

Shadows Of Christ & His Bride

Lesson #26

Recap: What We Know

July 17, 2024

3 Tenses of Salvation:

1. Justification	I have been saved.	Spirit is born again	Free from penalty of sin
2. Sanctification	I am being saved.	Soul is being saved	Free from power of sin
3. Glorification	I will be saved.	Body will be saved	Free from presence of sin

Truths: 1. Justification is a free gift. There is NO works involved.

2. ALL born again believers are in Jesus Christ and His Life is in every believer.

3. ALL born again believers are sealed with the Holy Spirit who indwells the believer. Acts 1:8
Rom. 8:28-29 And we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose, because those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His son, that His son would be the firstborn among many brethren

Rom. 8:30 Moreover whom He did predestinate, them He also called: and whom He called, them He also justified: and whom He justified, them He also glorified.

4. Sanctification is not automatic.

It is a life-long process that entails a fight and a battle to be obedient, faithful, yielded and allow the Holy Spirit and the Word of God to work in us and through us.

5. Every born-again believer is an overcomer positionally in Jesus Christ.

All believers are overcomers in the sense they have become children of God, have been translated out of darkness into the glorious light of Christ, have been taken out of Adam and placed into Christ. In this glorious position, they have become identified with Him as to His person and work and enjoy many other marvelous blessings in Christ.

➤ However, not all born again believers overcome. Fail to live for the Lord.

6. The Holy Spirit is the POWER that will produce the fruit of the spirit and the new life of Jesus Christ in a believer. As we abide in Him, He causes us to triumph and overcome.

6. Every believer needs to keep his "vessel" clean by confessing his sins. I John 1:9

7. Every believer is to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit > Eph. 5:18.

8. The believer's position as an overcomer will become a reality in his life.

In view of God's established pattern in Genesis regarding man and his bride together ruling and having dominion, Jesus Christ, at the time He rules the earth, must have a bride [wife] to rule with Him. The Son though does NOT presently possess a wife. He has a BETROTHED bride.

1. Man was created in the image and likeness of God.

2. God's Purpose: Adam/Bride rule and reign and have dominion—royal position/mandate.

3. Principle: Man wasn't complete; needed help-meet.

4. Principle: Man could not rule alone. He must rule as a complete being.

5. The Bride was formed or fashioned out of the body of Adam.

6. To create Adam's bride, God put him in a deep sleep. Out of the picture; unconscious
7. God made a wound in Adam's side and removed a rib out of his body to make his bride.
8. Eve was formed from a very small part of Adam's body - a rib.
9. God used existing tissue from Adam to show Adam & his bride were made from the same substance. Therefore, she was also a bearer of God's image and likeness.
10. Eve, the bride, was made from Adam's flesh and bone.
11. Eve, the bride, was hidden until she was taken out of the body and revealed to Adam.
12. Eve existed as an individual, apart from the rest of Adam's body.
13. The Bride was part of Adam's body but the bride was taken out of Adam's body.
14. God presented the woman, bride, back to Adam.
15. God's purpose for Eve, bride of Adam 1, was to be a joint-heir with him.
16. Adam & his bride lost their original purpose > to rule, reign & have dominion.

1. Adam 1 is a type of Jesus Christ - Adam 2
2. Eve, bride of Adam 1, is a type of the bride of Adam 2, Jesus Christ.
3. God's desire for Adam 2 is to have a family who are in the image of Jesus Christ.
4. God's purpose for Jesus Christ, Adam 2, and His bride which is taken from his body, is to rule/reign.
5. God desires for us to be kings and priests - rule and reign.
6. God desires for the bride of Adam 2 to be a joint-heir with Jesus Christ.
7. God promises this position for those who overcome.

Man's Ultimate Significance: God's purpose in calling me:

Place me back in the position for which I was originally created.

Strive mightily to obtain the high honor of ruling with Christ in the final destiny of man.

1. All born again believers are currently hidden in Christ. [Body of Christ is hidden in Him.]
Col. 3:3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.
2. Blood and water flowed from the side of Adam.
3. Blood and water flowed from the side of Adam 2, Jesus Christ.
Blood was for our redemption. Water is for our daily cleansing.
4. The blood alone is sufficient to place one in Christ,
but the water is also required if one is to have a part with Christ. [sanctification]
5. Blood and water were the 2 necessary elements to bring Christ's bride into existence.

Consider: Will the bride of Christ follow the pattern of Adam 1 and his bride?

Will the bride of Christ be part of the body of Christ but taken out of His body?

All New Testament believers are the body of Christ, the Church.

After the Rapture, the body of Christ, the Church, will stand before Him at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Will all members of the body of Christ also be the bride of Christ at the marriage of the Lamb after the Judgment Seat of Christ?

Recent lessons have defined for us believers who will be castaways, disqualified, carnal or who will shipwreck their faith.

