

Are you saved? What's our part in salvation?

Part 1 of 2



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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

KEY WORDS: *salvation, being saved. Passover. God's righteousness. The Vine.*

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Summary: *We know God the Father set a plan in motion to save everyone who responded to his call and accepted the Son of God as Savior. Do we have a part in that plan? And yet we're told we can't be justified, set right with God, by our works (Rom. 3:22-28). What part do we play in our salvation? Can we be saved right now – or is it a lifelong process, culminating when Christ returns? Is being saved a one-time event, or a process? Is salvation conditional or unconditional? Find out in this Part 1 teaching.*

(Note: I sometimes use the name “Yeshua”, the given Hebrew name of our Savior, instead of “Jesus.”)

Hello fellow believers in Messiah, you children of the Highest, members of the house of God

Passover will soon be upon us. It's the anniversary of the crucifixion of the Jesus, who died for *the sins of the WORLD (John 1:29)*, freeing us from the captivity of Satan, pictured by ancient Pharaoh enslaving Israel. Jesus died for anyone in the world who will receive him, regardless of how bad your sins have been, if you confess and repent of them. No matter your ethnic origin or skin color or nationality – he died for you too.

It's also the anniversary of Israel being freed from slavery in Egypt when God said, “When I see the blood, I will Pass Over you” **Exodus 12:13**. That's where we get the term “Passover”. The blood that they splashed on the door posts and lintel, pointed to the firstborn Lamb of God, Jesus the Messiah (Christ and Messiah both mean “anointed”).

Be sure to **read my recent blog** “Who REALLY killed Christ”. If you say, “the Jews, Romans, or we all did by our sins”, you’ve missed the fuller correct answer.

The father or head of each house, was to pick the lamb on Abib 10, 4 days before Passover. A day for a thousand years = Christ was foreordained to die as God’s Lamb 4,000 years before he was crucified. (**1 Pet 1:20; Rev. 13:8**)

And Passover remembers **the titanic battle between the Son of God – versus his Adversary**, the ancient serpent and dragon of old at that hill Golgotha outside the city walls. *Our Savior CRUSHED Satan’s head and Jesus destroyed the power of sin and death.* Hallelujah, Jesus.

So once again, welcome to Light on the Rock. I’m Philip Shields, host and founder. Welcome to Light on the Rock. Thanks for coming. I’d love to hear from more of you. Remember to check out the blogs and audio sermons as well especially leading up to Passover. And use the Search bar to find topics.

Today we’ll perhaps clarify some areas about being saved and how we get to the point of living in God’s righteousness. I’m confident that God will finish what he started in us (Phil. 1:6). Today and next time we’ll also definitely talk a lot about things WE do as part of our Salvation and Jesus’ part. I think you will hear some new concepts and ideas – all proven Biblically.

The first Passover I remember was when I was 6 years old in the Philippines. My missionary dad was away. My brother and two sisters were basically sitting in front of our mom observing Passover bread and wine service, as she was the only one in the area who was keeping Passover. We kids watched. My dad—Clyde V. Shields -- had a Bible college, church and orphanage and must have been away. Mom explained what she was doing with the Unleavened Bread and vial of wine or Fruit of the vine. I believe at Christ’s last supper they had wine but he himself referred to it as “fruit of the vine”. So I won’t argue against grape juice, especially if you’re alcoholic.

So what does the blood of Jesus do for us? And are you saved? Now? Or do you insist being saved has to happen at Christ’s return, at the very end? And what’s our part in it? We’ll get into all that today.

Bur first – we know the Passover sacrifice of Jesus pays for OUR own sin debt. The wages of sin is death (**Romans 6:23**). We earned death. We know by now that he paid for, and forgave, ALL our sins, washing them in his blood. His blood also **redeemed and reconciled** us to God. We now belong to God. **He removed the wrath** God had for you and me because of our sins.

But there was more. He also covers **the curse of Adam's sin** that we are all born with. David said, “In sin did my mother conceive me” (Ps. 51:5) He’s simply saying, I was born under the penalty of sin because of the curse on Adam placed on all humanity. Some of you don’t accept that, so let’s read it.

