

## ***How we're saved by HIS Life – Part 2, saved. (Rom 5:10)***



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*All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.*

**KEY WORDS:** *salvation, have been saved, being saved, the VINE, branches on the vine, worthy, overcoming, image of Christ, I no longer live; living by faith in Jesus.*

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**Summary:** *Many know how we're forgiven by Christ's blood, but unaware how Messiah saves us by his LIFE (Romans 5:10). How do we let Jesus live in us? How does he become our life? Do we play a role in coming to perfection (Matt.5:48)? Will we, even with the Holy Spirit attain to that, or does God impute his own righteousness? Learn how Jesus produces HIS fruit in us. And what happens to believers the next time they sin? This is crucial understanding.*

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Today I want to continue and finish the sermon I started in part 1, on “Are you Saved, and what is our part, if any, in salvation?” Please be sure to listen to Part 1 as it sets the foundation. I've retitled this Part 2 though explaining “how we're saved by Jesus' life”. And are we encouraging that to happen in us?

(And for you who only look at notes, in this sermon in particular, there will be a LOT more said and explained in the video. I simply cannot do a true word-for-word transcript, but this will be approximately close. But it's also true that these notes will have some insights that aren't necessarily in the video. So use both – notes with the video).

In my last sermon, I talked about salvation, being saved from the penalty of sin – which is death (**Rom 6:23**) by the life of sinless and innocent Jesus shedding his blood, giving his life for us. Upon forgiving us, God loves to then offer us eternal life when we believe in his Son fully. His blood also opens up the New Covenant (**Luke 22:20**) and access to God the Father in heaven (**Hebrews 10:19-20; 4:16**).

The only name by which we must be saved is Jesus (Acts 4:12).

Hello, I'm Philip Shields, founder and host of this site. Thank you for coming. Be sure use the Search Bar too, as we have well over 365 sermons, including 65 video sermons and hundreds of blogs. I'd love to hear from more of you.

Those who believe in Jesus Christ as the son of God, repent, surrender to him and obey and submit to him as their Lord, and believe God resurrected him from the dead – will be saved (**Romans 10:9-10; Heb 5:9**)

We're saved from the penalty of our sins, which is our own death. Jesus died *for* me and you, the innocent for the guilty. He redeemed me and paid for the debt I could not pay, with his own innocent life. I am no longer my own, but belong to God. At that point, we are also promised eternal life (**John 3:16, 36; 1 John 5:11-13**). It goes from the choice of either we die for our sins, or let Christ do it and we get eternal life as well.

Most people think Jesus is the Savior of mankind, and that's correct but the complete answer is that GOD the Father is the first Savior, working through Jesus. Salvation was God's idea – **John 3:16. Jesus volunteered also (John 10:17-18)**. I covered this in detail last time in part 1 of this sermon series. And verse 17 I love too. "God did not send Him to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved". The people of the world are our future brothers, but just don't know it yet. We love them too.

The Savior is also therefore God the Father (**Titus 3:4**) and Jesus Christ working as one. And nobody else (**Acts 4:12**). Not you, not me. Just 100% God through Yeshua/Jesus.

Life is in the blood (Leviticus 17:11), so we're used to thinking that it is Jesus' death that saves us. But we'll see today that being saved is done through his life. It took innocent life to pay the penalty for you and me, since we incurred a debt we could not pay. But animal sacrifices could not really take away our sins but pointed to Christ (**Hebrews 10:4**).

His blood did many things besides washing away our sins: removed God's wrath (**Romans 5:9**), reconciled us back to God and brings us near to Him (**Eph 2:12**), gives us boldness to enter the heavenly Holy of holies (**Hebrews 10:19**); and more.

If you're not saved, you're still under the death penalty and wrath of God and won't have eternal life (Rom 5:9). So you want to know you have eternal life.

John 3:36

"He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

**So you really want to be saved from sin. Not saved just the *penalty* of sin, but *from a life of sinning itself*, as we'll discuss today. We've been**

called to overcome, to grow, to change, to be converted, and worthy of our calling –and we'll find out HOW today. It's part of the salvation, as you'll see.

