



• This change of heart enables us to obey the holy law of God. ***“I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them...”***

Hebrews 10:16.

• When Christ abides in the heart, He purifies it through His Holy Spirit and implants a new nature in us. ***“... Yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”*** Galatians 2:20. Read Colossians 3:5-10 in your Bible.

• Sanctification comprises a complete change in man. ***“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body...”*** 1 Thessalonians 5:23.

The three dimensions of the human being must change, which are:

- The spirit: **our thoughts.**
 - The soul: **our feelings and emotions.**
 - The body: **our habits.**
- Good works are the result of justification but not the means to obtain it. We will desire to obey due to gratitude and love to Him, who gave so much for us. ***“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works...”*** Ephesians 2:10.

Jesus illustrated this in the example of the vine: ***“I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”*** John 15:5.

FINAL DESTINY OF THE BELIEVER

In His final triumph, Christ will come to take us. When Israel settled in Canaan, they divided the land and spoils; everyone lived in what was his. For a person who had to sell their land, their belongings or themselves due to mismanagement, a misfortune, a problem or need, the law of redemption existed, which established that the closest family member had the right to pay off the debt and recover what had been alienated. That property became the original owner’s and not the recoveree’s. This recovery was known as **REDEMPTION.**

“In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” John 14:2, 3.

This will happen when Christ returns. He paid a very high price for our misfortunes: His own blood, His own life. When He returns, He will give us that which belonged to us by right of creation; a crown because we were the kings and queens of creation; a white robe that represents our perfect creation; a new earth, the home that God has prepared for us, and a new heaven to contemplate the greatness of His glory. This He has done for you.

Dear Friend: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob sought that land. Isaiah spoke about the new earth, Paul sought the crown, and John saw the city in a vision. They are asleep waiting for the call of resurrection; but for you, that in this third millennium have been led to believe that you’re just a number, that redemption is near.

God’s plan will only be received by those who respond to the first miracle, permit themselves to be led by Jesus Christ, give Him their lives, and are declared righteous and forgiven. They are those who accept Jesus as Lord and Master of their lives and decide to obey His eternal laws. Give Jesus Christ your life today and let Him work those four miracles in you.



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THIRD MILLENNIUM BIBLE COURSE

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International Missionary Society, Seventh-day Adventist Church, Reform Movement



WE ARE NOT JUST A NUMBER!

Have you ever felt like you’re just a number? For instance, when conducting a transaction with a government agency, withdrawing or depositing money into an account, when needing to find medical records at a hospital, or when waiting your turn in line to be called by number; many times, we’re treated like just a number! We are assigned a number for our IDs, taxes, credit cards, social security, and medical records. All the products we purchase also have a number and are identified by a barcode. Everything is numerical, but to God, we are not just a number. Then, what are we to Him?

In a conversation, Jesus declared: ***“Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.”*** Luke 12:6, 7. King David knew that God was acquainted with his feelings and actions. He said to the Lord, ***“Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?”*** Psalms 56:8. Many of our psychological problems and insecurities are caused by our low self-esteem. Many, instead of rising to a victorious life, are plunged into the abyss of discouragement, depression, and despair. It’s true, human beings are made of dust, but in the eyes of Jesus, we are most important. ***“Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable,***

and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.” Isaiah 43:4.

He knows and loves you; He wants to change your life and make you happy. If you accept Him, **you will discover the wonders He’s done for your happiness.** The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 1:30, **“But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption...”** Let’s consider its meaning.

THE OPTION TO HEAR

We receive special **wisdom** to hear **the call of God.** Let’s take a look at what God does when calling us to be his children:

- He draws us to Him. **“... Will draw all men unto me.”** John 12:32. Have you, at some point felt an attraction to godly things? How did it occur? It is a miracle that Jesus is working in you.
- Jesus calls us with great love saying, **“Come unto me, all... and I will give you rest.”** Matthew 11:28.
- He looks for us as lost sheep. Matthew 18:12, 13.
- He puts in us a thirst to seek Him. Psalms 42:1.
- God gives us faith. We cannot produce it of ourselves, it is a gift of God. **“This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.”** John 6:29. However, by studying the Bible and hearing the voice of God, we can nourish our faith.
- God shows us our sins. **“And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment...”** John 16:8.