You can start from v 12; we’ll start v 18. V. 17 -- God’s gift of righteousness.

Romans 5:18-19

“Therefore, as through one man's offense *judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation*, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life.

19 For as by one man's [Adam] disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's [Christ] obedience many will be made righteous.”

Notice whose righteous act results in OUR being declared righteous – as a free gift (also Rom 5:17). Notice v. 19 by whose obedience we are made righteous. It’s hard to believe, as we honestly see your own failings. So many wonder “will I ever be good enough?”. Stop looking at yourself; look at Christ.

When it comes to faith, so often we have to believe even what we can’t see yet. “Faith is the evidence of things NOT seen” (Hebrews 11:1). God told Abram he would be the father of many nations, as many as the sands on a sea shore. But he didn’t have even his FIRST real son until age 100. We may not be seeing God’s righteousness in us just yet – but believe, accept it, and praise him—and you will see, just as Abraham and Sarah did.

And as I’ll show you, we need to learn to activate the perfect life of Christ in us! **You see, I need a SAVIOR.** I still stumble into sins too often. I still have lousy attitudes at times. I can still be unkind, judgmental,

unloving and all kinds of things. I need a Savior! I need him helping and saving me every day.

So if I'm asked if I'm saved, I say, "Absolutely! And he will save me and complete the work he started in me to the very end, just as He promised".

Here are some scriptures that say **we're saved NOW** (Ephesians 2:5, 8-10; 2 Tim. 1:9; Romans 8:24 and Titus 3:5). I love Titus 3. Notice past tense.

Titus 3:4-5

"But when the kindness and the **love of GOD our Savior** toward man appeared, 5 NOT by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy **He saved us**, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,"

See, GOD is also our Savior, working through Jesus. Salvation was GOD's idea. It's past tense here: "He saved us".

But then other verses speak of those who were "**BEING saved**". Go ahead and read these on your own: **Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 1:18; 2 Cor. 2:15.**

1 Corinthians 1:18

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to **us who are BEING saved** it is the power of God."

Finally, those who are faithful to the end, enduring to the end, **shall be saved** (Mark 13:13; Matt 24:13; 1 Cor.15:2; Rev. 17:14).

There are several "**IF**" scriptures, that we'll be there ***IF* we abide to the end (1 Cor. 15:2)**, endure to the end, and so on. We have to remain faithful, for those who return to earth with Christ are described as the faithful ones.

Revelation 17:14

"These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; **and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and FAITHFUL.**"

So again, the Bible says you and I – if we've repented and received God's Holy Spirit after being immersed/baptized in water – can say we have been saved, are being saved, and shall be saved.

Based on all that, what would your answer be if you're asked, "Are you saved?" Based on the Bible freely using all three verb tenses of have been saved, are being saved and shall be saved, -- I would say "Absolutely I've been saved, praise God!" And if I'm told I won't know until the very end whether I'll be saved or not, my reply would be: "I have faith in Jesus to work in me, and faith in GOD to fulfill his promise to FINISH what He's started in us". Paul uses the words "*Being confident*" of that. So my faith is in GOD, not in my works or my own performance.

Philippians 1:6

"being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you WILL COMPLETE IT until the day of Jesus Christ;"

Hebrews 12:2 Jesus is "...The author and **finisher** of our faith..."

It's Jesus' job to complete salvation in us. HE does perfect work.

Illustrations to show the various verb tenses of Salvation

Here's how I've explained the process of Salvation for many years in conversations. **I compare it to a man who is drowning** and finally even goes under. **Someone – other than himself – has to save him now.** A **lifeguard** rushes out there on his Sea-Doo Jet ski, jumps in and pulls him out of the water. He may have to resuscitate the drowned man. **Is he saved? Yes.** But they're still out on the water. So then the lifeguard rushes the man towards shore. **Is he "BEING saved". Yes.** Finally, on the land he is delivered safe and sound and alive. If he stayed on the jet ski or boat that whole time, he knew he WILL BE SAVED if he endured to the end.

What did the saved man do? He cooperated. He hung on to the jet-ski. He stood back up on the ground. But who was his savior? It was the life guard.