**What happens after God's spirit-filled Children (you) sin?**

**Question for you believers who are being saved:** What happens to you now, if tomorrow you sin, let's say you tell a lie tomorrow? I repent practically every day. SO what happens to believers, children of God, who sin now? DO you go back under the death penalty? Do you lose your eternal life? Do you go back under the wrath of God and will you be separated from the love of God as you were before salvation? Do you go back to being condemned for your sin? Ponder that.

**We know if we go astray as God's sheep, Messiah will come looking for us (Luke 15:1-7 – the lost sheep)** and he celebrates our being restored to the flock. He cleanses us from all unrighteousness (**1 John 1:7-9**) when we confess and repent of our sins. Then **1 John 2:1-2** clearly tells us when we do sin our Savior comes to our defense! So God might discipline us for sins we incur now, but nothing can really separate us from the love of God (**Romans 8:35-38**) that is in Jesus Christ, except rank rebellion. God promises to never leave us nor forsake us (Heb.13:5). The Lord is our helper!

And even after Paul explained in Romans 7 that he still sinned sometimes, he says Christ continues to deliver him and he is not condemned (Romans 8:1).

*A large part of my focus today will be not just about our sins being forgiven, but how we live in Christ going forward; how we resist sin better and overcome more, and how Messiah helps us to sin less and less, so we grow in his image as we are his new creation (**2 Cor. 5:16-18**). The goal, Paul says, is **for “Christ to be formed in you” (Gal. 6:19)**. SO we fight the flesh and sinful temptations and we can have the victory through Messiah. GOD gives us the victory through Jesus our Master (**1 Cor. 15:57; 1 John 5:4**), by FAITH in him.*

*Our constant focus is faith in what Yeshua is doing and not so much in what we are doing. I recommend you read the scriptural references.*

**Forgiven of our own sins plus the condemnation  
of Adam's sin on us**

**SO first of all, our OWN sins were forgiven** and washed away - -and continue to be, as we confess sin and repent. **But there's more:**

**The curse of Adam's sin** now is also cancelled on those who are saved. Adam's guilt was also imputed to all mankind. And similarly – Yeshua's perfect righteousness and obedience are also imputed to us. (See my sermons on Receiving God's righteousness").

**Romans 5:18-19**

**“Therefore, as through one man's offense (Adam) 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.”**

**But WE still keep failing** and we often will while we are flesh and blood. You and I will NEVER attain to the perfection of Christ *in our flesh, in this life*. So what did God do? (All these points we have to come understand!) God credits or imputes to you and me with HIS very own righteousness; AND IT materializes in us in the life of Jesus in us, with us. It can't get any better than that! I've covered this in my sermons on Receiving God's righteousness. I doubt everyone accepts this, so please study **Romans 3:21-28** for review.

**Rom 5:17** speaks of the gift of GOD's own righteousness, also called the righteousness which is by faith. Believe it. It's part of having faith in Jesus and God to save us. Jesus said Father and he will come live in us if we keep his word (that takes Bible study) – **John 14:23**.

**Romans 4:23-25** -- just like God's righteousness was credited to Abraham, it will also be credited to us.

You have GOD's very own righteousness in you now. But many of you struggle believing that. It is righteousness by faith now. Read especially Romans 3:21 thru all the way to Romans 9. *Without understanding this, we'll constantly feel like failures because of the weakness of our human flesh*. “The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak”, said Christ.

**2 Corinthians 5:21**

“For He (God) made Him (Christ) who knew no sin to be sin for us, that WE might become the righteousness of GOD in Him (Christ)”.

So we receive Christ's life, our new heart created by God, and God's divine nature in our new spirit life (2 Peter 2:4) -- but we still have “the flesh” as well. But have faith in Messiah! You now have access to God's righteousness IN Christ. But it takes faith in Christ.

**Paul found his fleshly life very frustrating. We read much of Romans 7** before where he says he just kept failing and sinning, though he hated sin. Paul is described as being FILLED with the Holy Spirit (**Acts 9:17; 13:9**) -- yet he still sinned from time to time. That was because of the weakness of our flesh. Remember “The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak”, Jesus said. So he asks at the end of Romans 7, “who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ my Lord”.

Be very cognizant that **you still have the old nature, though now you have also been given God's DIVINE nature (2 Pet 1:4). We have 2 hearts:** the old deceitful, wicked heart of the old nature (Jer.17:9), and the new heart created by GOD and given to us with the Holy Spirit. **King David prayed for God to “create in me a clean heart,** o God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me” (Psalm 51:10). You can't attain that clean heart by your own efforts. It's something GOD creates. HE is creator of the new heart.