God looks for us as a mother looks for her lost child; she spares no efforts or sacrifices. In the same way, God looks for you; He knows you and calls you to seek Him **“... though he be not far from every one of us...”** Acts 17:27. Please read Psalm 8 in your Bible.

OUR ACCOUNTS SETTLED

God wants to settle our legal matter with Him. What does it consist of? We transgressed the law of God and it condemns us. We cannot boast of our virtues because the Bible says that our human righteousness is **“as filthy rags.”** Isaiah 64:6. It is impossible for man to save himself, for he is a sinner (transgressor of the law), both by nature and inclination.

The normal development of man is impeded by inability, feelings of guilt, conditionings, imperfections, and traumas. There are two deviations from these feelings of frustration:

self-praise or self-conceit (a superiority complex) and self-destruction (an inferiority complex).

Those who possess a **superiority complex** believe themselves to be gods: indispensable and irreplaceable. They take on many responsibilities and to maintain their status, live off cocaine or other stimulants. These people are artists, businessmen, and celebrities that live for the latest fashion. **Pseudo-stars** are those who live imitating them; they style their hair, dress, and live like them.

Those who possess an **inferiority complex** are depressed, neglected, aimless, and drifters. They use strong drugs that destroy them: glues, inhalants, barbiturates, alcohol, and tobacco. They think they **“can’t live forever.”**

God’s righteousness helps us rediscover the true center of gravity. Just as Galileo discovered that the earth is not the center of the universe, we too will discover that the center of the Christian religion is not man, but rather God. He is the source of love and has provided hope for us. **“Christ was treated as we deserve, that we might be treated as He deserves... He suffered the death which was ours, that we might receive the life which was His.”** –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 25.

To cover our debt to God, Christ imputes, or rather records His merits in our behalf.

- Our justification is made possible because He, being God: became a man, lived a pure life, died in our stead as our substitute, and resurrected from the dead.
- Through His perfect, sinless life He was able to satisfy all the requirements of the law. **“For what the law could not do... God sending his own Son... condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us...”** Romans 8:3, 4. Christ, our substitute, came to take our place. He came to fulfill what man could not.

Christ paid with His death the guilt that we were to pay for our transgressions. **“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities... and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”** Isaiah 53:5, 6. Christ adopts us as His children to give us His inheritance; He imputes His righteousness and God sees us as if we’d never sinned. Together with His righteousness, He gives us the assurance of eternal life.

As sinners, we may search ourselves internally and make great efforts, but we will never satisfy the purity of God; He asks the greatest objective of man: **“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.”** Matthew 5:48.

Justification means forgiveness and reconciliation. It means that Christ takes upon Himself our life and places His holy life; His righteousness, the perfect fulfillment of the law, in our favor. He says: **“I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.”** Isaiah 43:25. **“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”** Isaiah 1:18.

God gives us a blank slate, the chance to start anew. Now we form part of a royal family. We acquire not only a family, but a citizenship, a goal, a target to fulfill, and a safe harbor. Philippians 3:20. This is possible because Christ occupies our place in heaven and pays our debt with His perfect life.

Luke 18:10-14 shows that Jesus used the parable of two worshipers to illustrate the work of justification.

In short, what benefits do I have in being justified?

- I am granted pardon for my sins. Micah 7:18, 19.
- I have peace with God. **“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God...”** Romans 5:1.
- I am declared a child of God. John 1:12.
- My name is written in the book of life. **“... Rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.”** Luke 10:20.
- I receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **“... Whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”** Ephesians 4:30.
- I receive eternal life. **“... God hath given to us eternal life...”** 1 John 5:11.

THE STRENGTH TO LIVE THROUGH CHANGE

Sanctification is the reintegration of man into the universe; it is to restore the image of God in the inner man. He no longer struggles alone, nor does he need merits or great sacrifices to fulfill his goals, but God places in him the Holy Spirit, an educating agent. He becomes our comforter, teacher, intercessor, and helper; he compels and stimulates, he speaks to our conscience and prepares us for the life for which we were created. Just as a foreigner must adapt to the society he wants to live in, man too must educate himself and adapt to a new life begun in Christ.

“And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.” Ephesians 4:24. Sanctification consists is a change of mind and heart. **“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.”** Ezekiel 36:26.