I Cor. 3:15 reveals that some believers will suffer loss when their life is reviewed.

Last week we found the Apostle Paul focusing on going for the prize of the upward calling of God in Jesus Christ.

Paul wanted to ATTAIN the OUT-RESURRECTION.

I believe the overcomers in Christ will attain this resurrection and receive various positions and levels of authority in Christ's Millennial Kingdom.

This is leading us to the promises to the overcomers in Revelation 2 & 3.

I believe this study will help to answer our question regarding "Who is the Bride of Christ?"

Since prophecy is history written in advance, we have history's final chapter in Revelation.

What emerges as the finished product? The Eternal companion of Jesus Christ.

The spotless, Bride of Christ, united with Him and seated with Him upon the throne - - ruling and reigning with Him.

Rev. 5:9-10 Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; ¹⁰ And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

Revelation is the unveiling of Jesus Christ as the Conquering King who comes in majesty and glory to defeat the enemies, take back dominion of the earth and set up His Millennial Kingdom.

Rev. 19:7-8, 11, 14 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. ⁸ And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteous acts of saints.

¹¹And I saw heaven opened and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. ¹⁴And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

It has been 63 years since Pentecost and 35 years since Paul's departure.

Rev. 1:9-11 I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, ¹¹ saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

Rev. 1:12-16 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the seven lampstands *One* like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. ¹⁴ His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; ¹⁵ His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;

¹⁶ He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword,

2. The promise of reward is restricted to the faithful believers who overcome specific trials and temptations. Each letter presents an illustration of the battles we must overcome and for which rewards are promised for overcoming.

How? By faithful obedience through faith in their new life in Christ > SANCTIFICATION

3. If the promises of Rev. 2 and 3 are not restrictive, then we have what appears to be a contradiction

Rev. 2:26 And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end,
to him I will give power over the nations.

Rev.3:21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne,
as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

HODGES: To apply these promises to all believers seems to rob them of their force as promises. A command that everyone keeps is superfluous, and a reward that everyone receives is nonsense.

4. Evidence from the analogy of Scripture is consistent with the teaching of the New Testament in other places.

a. Born again believers in Christ cannot lose their salvation, but Scripture teaches they may lose, forfeit, or gain rewards according to what he does with the stewardship God has given him.

I Cor. 3:11-15; II Cor. 5:10; Col. 2:18

I Cor. 9:25-27 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize?

Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore, I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus, I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified. [castaway]

Note: Paul was fearful of not winning the prize and becoming a castaway.

Lest: Strong's #3381 - God Forbid That I Should

Castaway: Strong's #96 = One who is unapproved, rejected and worthless = one who is not worthy of inheriting because he is not fit, prepared or ready

Word Studies in the Greek New Testament -

Castaway means disapproval after having failed to meet the requirements.

Rev 3:11 Behold, I am coming quickly! [suddenly]

Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

5. Many believe there is a difference in the New Testament between entrance into heaven and being a joint-heir of the kingdom.

Rom. 8:16-17 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, IF indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

6. Victory in the Christian life is not guaranteed for all believers.

Consider: If all believers experienced continual overcoming in their lives, the commands to these churches and all commands to believers are empty and unnecessary because they are guaranteed victory.

If all believers are overcomers there is no room for believers who fail or die in their sins.

I Cor. 11:30; I John 5:16

7. These letters present victory as an aspiration which each individual should pursue.

The Savior's words are never to *them* who overcome, but to HIM who overcomes.

Victory is not a collective right, but an individual attainment.

Truth: The Christian life is full of conflict, tribulation, and trials but VICTORY AWAITS all believers through the victory accomplished by the Savior, but it is a victory that must be appropriated by an active faith that is fed through fellowship with the Lord.

J. Sidlow Baxter Our standing in Christ is no artificial position of immunity.

As there are degrees of punishment [in hell] so there are degrees of reward [in heaven].

One is made ruler over ten cities, another over five."

Truth: Jesus had to overcome to reign, which is not related to salvation. Rev. 3:21

Crowns, as future rewards, not eternal life, are given to the overcomers and can be lost.

Rev. 2:10c be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

Rev. 3:11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Jesus Christ challenges His people to remain steadfast through trials.

Overcomers can be seen as individual believers who overcome trials and are promised specific rewards in His coming Millennial Kingdom.

Key: The conditions for overcoming are never stated as: faith in Christ.

Key: The conditions for overcoming involve faithfulness, repentance, perseverance and works.

Rev. 2:2, 9, 13, 19; Rev. 3:1, 8, 15

Note: I believe each promise is to those who overcome the specific problem

He points out in each letter. He gives a different solution for each problem.

1. Ephesus = *The Danger Of Losing Our First Love*

Rev. 2:4

The fresh ardor and devotion to Christ which characterized the early church.