Our old fleshly nature and its heart – cannot please God or obey him (Romans 8:7). But you in your new spirit nature CAN please God, can love God, and does! And GOD, not you, is the CREATOR of the new you, your new heart.

Bonus: Let me ask you? Are you in the flesh? You really don't want to be (Rom 8:5-8). They cannot please God. But we can because verse 9: “But **you are not in the flesh but in the spirit**, if the spirit of God dwells in you....”

**Bonus: God not only forgives us our sins, but gives us Jesus' perfect life. Read Romans 8:3-4 too.** God condemned sin in the flesh by sending Jesus, who also – get this – believe this, as it says in verse 4 – fulfilled the righteous requirement of the law in us, who no longer walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit! So when we get Jesus, we also get his perfect LIFE as part of our salvation. This is so crucial to understand and include. NO wonder Jesus sees his bride has not having any spot or wrinkle, for we are all now IN HIM, and he was perfect. So the way God spiritually sees us, is to see Christ and his perfection. I know that's hard to believe because we still think too physically, when in fact we are spiritual beings (I didn't say “spirit”) in a fleshly tent or house, our body.

## **2-fold Roles Jesus performs as our Savior**

When God saves us, he doesn't “leave us dangling” and just leave us to fail. He DOES NOT say “I've done my part, now it's up to you”. The “now what do we do” question comes up. **This next passage reveals the 2-fold nature of**

**Christ's salvation to us.** Context is how Abraham was credited with God's righteousness. Notice how God uses Christ's death and resurrection life.

**Romans 4:23-25 NIV**

"The words "it was credited to him" (Abraham) were written not for him alone, 24 **but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness** — for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.

**25 He was delivered over to death for our sins AND was raised to life for our justification.**" (or "to make us right with God" – NLT)

**This gets into the 2- fold part of salvation through Christ.** You may or may not have in the past, categorized it that way:

**STAGE 1: ALL our Sins are forgiven by his death, regardless of how bad or repulsive they were. That's the part everyone knows.**

But now what? We're going to keep sinning even with the Holy Spirit, as you know -- because we still have the fleshly nature living inside us along with the new divine spirit nature. One of those natures is constantly dominant – back and forth. Living by the flesh – or walking in and living by the Spirit. Once our sins are forgiven, as Paul explains – the problem is that we all still continue to fall short and to sin periodically. So Christ's resurrection life is critical to understanding being saved by his life.

**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**"

**Saved by HIS life. We're not saved by OUR new life and by our works, but by HIS life. THIS is what needs to be understood.**

**Now the exciting TRANSITION to the next phase of how Yeshua totally and continues to save us day by day as we fight the world, Satan and our human nature. HE saves us by HIS LIFE. From our death, yes, but now he saves us also by His resurrection life living anew in US.**

**So stage 1:** saved from the penalty of sin, our death, taken by Jesus.

**Stage 2:** He knows we need help moment by moment to defeat the carnal nature, the old self in us, to be totally converted to GOD'S WAY, God's life, because we still have the carnal evil nature.

**HOW The resurrected Yeshua/Jesus BECOMES our NEW LIFE**

Bear with me as I'm going to show HOW this happens. YES, we have a part to play in our salvation: it is to ABIDE in Jesus/Yeshua, to be a part of HIM and let him do His work.

I'll be totally frank with you: Though I've preached this for some time, I don't think I really grasped it's POWER, it's BEAUTY, it's GRACE, and how DEEP this gets when you really ponder it! And I wonder how many others are missing this beautiful, majestic work of our Messiah in us and for us.

**Hebrews 7:24-25**

"But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. 25 Therefore HE is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, **since He always lives to make intercession for them.**"

We keep Jesus busy! This is why Paul spoke of wanting to experience *Christ's* resurrection, HIS resurrection, not just "The" resurrection. What did he mean by that? Paul meant he realizes he needs the POWER OF Christ living in him, now being his own new life; his new spiritual divine nature.

**Philippians 3:8-11**

"Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, **that I may gain Christ**

**9 and be found in Him, NOT having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, *the righteousness which is FROM GOD by faith;***

**10 that I may know Him and the POWER of HIS resurrection,** and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead."

