

# Ephesians: What's God Saying to You? What are You Going to Do About It?

Ricardo Campos, Pastor Grace Chapel, Orange, CA June 14, 2020

## I. Introduction

Some believe that you can either lose your salvation or that you never really had it in the first place. That is, they think that if you live a sinful life, then God will take your salvation away. Or if you live in sin, then it means you were never really saved to begin with, you were never really a Christian. Some think this is especially true if your sins are what they would consider BIG sins like homosexuality. Is this true?

## II. Ephesians: What is God Saying to You and What are You Going to Do About It?

### Chapter 5

**5:5-6**, when God says that no fornicator, unclean or covetous person gets any inheritance in His Kingdom but instead gets His wrath, is He saying that Christians who live in sin aren't really Christians, that if you live in sin, you can lose your salvation, that it takes more than simple faith to be saved from hell? Ephesians answers these and other such questions unequivocally "NO." What about the rest of the New Testament?

#### Is Man's Problem Death or Sin?

**First**, sin is no longer man's problem. Why? Because Jesus Christ paid for ALL sin for ALL time (John 1:29; 1 John 2:2). Many don't quite understand what this actually means. They acknowledge it as a fact in a story about a guy who died on a Cross for the world's sin. But this fact remains disconnected from their lives and the lives of others. So they'll say things like, "Yeah, I believe Jesus died on the Cross for our sins, but there's no way homosexuals are going to heaven. That's an abomination to God. No way are they getting in!" What does Jesus' bloody Cross say to such statements? "It is finished"—words uttered by Jesus at the end of His life in reference to the payment for ALL sin (John 19:30). If you rightly understand the meaning of the Cross, it means this: Homosexuals can go to heaven, mass murderers can go to heaven, child molesters can go to heaven, rapists can go to heaven, terrorists can go to heaven. Think of the most vile person imaginable and he too can go to heaven.<sup>1</sup> Notice how the apostle Paul saw himself, even though he was one of the most wicked individuals you'd ever meet (Acts 7:58-59; 22:3-5; 26:9-11). He knew Jesus paid for His horrendous sins and all he had to do to go to heaven is simply believe in Him (1 Timothy 1:12-16).

**Second**, therefore, sin is no longer our problem. However, the deadly results of sin is, i.e., our problem is the state sin leaves us in: dead (John 5:24). The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23) and this leaves us incapable of doing anything good enough to save ourselves (Romans 3:10-12). If we remain dead, we'll experience the second death, eternity in hell (i.e., the Lake of Fire, Revelation 20:14-15).

---

<sup>1</sup> Another problem that plagues us regarding sin is our belief that certain sins are unforgivable. Where did we get this idea? Is this how God sees sin? God doesn't just hate murder, homosexuality, and sexual assault; He hates things that we might consider minor sins, like lying (Proverbs 6:16-19). When God says that He hates pride, lying, and merely planning evil, He's telling us something. He's telling us just how grotesque ALL sin is to Him not just the "BIG" sins.

### Is Eternal Salvation by Faith or Works?

**First**, in God's estimation there is NO ONE who can earn their salvation. Why? Because there is "none righteous, no, not one.... There is none who does good, no, not one" (Romans 3:10-12). Absolutely everybody fails God's standard; we all "fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). So you can't work for your salvation, even if you wanted to.

**Second**, precisely because we cannot save ourselves, we needed a Savior, someone who could not only take care of our sin problem but our death problem. Enter Jesus: He took our sin upon Himself (John 1:12; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 John 2:2). Having done so, He offers us eternal life to fix our death problem. But there's something very peculiar about Jesus' offer, He asks for nothing in return except simple faith (John 1:12; 3:15, 16, 18, 36; 5:24; 6:47). In fact, He flatly tells us that we cannot earn the eternal life He's offering us through our works because it is God's gift (Ephesians 2:8-9). The only one good enough to earn it is God, everyone else walks away in sorrow (Matthew 19:16-22). NO ONE is eternally saved, born again, receives eternal life, justified, united with Christ, redeemed, or made alive by works, only by faith (John 3:1-15; Romans 3:21-26; 4:1-5; Ephesians 2:5-9).

### Is Entering God's Kingdom Different from Inheriting It?

**First**, entering God's Kingdom happens instantaneously. The second you simply believe in Jesus Christ, God the Father transfers you from Satan's kingdom of darkness and death into Christ's Kingdom of light and life (Colossians 1:13 cf. John 5:24). So entering God's Kingdom is a onetime event that happens in an instant and there's no work involved only faith.

**Second**, inheritance in God's Kingdom is not guaranteed just as a \$10 million salary, a house in the Hamptons, and a Ferrari aren't guaranteed to you for simply being a US citizen. To get those things in America, you need to work for them. And so it is with Christ's Kingdom. You may be a citizen of His Kingdom, but if you want inheritance, you have to work for it (Matthew 25:14-30). If you fail to perform, you will suffer loss of inheritance/reward but not loss of salvation (1 Corinthians 3:10-15; 6:9-10; Ephesians 5:6-7; 2 Timothy 2:11-13). So inheriting God's Kingdom is an ongoing process that involves work.

**What is God saying when He says that He'll never disown you?** He's saying, "My child, don't ever wonder if you're really My child because of your sin. Your sins, past, present, or future cannot undo your spiritual birth. The instant you believed in My Son, you were born again. From that moment on, you possessed—and will for all eternity—My Son's eternal life. So don't ever think that sin can break our bond. Now, don't misunderstand Me. I DO NOT want you to live in sin. If you do, I will discipline you severely. Instead, I want you to live the brand new life I've given you."

### III. Conclusion

*For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*