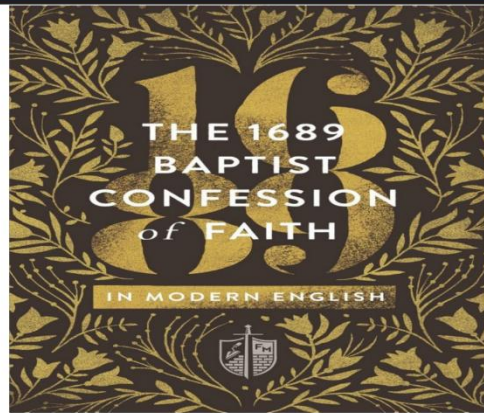


Chapter 6 – The Fall of Man, and Sin and Its Punishment

1. God created man upright and perfect. He gave them a righteous law that would have led to life if they had kept it but threatened death if they broke it.¹ Yet they did not remain for long in this position of honor. Satan used the craftiness of the serpent to seduce Eve, who then seduced Adam. Adam acted without any outside compulsion and deliberately transgressed the law of their creation and the command given to them by eating the forbidden fruit.
² God was pleased, in keeping with His wise and holy counsel, to permit this act, because He had purposed to direct it for His own glory.
¹Genesis 2:16, 17.
²Genesis 3:12, 13;
2 Corinthians 11:3.
 2. By this sin our first parents fell from their original righteousness and communion with God. We fell in them, and through this, death came upon all.³



All became dead in sin⁴ and completely defiled in all the capabilities and parts of soul and body.⁵

³Romans 3:23. ⁴Romans 5:12ff. ⁵Titus 1:15; Genesis 6:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:10–19.

3. By God's appointment, they were the root and the representatives of all mankind. Because of this, the guilt of their sin was accounted, and their corrupt nature passed on, to all their offspring who descended from them by ordinary procreation.⁶ Their descendants are now conceived in sin⁷ and are by nature children of wrath,⁸ the servants of sin, and partakers of death⁹ and all other miseries—spiritual, temporal, and eternal—unless the Lord Jesus sets them free.¹⁰

⁶Romans 5:12–19;

1 Corinthians 15:21, 22, 45, 49. ⁷Psalms 51:5; Job 14:4. ⁸Ephesians 2:3. ⁹Romans 6:20; 5:12. ¹⁰Hebrews 2:14, 15; 1 Thessalonians 1:10.

4. All actual transgressions arise from this first corruption.¹¹ By it we are thoroughly biased against, and disabled and antagonistic toward all that is good, and we are completely inclined toward all that is evil.¹²

¹¹James 1:14, 15; Matthew 15:19. ¹²Romans 8:7; Colossians 1:21.

5. During this life, this corruption of nature remains in those who are regenerated.¹³

Even though it is pardoned and put to death through Christ, yet both this corruption of nature and all actions arising from it are truly and actually sin.¹⁴

¹³Romans 7:18, 23;
Ecclesiastes 7:20;
¹⁴1 John 1:8 ¹⁵Romans 7:23–25;
Galatians 5:17.

This may be found in it's entirety @founders.org



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From The Pastor's Desk

After a few months discussing what we understand from Scripture to be the order of salvation, we will again consider another piece of what God has ordained as the process that brings about the salvation, that we hold so dear. These are not random sequences but a plan from before time to provide the steps necessary for our redemption. We stood as enemies of God bound for hell, and God, by His grace, snatched us from the flames and applied the atoning work of Jesus Christ to set us free from our slavery to sin all to the praise and glory of God. The previous steps include election, effectual calling, regeneration and conversion that comes from faith and repentance. This month, we will talk about justification. It is another necessary part of the means by which God, motivated by His love, reconciles us to Himself and saves us from His wrath. It will be the last step in the salvific part of the application of redemption. We must begin with a question. How can sinful man be justified before a holy God? The Bible tells us in Romans 1:18, *"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth."*

