

The Word of God – 19

We will remember that we finished our last session by asking the question, ‘What has been eternally saved?’ and ‘What does it mean?’

Well let’s go back to our original picture of Adam in the Garden

Do you remember what died that day? – his and the Woman’s spirit. And in like manner we are all born - Eph 2:1 ¶ *....dead in trespasses and sins,*

Now before we received the free gift of eternal life, we were very much alive physically – so what part of us was dead? – our spirit -

Joh 5:24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

So then, as we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ and received everlasting life, which part of us passed from death into life? – our spirit –

Joh 3:6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

We will remember this from - Heb 9:27 *And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,*

We can choose to keep this appointment with death and judgment in Christ or apart from Christ. In other words, we can choose to receive the One who has kept the appointment on our behalf, or we can choose to keep the appointment ourselves. But it cannot be avoided.

For those who have believed, the blood has been properly applied through faith to show that the firstborn has died, and that is the end of the matter – eternal salvation is signed, sealed and settled.

For those who do not believe, there is no application of the blood, and the end of the matter still awaits them – death and judgment.

As we look at this, we will see the obvious – our spirit alone is now eternally saved, but our soul and our body remain in an unredeemed state – so what happens to them?

Well, we have noted that God has set the pattern in Genesis of six days of work to bring about the complete restoration of a ruined creation – what has taken place with the salvation of our spirit corresponds to day one of those six days - *2Co 4:6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

1Pe 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

What must happen with the soul and body must correspond to days 2 through 6 in Genesis Chapter 1 and can only be subsequent to the events of day 1.

This is exactly what we see in relation to Israel – who provides the type given to us – 1Co 10:11 *Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.*

It is only following the death of the firstborn and the application of the blood – redemption brought about sovereignly by God – that we see this

Ex 19:4 *'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. 5 'Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. 6 'And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'* These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

It is only after receiving eternal salvation that issues surrounding God's purpose for Man – rulership – can come into view. Just as we see with Israel following the Passover. And it is only once the nation had been delivered from Egypt that God then had an expectation of faithful obedience on their part, 'now therefore if you will indeed obey My voice...'

And the things surrounding God's purpose for Man, which is rulership, are inextricably connected with the two unredeemed parts of Man's

being – the soul and the body and inextricably connected to faithful obedience.

As with the type given to us through Israel, it is ONLY AFTER we have received the free gift of eternal life that God then has the expectation of faithful obedience from us.

And this is the only way it can be, because until we have spiritual life, we cannot understand the spiritual truth contained in the Scriptures. And that truth must be understood if we are to be obedient to it –

1 Co 2:14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

The natural, or unsaved man, can comprehend the words on the page as he would read the Scriptures, but he cannot begin to see the spiritual truth contained in those Scriptures without possessing spiritual life.

And having spiritual life doesn't guarantee being able to understand spiritual truth but it does make it possible.

We will continue with this next time, if the Lord is willing.