2. Smyrna = *The Danger Of Fear Of Suffering*

Rev. 2:10

"Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer."

3. Pergamos = *The Constant Danger Of Doctrinal Compromise*

Rev. 2:14-15

Often the first step toward complete defection. The modern church which has forsaken so many fundamentals of Biblical faith must heed the warning!

4. Thyatira = a monument to *The Danger Of Moral Compromise*

Rev. 2:20

Heed to the departure from moral standards which has invaded the church itself.

5. Sardis = Warning against *The Danger Of Spiritual Deadness*

Rev. 3:1-2

Orthodoxy without life, of mere outward appearance, of being, whited sepulchers.

6. Philadelphia = *The Danger Of Not Holding Fast* Rev. 3:11
 Exhorted to keep "the word of my patience," to maintain the "little strength" they did have and to wait for their coming Lord.
7. Laodicea = *The Dangers Of Lukewarmness* Rev. 3:15-16
 Crowning indictment, a warning against self-sufficiency, of being unconscious of desperate spiritual need. Repent and be zealous.

There are Different Promises for each specific problem. The promise of reward is restricted to the faithful believers who overcome specific trials and temptations.

Nikao = to come off as victorious or overcomers = in the present tense signifying saints who are continually living victoriously even in the midst of tribulations and hostility

- Hold fast their faith even unto death against the power of their foes, temptations and persecutions
- Attitude: God will be faithful, no matter what.
- Possess the "peace that passes all understanding."

Nan Missler: Overcomers are not perfect. They fail just like all of us, BUT they keep on getting up, keep on repenting, keep on being willing to surrender themselves to Christ and ALLOW HIM, who is the only perfect one, to work through them and in them to conform them into the image of Jesus Christ in whom we have victory. Lord, thank you that I am an overcomer in you. May the experience of my life each day be the reality of who I am in you.

I believe the promises are millennial in scope.

The blessings of His future Kingdom are assured to those who overcome.

Note the progression of the promises:

1. Ephesus: Remember from where you have fallen, repent

Rev. 2:7 *They will enjoy the Tree of Life in the midst of the Paradise of God.*

2. Smyrna: Do Not Fear! Be Faithful until death.

Rev. 2:11 *They will not be hurt by the second death. Receive crown of life*

3. Pergamos: REPENT of Doctrinal

Compromise

Rev. 2:17a *They will be fed out of the hidden manna.*

Rev. 2:17b *They will have a white stone with their name on it.*

Note: Call to Hear is BEFORE the promise in the above 3. Promises speak of fellowship

In the last 4, the Call to Hear is AFTER the promise. Promises speak of position and authority.

4. Thyatira: Hold Fast to what you have; do not compromise your morals

Rev. 2:26 *They will be granted power over the nations. Give him the morning star.*

5. Sardis: REPENT; Wake Up; Watch; Keep Your Garments Clean

Rev. 3:5a *They will be clothed in white.*

Rev. 3:5b *Their names will be acknowledged by Christ.*

6. Philadelphia: Hold fast so no one takes your crown.

Rev. 3:12a *They will be "pillars" in the Lord's temple.*

Rev. 3:12b *Christ will write His own Name upon them.*

7. Laodicea: Buy your riches, garments & eye salve from Jesus. REPENT & Be Zealous

Rev. 3:21 *They will sit with Christ on His Throne.*

Rewards begin with the right to eat of the tree of life in the paradise of God and escalate with the right to sit with Christ on His throne.

Note: Promises to the first three churches reveal incredible blessings which denote spiritual fellowship. Promises for position and authority in His Kingdom do not begin until the church of Thyatira. This seems to indicate a progression of spiritual growth and maturity.

These phenomenal promises should serve as an incentive for us to strive [press on, struggle, contend, fight, labor] diligently to be a faithful overcomer.

How? By faithful obedience through faith in their new life in Christ > SANCTIFICATION

I Cor. 2:9 What eye has not seen and ear has not heard and has not entered into the heart of man, [all that] God has prepared (made and keeps ready) for those who love Him [who hold Him in affectionate reverence, promptly obeying Him and gratefully recognizing the benefits He has bestowed] Amplified Bible

The City of Ephesus: The traveler from Rome landing at Ephesus would proceed up a magnificent avenue 35' wide and lined with columns which led from the harbor to the center of the city. It boasted a major stadium, marketplace, and a theater which was built on the west slope of Mt. Pion overlooking the harbor and seated about 25,000 people.

Ephesus was a prominent religious center: Temples were built to Claudius, Hadrian, and Severus. The major religious attraction was the Temple of Artemis [Diana in Latin], one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. About four times the size of the Parthenon, it was adorned by the work of many great artists.

Pliny the elder gives the dimensions of the temple as 425' long, 220' wide, and 60' high.