In fact, while being pulled out of the water, a drowning person is told to lay still, not try to do much or they actually make it harder to save them. So there you see the "has been saved", "is being saved" and "shall be saved". My focus is on the one doing the saving.

I need a Savior in the same way. Now have faith in him and let him save you – I mean *beyond forgiveness when you first deeply repented. I mean in moment by moment* living with Christ in us.

I saw **another illustration of the 3 verb tenses of salvation – been saved, being saved and shall be saved, and** compared it to **flying in an airplane** and finding out it's going to crash. So you grab a parachute, jump out, pull the rip cord, and finally land safely on the ground. There were things you did to be saved, in that example. **The problem with that illustration was that the man was his own savior!** No one came to save him, and he did it all himself.

With our fleshly nature, we're too flawed, too weak to save ourselves. And it's likely we can get in the way of what Jesus wants to do as he saves us.

WHO IS your Savior?

One more thing we need to deeply appreciate: **we tend to think Jesus is the Savior and that's OK as your answer. But it's not complete.** Be sure you know God the Father is also Savior. After all, saving you was HIS plan (**John 3:16-17**). GOD so loved the world. Redemption was his idea, his plan, and working with and through Christ, they got it done.

God the Father was the one who decided He would call You to be among the first fruits, if you would accept that high calling (**John 6:44**); then lead you to repentance (**Romans 2:4**), and then to obedience to Christ. Yes we must obey. I love the song "Trust and Obey".

Hebrews 5:9

"And having been perfected, He [Christ] became the AUTHOR of eternal salvation to all who OBEY Him,"

Here are more scriptures showing GOD is also Savior working as one with Jesus Christ: **1 Tim. 1:1; 2:3; Titus 1:3; 2:10; 3:4; Jude 25**

Other than God the Father and Jesus Christ (Yeshua) acting as one together to save us, *nobody* else is called "Savior" in scripture. Not you, not me, not anyone else. Acts 4 – speaking of Christ:

Acts 4:11-12

"This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.'

12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is NO other name under heaven given among men by which we MUST be saved."

No one else can save us. And saving people is Christ's JOB. It's what he does.

Some misunderstand Philippians 2:12 to mean that somehow you are part savior. Frankly that would detract from the glory due GOD and Christ our Savior as sole Savior! And as I'll show in the rest of this sermon, God is working with Christ in you to do the work of finishing his saving work. You and I are God's workmanship. HIS work. God is 100% our Savior.

In context of obedience, Paul tells the Philippian brethren continue to work with God in obedience and let God do HIS work in you. He's telling them it's not just their work, but God's Work, as we'll continue to see.

Philippians 2:12-13

"Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; [don't stop. Keep reading.]

13 for it is GOD who works in you both to will and TO DO for His good pleasure."

Salvation is supernatural. It's the work of God. It's not my work. I am to cooperate with God. Let him do his work!

John 6:29

Jesus answered and said to them, "This is **the work of God**, that you **believe in Him whom He sent.**"

I am to open the door to Yeshua to come and direct my life. **I am to ask him for help many times a day – in constant prayer – to help me to OBEY and FOLLOW him.** I am to ask Yeshua to show me God's will and how he so perfectly submitted to God's will, so I also can be in the kingdom. (On the video, I give many examples of how I petition for Christ's help all day long.)

New Covenant Passover focuses on Yeshua/Jesus

At Passover, be sure your group is focusing on Jesus and his life and death. Just as the lambs were selected in Egypt 4 days before Passover, in

the same way, the Lamb of God was slain from the foundation of the world, 4 days/thousands of years before he actually was crucified.

So four days – **4,000 years** – before the Lamb of God actually was killed, he had already been selected, from the foundation of the world (1 Pet. 1:20).

I know Jews do the full Seder and focus coming out of Egypt. Now in the New Covenant, we might mention Egypt and freedom, but our FOCUS is now on Yeshua. Let's rehearse HIS Last Supper, what HE said and did (John 13-17, even chapter 18) on that dark night.