WHY would Paul want to experience the power of HIS – Messiah's-- resurrection? It will get very clear as we go along. Notice how often we're told we must have faith in Christ. I hope it becomes clearer WHY that is the case.

So his DEATH covered the penalty of sins, **but his resurrection LIFE becomes OUR daily LIFE. That's what God sees.** Our new self is actually GOD's CREATION in us. We have to activate it. Let the new self

dominate because it actually is Christ in us. **The nature we feed and give time to, will be the dominant nature in us.** Cut out time wasters. Fight to cut out activities that lure you into temptation, sin and wasted time. But more than that, it is what helps us defeat sin's temptations and to be overcomers through Christ, to be WORTHY of our calling – it's all through Christ, and to be conquerors, through Christ. Scriptures are coming!

**Colossians 3:2-4**

"Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

**3 For YOU DIED, and *your life is hidden with Christ in God.***

**4** When ***Christ who is our life*** appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory."

Did the old you really die? It must. Study Colossians 3:5-19. ALSO READ Romans 6:1-7 carefully. Our old self, our pre-conversion self, our "old man fleshly nature", should be dead. Inactive. But it has a way of rising up if we feed it or are not fighting temptation and sin.

**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."

Our own fleshly, carnal self must die. We must not feed it. We simply cannot live God's way by ourselves, even with the Holy Spirit. Paul said he needed the life of Christ himself working inside him.

Imagine how we would change, and what God could be doing through us, if our fleshly nature DIES and if every thought, every act, was actually Christ being active in us! And if God's holy Spirit in us – AND Yeshua in us – thrives! The SPIRIT will thrive if we feed on God's word, **have "Constant contact" with him in dozens of quick prayers plus the main ones** when we first get up and go to bed as we worship with our head bowed down low! (Much more explanation in the video). We must put God first. Put the dumb smart phone down.

**So what are you doing to STARVE YOUR fleshly nature?** Whichever nature you feed will become dominant in your life. What's using up your time?

**So I cancelled NETFLIX** which we had for maybe 3 weeks. Plus Instagram and Twitter though I never really used them anyway. And less and less Facebook. We must not feed our flesh or waste time in unfruitful areas.

Assignment: Where can you be starving your fleshly carnal nature? What do you watch, to relax? How do you spend your time? Don't be Laodicean.

### **HOW Jesus DID The PERFECT WORKS IN HIS LIFE**

Yeshua himself was our MODEL. As a HUMAN being, this is what he said about his own powers, miracles, teachings and works. We think of the resurrections from the dead, the feeding and healing of the thousands, walking on water, calming the storm, his wonderful sermons ...**and we think "what POWER Jesus had!" But was all that being done in his power?**

**Yeshua/Jesus said he actually could do NOTHING by himself. NOTHING spiritually. We are to follow Christ.** He's our pattern for us.

#### **John 5:19**

"Then Jesus answered and said to them, '**Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do;** for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.'

#### **John 5:30**

"**I can of Myself do NOTHING.** As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because **I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.**"

Even Jesus relied on Father's LIFE being lived in HIM. This is our model.

#### **John 8:28-29**

Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, **and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.**

**29 And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him."** (more on video)

#### **John 14:8-11**

Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can

you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me?

**"The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the FATHER who dwells in Me DOES The WORKS."**

**11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves."**

*Did You GET THAT? He's basically saying he wasn't the one resurrecting people, healing the sick, walking on water, etc. It all looked like Jesus doing it, but he says it was FATHER doing those THROUGH Jesus. **In the same way, let Jesus live and perform His obedient works through you.***

*Our own works will not justify us (Romans 3:28). But the works "we" do – if they're really being done by Jesus – would be marvelous!*

*Yes, there ARE things we've been called to do. But if you're getting the point of how Jesus did his mighty works actually by FATHER's involvement, then we must do the same and let Christ live in us and get out of his way. You may be able to see so many more mighty works being done by Christ in YOU, if you would believe and seek that level of involvement. Our will must die and now we seek Abba's will.*

*We now live, grow, overcome and change by – Jesus LIVING IN US and doing the works in us, by God's favor and grace.*

*When you really see this, you will grow in appreciation for the fact that we are saved by grace, we GROW and OVERCOME by grace, we will be converted by grace, and we will become a new person by GRACE, through faith in our Savior. It's ALL God's doing as we live moment by moment by faith in GOD and in Jesus our Savior, who continues to save us by his life.*

Jesus does not just save us from our sins, but saves us from Satan and the world and even from our own fleshly nature -- minute by minute, day by day, year by year. Jesus is the one producing righteous fruit in us. When we are working hard to stay tuned in to Christ perfectly, HIS FRUIT will be produced "naturally" on to us, like fruits on a tree, that branches display in season.

