

IMPORTANT TRUTHS FROM GOD'S WORD

1. JUSTIFICATION (RIGHTEOUSNESS)

A. The Need of Justification

1. *Justification* means *to be declared righteous [not guilty]*.
2. The Bible says *none are righteous* and all are *guilty before God*—Rom. 3:10,19

B. The Fact of Justification

1. God's *promise to justify* the believing sinner—Acts 13:38,39; Rom. 3:24; 5:1,9.
2. God's *pronouncement of righteousness* to the believer—Rom. 3:24; 5:1,9.

C. Six Aspects of Justification

1. Justified by *GOD* (the *AUTHOR*)—Rom. 3:26; 8:33
2. Justified by *GRACE* (the *SOURCE*)—Rom. 3:24; Tit. 3:7
3. Justified by *BLOOD* (the *GROUND*)—Rom. 5:9
4. Justified by *FAITH* (the *CHANNEL*)—Rom. 5:1
5. Justified by *CHRIST RISEN* (the *PROOF*)—Rom. 4:25
6. Justified by *WORKS* (the *FRUIT*)—Jam. 2:24
 - a. James does not speak of *justification before God*, which is by faith alone (Rom. 4:2-5), but of *justification before men*. Men cannot see our faith, but by our works (the *fruit of faith*) we prove our faith and known to be righteous by men. (They will then declare us to be righteous.)

2. SANCTIFICATION (HOLINESS)

A. Sanctification means *to be "set apart."* The words *holy*, *holiness* and *saint* have the same meaning.

B. Three ways in which we are *sanctified*.

1. By the *Holy Spirit*—2 Thess. 2:13; 1 Pet. 1:2. The Holy Spirit *sets us apart* before the new birth by convicting us of sin and bringing us to repent and believe the gospel.
2. By the *Blood of Christ*—Heb. 13:12 with Heb. 9:13;14; 10:10,14. We are *set apart* to God by virtue of Christ's atoning work at Calvary the moment we believe. This is *positional sanctification*.
3. By the *Word of God*—John 17:17; Eph. 5:25,26. We are *set apart* to God day by day through the power of God's Word. This is *practical sanctification*.

3. ATONEMENT (PROPITIATION)

A. The Need of Atonement

1. *Atonement* means *the satisfaction or expiation made for wrong*.
2. *Man* is a sinner and *has wronged God*—Rom. 3:23; Isa. 53:6a.
3. God is holy and must judge sin—Lev. 11:44 with Gen. 2:16,17; Rom. 6:23; Heb. 9:27.

B. The Fact of Atonement

1. A *blood sacrifice* alone will satisfy God—Lev. 17:11; Heb. 9:22.
2. The sacrifice of Christ is foretold—Isa. 53:5-12; John 1:29.
3. The sacrifice of Christ is accomplished—Rom. 4:25; 5:8; 1 Cor. 15:3; 1 Pet. 3:18; 1 John 2:2; 4:10.

C. The Scope of the Atonement

1. The whole world—John 3:16a; 2 Cor. 5:14; 1 Tim. 2:5,6; 1 John 2:2.

4. RECONCILIATION

A. The Need of Reconciliation

1. *Reconciliation* means *a thorough change of heart*.
2. Man, by nature, is an *enemy of God* (Rom. 8:7; 5:10; Col. 1:21) and needs to be *reconciled*.

B. The Fact of Reconciliation

1. Reconciliation is effected through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ—Col. 1:20; Rom. 5:10.
 - a. On the cross Christ removed the sin which caused the enmity, thus making peace with God.
2. The believer is reconciled and thus rejoices in God—Rom. 5:11.

3. The *ministry of reconciliation* is committed to the believer—2 Cor. 5:18-21.

5. FORGIVENESS

A. *Forgiveness* means a *release* or *sending away*.

1. When a sinner is forgiven by God, his sins and the judgment due upon those sins, are sent away forever—Psalm 103:12; Heb. 10:17.

B. Forgiveness is through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ—Acts 10:43; 13:38,39.

C. Two kinds of forgiveness: *Judicial* and *Parental*

1. Judicial forgiveness—1 John 2:12; Eph. 1:7

- a. A sinner who believes in Christ as Savior is *forgiven by God the Judge*. This means a full and complete pardon from God and thus it is eternal.

2. Parental forgiveness—1 John 1:9

- a. A believer who confesses his sins is *forgiven by God the Father*. This results in restored fellowship with the Father which lasts as long as we don't sin.

6. SALVATION: ITS THREE ASPECTS

A. *Salvation from the penalty of sin* (Past Aspect)

1. The *promise of instant salvation*—John 10:9; Rom. 10:9; Acts 16:31.
2. The *assurance* that one has been saved—1 Cor. 1:18; Eph. 2:8
 - a. The saved one will *never perish or come into judgment*—John 3:16; 5:24; 10:27-29.

B. *Salvation from the power of sin* (Present Aspect)

1. The *promise of ongoing salvation*—Rom. 5:10; Heb. 7:25.
 - a. Though the believer possesses a new nature (2 Pet. 1:4), he still retains the sinful nature and thus needs deliverance from it—see Rom. 7:14-24 then Rom. 8:2.

C. *Salvation from the presence of sin* (Future Aspect)

1. The *promise of future salvation*—Heb. 9:28; 1 Thess. 5:8.
2. Our *bodies will be saved*—Rom. 8:23-25; Phil. 3:20,21.
3. We will also be *saved from the time of wrath*—Rom. 5:9; 1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9; Rev. 3:10.

D. Conclusion

1. Christ's *death has saved us from hell*.
2. Christ's *life is saving us from sinning*.
3. Christ's *coming will save us from sin's presence and from the Great Tribulation*.

7. THE NEW BIRTH

A. The Need of the New Birth

1. All men are born "*dead in trespasses and sins*"—Eph. 2:1. Sin has *separated* (*death* means *separation*) us from God; we are *spiritually dead*.
 - a. We inherited this condition from our human parents at birth—Gen. 5:3; Ps. 51:5; John 3:6a.
2. The need for the new birth declared by Christ—John 3:3,7.

B. The Fact of the New Birth

1. There are *two agents* that bring about the new birth: the *water* and the *Spirit*—John 3:5.
 - a. The *water* is a symbol for the Word of God—John 15:3; Eph. 5:26 (see also Ps. 119:9).
 1. The Apostle Peter makes it plain that we are born-again by the Word of God—1 Pet. 1:23.
 2. The Apostle James also declares we are born of God by the Word—Jam. 1:18.
 - b. The *Spirit* is the Holy Spirit—John 3:6b,8.
 - c. The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to convict the sinner of sin (John 16:7,8 with Heb. 4:12) and then leads us to believe the truth of the gospel (2 Thess. 2:13) which results in a new life being imparted (John 1:12; 3:16; 5:24; 1 John 5:13).
2. The new life imparted to us is the very *nature of God*, known in Scripture as (1) the *divine nature* (2 Pet. 1:4); (2) the *inward man* (Rom. 7:22; 2 Cor. 4:16); and (3) God's *seed* (1 John 3:9).