Justification is what we need, and it is an act of God's free grace. Also, from the book of Romans(8:33) *"Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies."* We do not and cannot justify ourselves. It is not a religious exercise or anything we can accomplish by what we do or say. *"But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."* Romans 3:21-26

So far, we have established that we need to be justified and that only God can accomplish that. However, we have not defined what justification is. Justification is a legal term, and it means to declare or pronounce to be righteous. In essence, it is a judge declaring a person to be righteous in terms of the law which he is administering. God's justification is of the ungodly. It is a justification of those who are wicked and under His curse and condemnation. We must ask another question. If God's judgment is always according to the truth, how can He simply declare someone to be innocent?

Does it make God untruthful? Does it mean God is Himself unrighteous? God's justification of sinners is not a deviation from what is good and right. What is different is that God causes the righteous state for those declared to be justified. He constitutes the ungodly as righteous and thereby can rightly proclaim them to be righteous. Again, we turn to Paul to understand from Romans 5:19, *"For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous."* This means that God imputes to us from the obedience of Christ the righteousness that we may be declared as righteous by God the Judge who is just and the justifier. That is the justification we need to enter heaven and God's presence. He provides what we need through Jesus' work on the cross. Despite our definite guilt, with the righteousness of Christ by His obedience applied to us, we can be justified in salvation.

Praise God for His great salvation!

May God richly bless you,

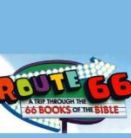
Bro. Jim Tennery

FBC Family, I want to look at the workings of God in our lives. How does God work in each of our lives in a personal way? Is God working in your life in a very real and personal way? It's something we may not like discussing much due to all the falsities in the charismatic movement, but one thing is certain in Scripture. God works in each of His people's lives in a very personal way. David says in Psalm 34 that he sought the Lord and the Lord delivered him. He then encourages others to taste and see that the Lord is good. In the New Testament, Peter uses this same passage to encourage believers to grow in their Christian life. He says this in 1 Peter 2:2-3 "Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation- if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good."- 1 Peter 2:2-3 Do you see the words Peter uses to describe our relationship with Christ? He describes our salvation as if we are like newborn infants. We would all agree there is life abundant in a newborn infant. They need constant attention, feeding, and care that they may grow up in a healthy way. Does this describe your relationship with Christ? Is there spiritual life in you? Is there a desire to be fed and a desire for you to grow spiritually? Peter then uses a conditional statement, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. He clarifies this reality, if you have tasted the Lord is good, then you will desire like a newborn infant to grow

in your salvation and sanctification. Peter describes God's workings in our lives in an experiential way, tasting that the Lord is good. This happens repeatedly throughout Scripture. The writers in the New Testament often describe God working in our lives in a very real way, through the senses. In Ephesians 1:18, Paul says that believers have the eyes of our hearts enlightened. No longer are we spiritually blind, but God has given us spiritual sight that we may know Him. In 2 Corinthians 4:6, he says that God has shined light into our darkened hearts that we may know God. In James 4:8, James says we are able to draw near to God and He will draw near to us. In Colossians 1:13, we are transferred from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of God. The writers of the New Testament are using the senses in one way or another to describe the workings of God in our lives. It is evident God works in our lives in a very real way, not physically but spiritually. From coming to salvation, to salvation, to sanctification, in all areas of our Christian lives God is working. We were all once spiritually dead, but God made us alive. He came and convicted us of our sins. He blessed us with faith, giving us trust in the Person of Jesus Christ. He richly poured out the Holy Spirit on us. God works in our lives. How is God working in your life? Have you sought after Christ and found Him? Is the Holy Spirit convicting you of sin, righteousness, and judgment like Jesus promises in John 16:8-11? Are all the God given trials, difficulties, and afflictions producing steadfastness in your life? It is good thing to draw near to God. Believer, God continually works in our lives. So, how is God working, actively working, in your life? Are you drawing near to Him?