**John 15:1-2**

**"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.**

**John 15:4-6**

“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.***

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.”***

**It's just like Yeshua said about how he could do nothing apart from his Father.** On the other hand, we read in **Phil 4:13**, that we CAN do ALL things through Christ who strengthens us. HE's the key. We want to remain in him and let him shine. *We branches on the vine DISPLAY the life of Christ and his fruit in us.*

*6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.”*

**ABIDE MEANS to REMAIN, abide, dwell, live.** We must remain in him. If we don't, verse 6, shows those branches don't produce fruit and are just cast to the ground and burned. Yes there IS the LAKE OF FIRE for those who don't remain in Christ and who want to reject him, like Hebrews 6:4-5 says.

But the lake of fire becomes a conscious decision on our part. God has promised to finish what he started. He's given us his Holy Spirit as our guarantee. It's only when we reject God's Holy Spirit of God's very presence, and despise being enlightened and REJECT our Savior that we would be going to the lake of fire. If you're concerned about it, it's not going to be you.

**Hebrews 6:4-6**

“For it is impossible for those who were once **enlightened**, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and **have become partakers of the Holy Spirit**, 5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.”

**Matthew 25:1-13** --There are those whose oil of the Holy Spirit runs out – 10 virgins, 5 had oil running out. They didn't stir up the Holy Spirit as Paul tells Timothy. Don't let that happen. And it won't happen if you abide in Christ! Value the Holy Spirit! If we do, we'll find God speaking to us, guiding us, by His Spirit. (I have a sermon on 25 Things the Holy Spirit does).

**ABIDING, remaining, takes a lot of EFFORT on our part.** Based on what Yeshua has just said, it's a life and death matter! There are times we don't feel like praying – but because we know how important it is, we PRAY for sure! When Jesus is what we're attached to, and HIS life becomes ours as Col 3:3 says, remember what Jesus had said about what He has accomplished and therefore wants to accomplish in us too, as HE is now our life:

- **“Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world” John 16:33**
  - WE can overcome the world also through FAITH in him

**1 John 5:4-5**

“Because everyone who is begotten of God overcomes the world, and this is the victory that overcame the world – our faith. **5 Who is he who is overcoming the world, if not he who is believing that Jesus is the Son of God?**”

- **“The ruler of this world (Satan) is coming, and he has NOTHING in ME”. John 14:30** Wow. Yes, I want Yeshua's life to be mine; the life of my Savior so I have less and less of the Adversary. “Yeshua must increase. I must decrease”, as John the baptizer said.

**HOW will WE ever become WORTHY?**

We know we must be counted **WORTHY** to attain the resurrection (Luke 20:35). So many verses about how we must be worthy of so many things: of the gospel, worthy of the Lord, worthy of God, worthy of the kingdom. ( By the way, get a free app – **Bible Hub** – to help you use your Bible effectively.)

**Read Revelation 4 and especially Rev 5: “NOBODY in heaven or on earth” was worthy** enough to open the scroll. John wept (Rev. 5:1-3). Then the Lion of the tribe of Judah, Yeshua - - the Lamb of God – walked in to the throne room and all heaven sang: Worthy is the LAMB!!!

**Revelation 5:11-12**

“Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice:

**“WORTHY is the LAMB who was slain**

To receive power and riches and wisdom,  
And strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

And then every living thing in heaven and on earth praised the Lamb of God.

So if Yeshua, the Lamb of God is active and living in me and I in him, I will also be worthy because it's HIM doing worthy things in me. He's already worthy and will help us grow into worthiness as well. "Worthy is the LAMB". I'm saying over and over: focus on our Savior. Focus on the Lamb of God.