We personalize it: Paul called Yeshua "Christ OUR Passover" – **1 Cor. 5:7**

And we focus on Jesus:

Luke 22:17-19

17 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; 18 for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

19 And He **took bread**, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "**This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of ME.**"

So now in the New Covenant, believers focus our Passover services on Yeshua, and how he frees us from Satan's grasp and brings us out of darkness into his marvelous light. The story of Egypt and Pharaoh and the blood of the *lamb all pointed to Yeshua.*

For much of the rest of the time today and next time, I want to focus on the work Jesus is doing in each of our lives; some more effectively than others.

There ARE things we do. But I think today's message will have some new insights and surprises for you.

The TWO-FOLD SAVING PROCESS of Jesus Christ

1. Dying for us 2. Living in and for us.

- 2. The more well-known part of God's saving process: that Christ died for us to pay the penalty for us, for our sins, so we won't have to die. It requires the death of an innocent**

(Christ) to pay for the death of the guilty. Being very Son of God, his one life covers us all. Not only did his blood wash away our sins, but his blood also RECONCILED us to God. But technically, his blood is not what SAVES us. It pays the penalty, and RECONCILES us.

RECEIVING Jesus Christ, believing in him, following him – also grants us the right to be children of GOD.

John 1:10-13

“He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

- **Accepting the blood of the Lamb of God also removed God’s wrath on us because of our sins. Romans 5:9**
- **Believing in Christ also grants us eternal life.** Here’s one verse.

1 John 5:11-13

“And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.”

Remember again too, that the blood of Jesus also removes from us the curse of Adam’s sin. Let’s hit that again:

Romans 5:18-19

“Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to ALL MEN, resulting in CONDEMNATION, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life.

19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.”

So sin was accounted to us all because of one man Adam's sin. We were all born then with the sinful nature. In the same way, those who believe in Jesus and obey him will also be accounted righteous by one man, because of the free gift of God's righteousness mentioned in Rom 5:17.

We'll get to the second of the 2-fold salvation in a minute, but first this”

What then is OUR responsibility in being saved?

This next section in Colossians shows some of the great things about being saved – as well as some of our responsibilities, most of which I'll get into next time.

Colossians 1:9-11

“For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the **knowledge of His will** in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 ***that you may walk WORTHY of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God***; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

Remember the phrases of walking worthy, being fruitful in EVERY good work. Obviously good works are required; but good works will not save you for eternity (Rom 3:22-28) but WILL give you a high reward. The GIFT of God is eternal life. But what we'll do and be for eternity – our reward – is something based on our works. But salvation and eternal life are GIFTS of God.

Continuing – SO many of you worry if you'll ever “qualify” or “make it” into God's kingdom. Look at verses 12-13. Have FAITH in God and trust his promises you're about to read.

Colossians 1:12-14

12 “**giving thanks to the Father who has QUALIFIED US to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.**

13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”

DO you believe that? That God the Father has already qualified you for the Kingdom – because you are now in his Son? Some of you don't believe it! And believe God has already conveyed you into the kingdom? So much so that Paul even says in **Eph 2:6 that you are seated already next to Christ in the heavenlies. All this has everything to do with Yeshua/Jesus. But are we willing to accept these verses?**

Colossians 1:21-22

21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled **22** in the body of His flesh through death, **to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight** —

NOTICE the big condition: “IF”. Being saved IS conditional on us responding to our God and continuing in the faith by and in Christ, as you'll see in our part 2 what a vital role Jesus' life plays in us – and us in him. Be sure to study Part 2 of this teaching.

Col. 1:23

23 IF indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

It's what Christ has done in us ... not any righteousness WE have done. But we do have to continue in the faith, steadfast.

And yes, salvation is – technically – a PROCESS, but scripture says repeatedly also that we have already BEEN saved (Eph 2:8-9).

So if someone asks me if I'm saved, am I supposed to say “no” or “not yet” because I've not been changed to immortal spirit yet?

Paul and others confidently go ahead and say ‘Yes, we HAVE BEEN saved’, so therefore I won't, and can't, deny their inspired writings!

(Scriptures about HAVE BEEN saved: Eph 2:5, 8-9; Titus 3:4-5; Romans 8:24; 2 Tim 1:9).