He notes the 127 pillars were of Parian marble, with 36 of them overlaid with gold and jewels.

Note: Ephesus was a sophisticated, commercial city with running water, an underground sewage system, a large public library with an extensive collection of writings, and a number of affluent homes of up to 9-10,000 square feet with multiple levels, central heating systems, sophisticated art, and rich furnishings. Imagine wide, paved streets with beautiful, sophisticated buildings, shrines, columns and arches, hundreds of businesses, and many travelers on the major trade route, of which Ephesus was a key port city with a busy harbor.

Imagine all this, and you are imagining the real Ephesus in the time of Christ and Paul.

People of Ephesus were not all willing to receive the message of the Gospel.

Acts 19 offers a compelling portrait of the Gospel's transformative power, as well as the disturbances it can arouse. It shows us that the journey of faith involves not only receiving the Gospel and witnessing miracles, but also facing conflict and misunderstanding.

Acts 19:8-10 Paul speaks boldly in the synagogue for three months but faces opposition and slander. He moves to the lecture hall of Tyrannus, where he teaches daily for two years, reaching Jews and Greeks across Asia.

Acts 19:11-20 God performs extraordinary miracles through Paul.

Jewish exorcists, including the seven sons of Sceva, try to invoke Jesus' name to cast out evil spirits, but are overpowered and publicly shamed by the spirits.

This event leads many to believe, confess their sins, and renounce magic.

¹⁹ Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned *them* in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. ²⁰ So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.

Results: Many were saved and the gospel was heard throughout Asia. The Holy Spirit empowered the Apostles and early believers to boldly proclaim the Gospel of Christ and to undergo persecution resulting from refusal to shrink back from the truth of the Gospel.

The Riot at Ephesus - Acts 19:23-34 And about that time there arose a great commotion about the Way. ²⁴ For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Diana, brought no small profit to the craftsmen. ²⁵ He called them together with the workers of similar occupation, and said: "Men, you know that we have our prosperity by this trade.

²⁶ Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that *they are not gods which are made with hands*. ²⁷ So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised, and her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship."

Note: Because of the size and dedication of the Ephesian church it became a threat to the idol-making industry in Ephesus. Led by Demetrius, a silversmith, his trade guild violently opposed Paul and the Ephesian church. An angry mob formed and two of Paul's companions were seized.

²⁸ Now when they heard *this*, they were full of wrath and cried out, saying, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!" ²⁹ So the whole city was filled with confusion, [population of about 250,000] and rushed into the theater [seats 25,000] with one accord, having seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians, Paul's travel companions. ³⁰ And when Paul wanted to go in to the people, the disciples would not allow him. ³¹ Then some of the officials of Asia, who were his friends, sent to him pleading that he would not venture into the theater. ³² Some therefore cried one thing and some another, for the assembly was confused, and most of them did not know why they had come together. ³³ And they drew Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. And Alexander motioned with his hand and wanted to make his defense to the people.

³⁴ But when they found out that he was a Jew, all with one voice cried out for about two hours, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!"

Consider: This was a major uprising - nearly a full-scale riot - against Christ and the Gospel. Someone finally calmed the mob down by warning them they were in danger of punishment by the Roman authorities for public disturbance.

Paul's letter to the Ephesians in 62 AD:

Paul underlines the consecration, the faithfulness and the perseverance of this church.

Eph. 1:1, 15-16 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus:

¹⁵Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶ do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:

The first love which characterized the Ephesians was the zeal and ardor with which they embraced their salvation as they realized they loved Christ because He first loved them. His love for them had made them "alive together with Christ." So overwhelmed were they by the joy that came from understanding their former state—dead in trespasses and sins—and their new life in Christ, they exhibited the fruit of that joy (Ephesians 2:1-5) which was exhibited in the passion of gratitude to the Savior which spilled over onto one another and out to those in the culture they inhabited, corrupt as it was.

Later, Paul passed by Ephesus because he was eager to reach Jerusalem in time for Pentecost and was determined not to be delayed by a stop in Asia. He did, however, call for the Ephesian elders to meet with him at Miletus. Paul told them of the prophecies concerning the danger of his returning to Jerusalem. His final words concerned the kind of ministry he had demonstrated before them as an example for them to follow. Paul reminded them of the importance of persevering in what they had learned, and the necessity of exhorting the congregation to do likewise.

Acts 20:28-32 Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore, be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified

John's letter to Ephesus: This 1st letter describes the 1st stage of the Christian Church:
the Apostolic Church,

renowned for the purity of its doctrine. This period begins in A.D. 31 and ends in A.D. 100 [the year of the death of John, the last apostle].

The Apostolic Church had experienced a lightning growth.

At the end of the first century, there were about 6 million Christians in the known world.

Did they follow Paul's valuable advice when he last saw the elders at Miletus?