So in the many dozens of my short bursts of prayer I now do throughout each day, many of them are pleas: "Yeshua, please come LIVE in me. Let your mind be in me, transform me. I need you. I want you in me. Don't be outside of my life. Convict me of sin and lead me to your righteousness." And many of them are short bursts of joyful praises, gratitude for so many things, or prayer requests for others. But my point is: "constant contact". Pray without ceasing.

**And so the key, the big assignment in our new life,** our biggest effort and work in our part of our salvation is this: ***ABIDE IN Christ*** and HE will produce the FRUIT and good works in us. (**John 15:4-5; Phil. 1:11**). He promised that. The works Jesus will now do in you and me will look like it's me doing it all, but it's not. It's Christ doing it just like when Jesus said he could do nothing and that the works he was doing were all works done by his FATHER, who lived in him. Did you get that? We can be the same: but this time it's Jesus living in us doing his works through us.

Remember, your works won't justify you (**Romans 3:28**). But you can get nothing better than Christ doing great works, righteous works, through you.

So don't feel that I'm preaching we have nothing to do. We do. It's to abide in Him. It's to pray especially when we don't feel like it.

Invite him into your life to BE your new life. We don't want our old self to continue to live, "I no longer live" – as Paul says in Galatians 2:20. I'll say more about the "HOW" we do this later in this message.

***Are we beginning to clearly see why scripture says over and over to have faith in Jesus? I can't have faith in MY own best efforts. We fall short. Worthy is the LAMB. I can become worthy of God, the kingdom, our calling – only if the LAMB of God is now my life.***

HE is the one doing the works in us. Our fruits of righteousness are by Jesus (**Phil. 1:11**). Our own works cannot save us (Romans 3:22, 28). But works "we" do by Jesus is one big way we are "**saved by His LIFE**" (**Romans 5:10**).

Our faith in Jesus must be strong. He then goes to work in us and **we PROVE what we really believe, our FAITH, by action, by our works** – as **James 2:20-23** says about Abraham and Rahab. Their faith worked together with their works. **Faith is proven by action.** But really it shouldn't be my own action, though it will look like it is. It's Christ's action working in us.

**Your and my salvation is not a DIY (“Do it yourself”) endeavor.**

OUR part in salvation is to ABIDE, cling to, stay attached to, live with and in, REMAIN in, SEEK constantly and LISTEN – our SAVIOR Jesus Christ. Our lives are hidden in Christ in God. *Jesus will talk to us if we tune in and listen.* So our job is to have faith in Yeshua and our actions will show it.

In fact the whole chapters of Hebrews 3 and 4 tell us that Israel coming out of Egypt all died in the wilderness because they lacked faith, and without faith, they couldn't obey. Obedience and faith go hand in glove. Heb 3:18-19

**Hebrews 3:18-19**

And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but **to those who did not obey?** 19 So we see that they could not enter in because of **unbelief.**

The KEY is to stay attached to our Savior. That can be hard work and constant.

**So again: who produces the fruit? Jesus said the Vine does, and he's the Vine.** We, the branches, can only display the fruit, the grapes, the Vine produces. Again, HE said “You cannot bear fruit unless we're attached.” We do not produce fruit of righteousness. Christ does. **Philippians 1:11** clearly say “Being filled with fruits of righteousness BY Jesus Christ”. DISPLAY Jesus.

There are a lot of assignments we have as children of the Highest. Read the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) for starters. Remember without Christ, we can do nothing (**John 15:4-5**). With Christ, we can do all things (Phil. 4:13). It will **look like we are doing these things, but it's Jesus doing** it in us. Just as the one who really multiplied the loaves and fish – was the Father, but doing it through Christ (John 14:10). I know I've said this several times, but I need to be sure I'm getting it across. It's the same for us.

In the same way, it may look like us living a certain way, but it is really by Jesus. For example, we should daily put on the whole armor of God. But notice some wording:

**Ephesians 6:10-12**

“Finally, my brethren, **be strong in the LORD and in the power of HIS might.** 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

Then various parts sure sound like Jesus **ARMOR OF GOD is really Putting On Christ:**

Gird your waist with TRUTH. Yeshua is TRUTH.

Helmet of Salvation. Helmet of Yeshua.

Breastplate of righteousness. HE is our righteousness.

