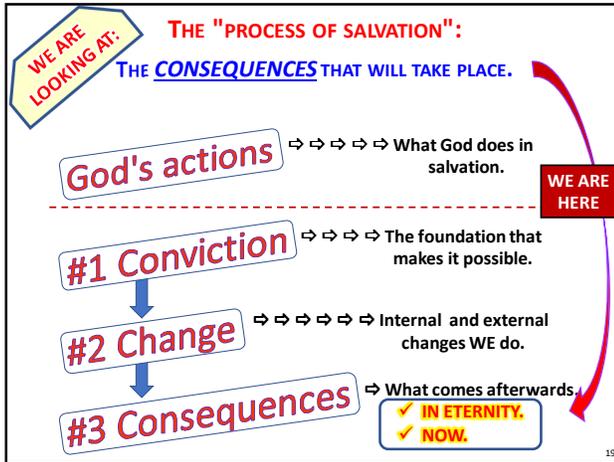
⇒ How God gets us there: ... through the **sanctifying** work of the Spirit, ...

1 Peter 1:2b (NIV)

God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his **holiness**.

Heb 12:10b (NIV)

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CONSEQUENCES OF SALVATION.

⇒ **SANCTIFICATION** and **GLORIFICATION** are two consequences that all saved (JUSTIFIED) people have.

- **JUSTIFICATION** was the starting point of this process, occurring at the point of salvation and continuing from that point.
- **GLORIFICATION** is the end point, and will occur after our resurrection.
- **SANCTIFICATION** is the process that is occurring *right now* – as our values and conduct are changing (so that they become more "Christ-like"). In the end, we will be 100% "sanctified" (= holy).

⇒ **These consequences are GUARANTEED** because they are the result of God's FOREKNOWLEDGE, PREDESTINATION, and CALLING.

Your MISSION:

⇒ **IF you are unsaved:**
(Even if you are a church-goer.)

We urge you to turn to God.

✓ *Look to Jesus! Learn to follow him, so that you will be able to escape the muck of sin you are currently trapped in!*

... wallowing in the muck of the world's ways.
Revelation 3:4b (MSG)

⇒ **IF you are saved:**

God has great plans for you! He has:

- ✓ Given you a desire to be like Christ.
- ✓ Given you his Word, to instruct you in how to get there.
- ✓ Given you the power to do it.

If you are saved, you will want to pursue such a goal!

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, **we shall be like him**, for we shall see him as he is.

★ ***All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.*** ★

1 John 3:2-3 (NIV)

Credits (1)

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