The 2nd part of how Messiah Saves: SAVED by his LIFE

So Jesus death for us did a lot: forgave us our sins, washed them away, took away God's wrath, Reconciled us to God. That's all the first part of his sacrifice.

Now let's hear the 2nd part of how Christ saves us... it's not by his death. I suggest you read Rom 5:5-9 on your own time before this one:

Romans 5:10

“For if when we were enemies we were RECONCILED to God through the death of His Son, much MORE, having been reconciled, we shall be **SAVED BY HIS LIFE.**”

Most people think they're SAVED by the blood and DEATH of Jesus, but actually we're saved by his LIFE. This is a MUST-SEE understanding. But HOW does that work? This is at the core of our part in salvation: LETTING Yeshua be our life now, obeying and following him, and displaying his presence by the fruits of HIS righteousness (Phil 1:11; John 15:4-5), not our own efforts at righteousness (as that would be SELF -righteousness.)

2. SAVED by the LIFE of Jesus. What does that mean? And what does it have to do with OUR PART in the saving process?
LOTS.

So please understand the salvation of God for us is in 2 phases. First by his death we are forgiven, etc. But then what? God does not leave us without help. The second phase is that Jesus lives in us, for us, with us and we follow him as his sheep. Salvation is not just what happened at the cross, but what happens when he's resurrected and his resurrection life is active in us.

I also therefore ASK and invite Jesus to BE MY new life, to help me OBEY God. I want my life to now be Christ, not my old dead weak self. Then CHRIST starts and finishes the work of God in me, defined as believing in the One God sent (John 6:29; Phil. 1:6). This is why Paul said this:

Galatians 2:20-21

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. 21 I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.”

This is the part I will focus on the rest of my time today plus especially in the next sermon. IS Christ’s life YOUR new life? Let’s let Paul explain how Jesus saves him in his weakness.

HOW Jesus does our works in us

Paul, as we all know, in Romans 7 speaks of how *even with* having the Holy Spirit, he still sinned, still did things he did not want. Even having the Holy Spirit was not enough for him to live perfectly. He said it was the OLD him, the DEAD him, “Sin that dwells in me” that was doing the sinning after receiving God’s spirit. *Hard for us to see this, but he says it wasn’t even really him sinning (v. 17, 20); wasn’t really the NEW Creation Paul sinning, but the “old man”, the old self.* And it just drove Paul nuts!

I know you’ve read this many times. Read it again with fresh eyes. My next sermon may show new ways of looking at all this for some of you. Now here’s Paul, veteran apostle:

Romans 7:14-20 NKJV

“For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. 15 For what I am doing, I do not understand. *For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.*

16 If, then, I do what I will not to do [don’t want to do], I agree with the law that it is good.

17 *But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. 18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.*

19 For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.

20 Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

Paul in **2 Corinthians 5:17**, speaks of God making us a NEW CREATION in Christ. WE don't create the new Creation. We are not the creator. God does it - IN Christ. But though we are new creations, *we still have the old sinful nature in us PLUS now the new heart*, the new creation. So how does Paul explain how he's going to WIN this battle? Having God's Holy Spirit was not enough! HE, just like you and me, still SINNED from time to time, as you do, as I do.

Rom 7:21-25

21 I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. 22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me (or SAVE ME) from this body of death? 25 I thank God — through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.”

So in anguish he cries out, “WHO shall deliver me from the body of this death (the old self)?

So the blood of Jesus washes us of our PAST sins and yes, even as we sin (1 John 1:7 – he cleanses) – but we still keep on sinning. You and we all do. But it's the LIFE of Christ which delivers (SAVES) us from our OLD SELF – the body of this death (v. 24).

THIS IS MORE than just the Holy Spirit. It's the LIFE of Christ, GOD manifesting himself in US by Jesus himself doing works in us.

Yeshua also said that God wants us to be PERFECT, like our heavenly father (Matthew 5:48). I have a whole sermon on it. He also said our righteousness must exceed that of the Pharisees. But we keep failing, we keep sinning, though hopefully making SOME progress.

And now get this: If we were able to become perfect and righteous ourselves, then indeed we become our own Savior, and Christ died and lives in us IN VAIN as Gal 2:21 says. Plus it takes the credit and glory away from our Savior.

