

The Word of God – 23

But if we are ever to fulfill the purpose for which God created us, we will have to be in the same condition as Adam and the Woman before the fall; a live spirit, a soul without a sin nature, an immortal body covered with glory.

A quick calculation will reveal that we have one of the three, but not all the three.

And if God's purpose for us is to be fulfilled – which it must – just remember our opening scripture, then there must also be provision for the salvation for our soul and body – and as we don't have that salvation now, it must remain something out ahead of us.

And it is no surprise that this is what Scripture shows.

In the English translation of the Bible, we read the words salvation and saved, and in the words themselves there is no indication of any time frame.

But within the original Greek language the word translated salvation is spoken of in three verb tenses – a past salvation / a present process of salvation / and a future salvation.

In other words, according to the Scriptures, we have been saved, we are being saved and we are about to be saved.

Let's look at the first of these - Eph 2:8 *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.*

Please notice – 'you have been saved' – this is past tense and is a translation of two Greek words that form what is called a 'periphrastic perfect'

To make this simple, the way this is written in the original language is the most emphatic declaration of an act that was completed in time past that exists in its completed form into the present that could be written.

Salvation here in Ephesians is brought about by grace through faith, something accomplished completely in time past, through the finished work of Christ and is the present possession of every believer. And our present possession of this salvation constitutes an active, continuing, ever abiding salvation. Our eternal security could not be presented in a more emphatic way than this.

And for the second we go to - 1Co 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.*

Please notice – ‘us who are being saved’

This is entirely different to that which we see in Ephesians.

Rather than the tense in the original Greek referring to a past completed act, the original language in 1 Corinthians, accurately translated in NKJV, refers to a present continuous work of salvation in the life of the believer.

Did you notice that Paul uses the pronoun ‘us’ thereby including himself, who is already eternally saved in this process? This being so, our scripture can have nothing whatever to do with the eternally lost, this is a scripture referring to the eternally saved.

So then those who are already in possession of an irrevocable eternal salvation are also to be involved in a present continuous work that will also result in a salvation that we do not presently possess –

Php 2:12 ¶ *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;*

And thirdly in - Heb 1:14 *Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?*

Please notice – ‘those who will inherit salvation’

Here in Hebrews the original language, again accurately translated in NKJV, refers to something which about to occur. Nothing here is past or present. The receiving of this salvation is placed completely in the future.

Not only is it entirely in the future, but it is a salvation that is to be inherited. Distinguishing it completely from the salvation we presently possess.

The salvation we presently possess is a free gift not an inheritance –
Ro 5:18b....*through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life.*

Inheritance in scripture is a family matter – inheritance is received only within the family. The free gift of eternal life that we presently possess places us within the family of God and thereby in a position whereby we may receive an inheritance. But this can only be after our eternal salvation, never a part of it.

More next time if the Lord is willing.