The Sword of the spirit is the Word of God. Jesus is the Word

Verse 10 – “Be strong in the LORD and power of HIS might.”

It's not about us. It's not about what WE are doing. Salvation by grace and favor is all about God and what HE is doing. Even the Unleavened Bread we eat during and after Passover is Christ. “This is MY body”, he said. It's not about us becoming unleavened. It's about us taking Christ into our body and living in us and for us. “I no longer live”, remember. The Unleavened Bread is about the son of God who's never had any sin, any leaven in his life, and never will. True unleavened bread has never been leavened and never will. But we will sin even during the Days of Unleavened Bread.

Isn't God – and Christ – the alpha and omega, the A and Z, the Aleph Tav? He's the start and the end. God is the first word, and last word, and everything in between, in our lives.

Now notice whose job it is to finish this **process of salvation**. I say “process” because we do have to abide to the end, endure to the end and be faithful to the end (Rev. 17:14), the called, chosen and faithful. Paul says he's very confident about this. He's CONFIDENT God's work in us will be completed by God. But too many worry if *they'll* ever “make it”. Again, the wrong focus.

**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;”**

**Completing what God started – is God's job.** *It clearly says in Phil 1:6 that GOD will complete it, not you, when Jesus returns. Not me. At this point it's not up to us now to finish. GOD will complete it.*

*But neither will I deny the verses that say we are already saved, have been saved, not of yourselves, not by any works (Eph. 2:8-9). So if someone asks me if I'm saved, my reply is “Yes, absolutely. I'm confident of it. And like Paul said, ‘I know there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness...” (2 Tim. 4:8).*

*Certainly we still sin. But hopefully we're moving closer to God's way of life and our sins aren't as frequent, numerous or as serious as they were twenty or thirty years ago. (there's more in the video)*

**God started this. God promises to complete it. It's his job. My job is to cooperate and let him do his work. "For it is GOD who works in you, both to will and to do..." (Phil 2:13).** He is still working on completing it according to Phil 1:6. Someone wrote me "God's done his job and now it's up to us to complete it", or something like that. No, no, no. HE will do all it takes to get us to the finish line. Some – maybe the **Laodicean** type believers, may have to go through the Great Tribulation to wake them up. They have to buy "gold refined in the fire" (**Rev 3:14-21**).

*So our job is to abide in Christ and let HIM, the VINE, produce the fruits of righteousness that get sent to the branches (that's us) to DISPLAY the fruit of Jesus' presence as John 15:4-5 says. FRUIT of God's life and good works PROVE we're being saved. Good works do not save us, but verify the process is working in us. But notice good fruit is not by us, but by Jesus Christ, and He and God get the glory and praise for it.*

**Philippians 1:11**

**"being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are BY JESUS CHRIST, to the glory and praise of God."**

**Ephesians 2:8-10**

**"For BY GRACE you HAVE BEEN SAVED through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the GIFT of God, 9 NOT of works, lest anyone should boast."**

One Bible notes says "have been saved" is in **the perfect tense denoting completed action** as well as continuing action going forward. That's exactly what I've been saying. Then in verse 10, though we're not saved by good works, we are called to be doing good works. And remember we're rewarded by our works (Romans 2:6). We're encouraged to go for a full reward (2 John 8).

**Ephesians 2:10**

**10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus *FOR good works*, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."**

**CRUCIAL v. 10 -- Even though what WE do, our works, cannot save us (NOT of works"), we still are created to DO good works because now – verse 10 – we are a new creation in Christ, we're living out Jesus**

himself, and he was all about doing good works. But not for salvation. But just because. That's what Yeshua does. But we are rewarded by our works. And God is watching.

**Remember Matthew 25** the parable of the sheep and goats. Jesus said when we do good for someone needing food, clothing, encouragement, it's like we're doing it to Yeshua/Jesus himself. Even if the people we're helping seem rather insignificant. They are not. Those who did not help or do good works were thrown out.

Thank you few who do stand with us financially and help us help those who so badly need it – plus the costs involved with creating these sermons and studies. We appreciate it so much.

Jesus will do in you and me what he did before – good works. **Acts 10:38** – “Jesus went about doing GOOD, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil”. And we obey God's commandments now because we want to. Not to save us, but to show we're being saved. We're displaying Christ.

