



Living the Christian Life in the Truth

John Ortberg, in his book *The Life You've Always Wanted*, quotes Søren Kierkegaard's prayer: **"And now Lord, with your help I shall become myself."**

Reckon (Gk, *logizomai*) = count, compute or calculate, to weigh the reasons, deliberate, to transfer assets from one account to another. This word deals with **reality**. It refers to **facts**, not suppositions.

God Reckons our Salvation Based on Faith: "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.... The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness--for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead" (Rom 4:3,23-24).

We Reckon our Sanctification Based on our Union with Christ: "The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus" (Rom 6:10-11).

We Reckon our Present Hope by our Future Glory: "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us" (Rom 8:18).

We Base our Faith in God's Character: "By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death" (Heb 11:17-19).

We Reckon the Truth of God: "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things" (Php 4:8).

The Christian life is lived on the basis of the three stages of our salvation:

Positional—we are united with Christ in a covenant relationship

Progressive—we are becoming who we were recreated to be—like Christ.

Promised—we will be with Jesus and will be like Jesus.

Sanctification: Positional, Progressive and Promised

- Col 2:7 "having been firmly rooted in Him" Positional
- Col 2:7 "now being built up in Him" Progressive
- Col 3:1 "you have been raised with Christ" Positional
- Col 3:1 "set your hearts on things above" Progressive
- Col 3:3 "For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God" Positional
- Col 3:4 "When Christ appears, you will appear with him in glory" Promised

As a Christian, am I trying to become something I am not, or becoming who I truly am?

Romans 6:1-14 Positional Sanctification

—believing what God says is now true about me

- [1] What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?
- [2] By no means! **We died to sin**; how can we live in it any longer? sin is not normal for a Christian; it is logically ridiculous!
- [3] Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?
- [4] We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. baptism is the ceremony and symbol of our union with Christ
- [5] If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. vv. 4-7 describe the "death" part of our union with Christ
- [6] For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— "old self" = unregenerate identity (in Adam)
"body of sin" = flesh, sinful nature
"done away with" = deprive of power, influence, control
- [7] because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.
- [8] Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. vv. 8-10 describe the "life" part of our union with Christ
- [9] For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.
- [10] The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. vv. 11-14 are the application of our union with Christ
- [11] In the same way, **count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God** in Christ Jesus. "count" = consider = reckon = to evaluate our situation as God evaluates it; to calculate and identify reality
- [12] Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Decisive action! Say NO to sin and YES to God!
- [13] Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather **offer yourselves to God**, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. v.13, like Rom 12:1 commands us to an act of dedication of ourselves to God
- [14] For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace

—Sanctification involves our entire being

Spirit: your union with Christ **freed** you from the binding control of sin when you received the Holy Spirit.

Head/Heart: sanctification is initiated by knowing, **understanding** and reckoning the truth of your union with Christ = you are dead to sin and alive to God.

Will: sanctification is implemented through an **act** of surrender and dedication of your life to God (YIELD) and by **continuing** to believe and act (TRUST) on the truth of our union with Christ.

Body: sanctification is evidenced by your body being a **tool** of God's righteousness.

Romans 6:15 – 8:17 Progressive Sanctification —living out our new identity in Christ with freedom and victory

6:15-23 **Weigh it out**—you’re either a slave to sin or a slave to God—which is better?

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (6:23).

7:1 – 8:4 **The Two Laws of Human Experience**

Law of Sin & Death: our sinful nature + OT Law → sin → death

Law of the Spirit of Life: our union w/ Christ + Holy Spirit + law’s requirements → righteousness → holiness → eternal life

“For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death. But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code” (7:5-6).

8:5-17 **Control transferred from the sinful nature to the Holy Spirit**

Therefore, live by the Spirit

- set your mind on what the Spirit desires (8:5)
- put to death the misdeeds of the body (8:13)

“For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God” (8:13-14).

Romans 8:18-39 Promised Sanctification —holding to the hope of our promised destiny in Christ

- our present sufferings aren’t worth comparing to our future glory (8:18)
- our adoption and redemption will be completely realized (8:23)
- the Holy Spirit is praying for us to compensate for our weakness (8:26)
- *“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” (8:28).*
- we will be conformed to the image of Christ (8:29)
- if God is for us, who can be against us? (8:31)
- since God has chosen us, justified us and gave his own Son for us, how could he not finish in us what he has begun? (8:32-33)
- our Judge, Jesus, died for us and is also praying for us! (8:34)
- we are hyper-conquerors over every foe imaginable (8:37)
- because nothing at all can separate us from God’s love (8:39)

Week 4 Homework

† Practice your memory verse: **Ephesians 5:1-2**

† Read Schwarz, pp. 272-275

† Del Tackett of Focus on the Family's *The Truth Project* asks the question: "Do you really believe that what you believe is really real?" How is this question essentially the same as reckoning the truth of our positional, progressive and promised salvation? What difference does this make in your Christian life?

† Read **Ephesians 4:17 – 5:2** and answer the questions below, then read **Colossians 3:1-14** and answer the same questions:

1. What does the Bible say is true about me now that I am in Christ?

2. What am I to do with my "old self"?

3. What am I to do with my "new self"?

4. How am I to treat sin in my life?

† If you have time, read **Romans 6-8** in one sitting to get the full force of the victory that Jesus has given us.