This is why I gave the sermons on God's perfection, as well as the sermons on God's very own righteousness *that he credits us with or imputes to us...* yes, you heard me right; GOD'S very own righteousness.

WHY do we need GOD's own righteousness? Because our own, will never attain to his perfect righteousness. Yeshua said, "apart from me you can do NOTHING" (John 15:5b) but we CAN DO ALL THINGS through Christ (Philippians 4:13) who strengthens me".

BUT too many times, too many of us still try to have our own righteousness. This is the KEY to what Paul was saying.

John 15:4-5

"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the Vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. [So Jesus is the one producing the good fruits]

5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides IN Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do NOTHING." [Compare John 5:19]

Pray about John 15:4-5 several times until something clicks in. He means spiritual things, when he says, "can do nothing".

John 15:1-5 is KEY to understanding the ongoing day by day victorious saving that Yeshua does in us – IF, and WHEN we abide in him. Make him our abode. Hang tight with him all the time. The son of God says WE cannot produce godly fruit ourselves. We cannot. Verse 4 – the branch CANNOT bear fruit – unless it's abiding, completely connected to Christ, the Vine.

Our good works and actions will LOOK like it's us doing it, but in reality our faith and knowledge of what's happening is: it's Christ himself doing it! No matter how hard you try, you will not be able to bear righteous fruit without Christ, according to Jesus! Read v. 4-5 again. WE cannot. This will be a KEY to understanding part 2 of this teaching.

Philippians 1:11

“...being filled with the fruits of righteousness *which are BY Jesus Christ*, to the glory and praise of God.”

Let that sink in. Any good things we do now are really Christ working in us.

WE will still fall short. And if we COULD attain to God's perfect level – we'd have something to BOAST about, and that is not God's plan, as Eph 2:8-9 clearly says.

Let's conclude here and there's so much that will be so new to many of you in Part 2 of this teaching. I'm so excited about part 2. Next time we'll cover much more of HOW Christ saves us by his LIFE, and delivers the requirements in us. That way we can't boast, either. IF it had to be OUR goodness, we'd either worry or we might boast. Let's give a summary of the key points now.

So we've covered a lot in this part 1, preparing for the vital Part 2.

- We've all sinned and earned death and need our Savior to save us.
- We're also stained with Adam's sin – which also is removed in us
- Christ's sacrifice is 2-fold (many are aware only of the first)
 - His blood pays our debt, atones for sin, reconciles us to God, redeems us – buys us back to God.
 - **Part 2: Christ's resurrection LIFE continues to help and save us moment by moment after we receive God's spirit.** He cleanses us – ongoing tense - when we sin. He defends us. More on this in part 2, by faith in HIS life. His salvation is ongoing by his resurrection life in us.

Messiah's life produces any goodness in us. His life makes us worthy and helps us overcome.

- Scripture uses all verb tenses on when we're saved. We have *already been saved, we're being saved, we shall be saved* if endure to the end. I accept and will use all three. God sees the

things which are not as if they already are. God promises He'll FINISH what he started in us. *Believe* that (Phil. 1:6).

- **In Christ, God *has already qualified us* and conveyed us into the Kingdom of his son (Col 1:12-14).** Yes, we can still lose this. But focus on the positive message and like Paul know you have a crown of righteousness waiting for you.
- **The process of salvation is like saving a DROWNING man.** He's saved as soon as he's lifted out of the water; being saved as they go back to shore, Shall be saved – when he hits land/shore. He cooperated with the lifeguard.
- **Plus I reminded us all that God /Christ as one, is our Savior.** There's no room for us to be part savior. And there's no other name under heaven by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12).
- **Our fruits of righteousness are BY Jesus Christ – Phil 1:11; John 15:4-5, NOT by our own efforts. “You can do nothing of yourselves.”** We are branches on the vine that DISPLAY the fruit of Christ in us, showing to whom we belong and who is actually our life.

Next time – much more is coming about HOW our Messiah is our new life and how God sees HIS perfection and perfect righteousness over us. HOW does that work? And what are WE required to do in terms of our salvation?

Closing prayer Thanking God for saving and finishing his work.