**1 John 2:3-6**

**“Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.**

**4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5** But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.

**6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.”**

***V. 5 – we keep his word. We not only know the Bible, but also seek to know it's Author, that we may have eternal life. (John 5:39-40).***

***v. 6 – one of the definitions of “abide” it says here, is to walk as he walked: obediently, seeking Father's will, helping and healing and displaying the Father in him by his life. And WE have to obey Jesus.***

**Hebrews 5:9**

**“And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who OBEY Him,”**

**Can you lose your reward but still be SAVED?**

So yes, our job is to keep our eyes on our Savior and build upon his foundation. Can our work all be destroyed by fire – but we ourselves saved? It's not the goal you want, but just to show that works and building on the foundation of Christ, is important, but we can still end up saved. This is an amazing passage in 1 Corinthians 3.

**1 Corinthians 3:9-11**

“For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. 10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. 11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 Now if anyone builds on this **foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,** 13 **each** one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

Remember, our works can only give us a reward. Salvation is God's gift when we repent, seek him diligently and turn from wicked way. Being saved is God's GIFT. But how we do works, building on the foundation of Christ – either **with Christ as we build with gold silver and precious stones** – or we can do works without Christ, as we build with hay, wood and stubble.

**Continuing 1 Cor. 3:14-15 now**

14 **If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a REWARD.**

15 **If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be SAVED, yet so as through fire.**

There's no real reward for those wood/hay/stubble folks – but they will be saved. We're saved by grace apart from our own works. We're rewarded by our works. But if our work is low value/combustible material like hay, wood and stubble, there will be no reward but you will be saved as v 14- 15 says.

Let's conclude with 2 Cor. 3:17-18 showing where our entire focus must be.

**2 Corinthians 3:17-18 New Century Version**

“The Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 Our faces, then, are not covered. **We all show the Lord's glory, and we are being changed to be like him.** This change in us brings ever greater glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

(There's more on the video). We show the Lord's glory, not ours. If all these works I'm doing are my works, then I have something to boast about. No, we display the fruit of the Vine, not our own fruit, as the branches themselves cannot produce fruit; they just show what the Vine has produced (John 15:4-5). We have fruits of righteousness which are by Christ (Phil 1:11) – not by us.

And remember Father has gifted you and me with HIS very own righteousness as well. So many have a tough time believing that because we see our own failings. But that's the "old self", not the new creation in Christ.

How do we get there? "My life is hidden in Christ in God" (Col 3:3) and we don't heed the old self. It's not the real spiritual you and me now.

The old you is dead. Realize it has a way to keep showing up, but look to Christ. We're being transformed into Christ's image; to be like him. This change, according to 2 Cor. 3:18b – "comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit". Let me say it again: it comes from the Lord, who is the embodiment of the Holy Spirit in us. It's more than just the Holy Spirit. It is Yeshua himself in us.

Be sure to hear my upcoming sermon sometime in the next few months about what it means to be IN HIM, in Christ, in Jesus. We know that Jesus is in US by God's spirit, but we must realize the power of being IN HIM.

So we invite Christ into our life, into our hearts and into our thinking. He is after all "Christ in you, the HOPE of glory". This is a process "UNTIL Christ is formed in you" (Gal.4:19). When people ask me "what is Christ like?" – I should be able to say "Go spend time with (your name). Christ has been formed in her and you will be so blessed by time you spend with her."

Then be SURE you and I are praying - a lot. This means you'll have to cut out time wasters. Maybe turn your dumb "smart phone" off for a few hours and use the time in God's word and in prayer. Then do what I've taught today: **having "constant contact" throughout the day** in short prayers of praise and gratitude, of pleas for help to resist temptation, or use it as your spiritual 911. Use these times to pray for others. STAY IN TOUCH with God.

**In short: ABIDE IN HIM** and you will bear much fruit, HIS fruit. Even when you just don't feel like praying. That's when you really need to make contact.

Shout out the joy that you have been saved. Yes, even when you still see your faults and stumblings. Believe you will be there at the end. Believe you will be faithful to the end. Believe Jesus is your new life. Yes you will be worthy in Christ. Yes you will overcome, in Christ. You will be in the Kingdom of God all to God's glory by your faith in your Messiah Yeshua, Jesus the son of God.

Closing prayer.