-Jeremy Martinez

August 12th



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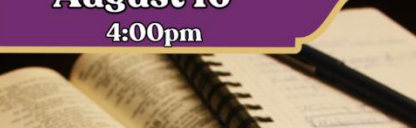


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- Week Thirty-two August 2-8**

Day 1: Hosea 1-3; Matthew 16
Day 2: Hosea 4-6; Psalm 58; Matthew 17
Day 3: Hosea 7-10; Matthew 18
Day 4: Hosea 11-13; Mathew 19
Day 5: Hosea 14; 2 Chr 26-27; Matthew 20
- Week Thirty-three August 9-15**

Day 1: 2 Kings 15-16; Matthew 21
Day 2: Isaiah 1-3; Psalm 9; Matthew 22
Day 3: Isaiah 4-6; Matthew 23
Day 4: Micah 1-4; Psalm 10; Matthew 24
Day 5: Micah 5-7; Matthew 25
- Week Thirty-four August 16-22**

Day 1: Isaiah 7-10; Psalm 22; Matthew 26
Day 2: Isaiah 11-13; Psalm 118; Matthew 27
Day 3: Isaiah 14-16; Matthew 28
Day 4: Isaiah 17-19; Psalm 62; 1 Corinthians 1
Day 5: Isaiah 20-22; 1 Corinthians 2
- Week Thirty-five August 23-29**

Day 1: Isaiah 23-25; 1 Corinthians 3
Day 2: Isaiah 26-29; Psalm 65; 1 Corinthians 4
Day 3: Isaiah 30-32; 1 Corinthians 5
Day 4: Isaiah 33-35; 1 Corinthians 6
Day 5: 2 Chr 28; 2 Kings 17; Ps 66; 1 Cor 7
- Week Thirty-six August 30- September 5**

Day 1: 2 Chronicles 29-31; 1 Corinthians 8
Day 2: 2 Kings 18-19; 2 Chr 32; Ps 67; 1 Cor 9
Day 3: Isaiah 36-37; Psalm 123; 1 Cor 10
Day 4: 2 Kings 20; Is 38-40; Ps 68; 1 Cor 11
Day 5: Isaiah 41-44; 1 Corinthians 12

There is the prevalent idea that all one has to do to go to heaven is to be good. I was speaking with a young lady a few weeks ago. She told me that she had been raised Catholic, that she believed in God and tried to live a good life. I said to her that the important thing is to have a personal relationship with Jesus. Human nature leads one to believe that good moral living is what God desires in an individual, and that God will honor that individual who consciously strives to be good. But God doesn't want the best one can do, not the successful person, the respected person, the popular person, not just good people. God wants redeemed people. I am reminded of the Starkist commercial in which Charlie the Tuna strives to be selected by Starkist. He puts on a good show, pretends to read books, takes up playing tennis, and takes other measures to try to impress Starkist with his lifestyle. The commercial ends with the verdict, "Sorry, Charlie. Starkist doesn't want tuna with good taste. They want tuna that tastes good". Taking a little license here, but God doesn't want those individuals who have good tastes, who live good lives, who depend upon their own good deeds to be accepted to God. God wants those who "taste good", or should I say, who "smell good". In 2 Corinthians 2:15, Paul speaks of those who have Christ living within them as being "a fragrance of Christ to God". Those individuals who are made righteous and acceptable to Him through faith in Jesus Christ are those God accepts. It is not "right doing" that meets God's approval, but "right being" that God works in an individual. He does not change human nature; it stays with us. Rather, He implants a new nature within, the nature and disposition of Jesus, so that we are a "new creature" in Jesus Christ, and the life lived is Christ living in the individual. Once an individual has been made new through God's indwelling Spirit, then the good works follow. Make sure you are not playing at being good. Make sure you have the Christ life within that is producing Christ likeness in you.



Blessed to Serve,
Bro. Vernon