

The Five Phases of Salvation

The Before Time Phase
The Legal Phase
The Life-Giving Phase
The Livin' Whatcha Been Given Phase
The Heaven Phase

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Intro: *'Rightly dividing the word of truth'* is the key to finding God's truth

2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing** the word of truth.

A. *'Rightly dividing'* is not ignoring and sidestepping unwanted and disliked sections

Act 20:27 For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

B. *'Rightly dividing'* is dissecting and expounding the parts—So that they fit the whole

2Pe 1:20 ...no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

C. The word 'save' is perhaps the classic example of the necessity for *'rightly dividing'*

Mat 14:30 ...and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, **save** me.

Mat 1:21 ...thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall **save** his people from their sins.

Act 2:40 ...**Save** yourselves from this untoward generation.

D. It is of paramount importance that we find and hold to God's truth

1Ti 3:15 ...the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

Joh 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

I. Phase 1—The *Before Time Phase* of Salvation

—Occurred in the mind of God from eternity past

—The basis of all other phases

—The ignored and rejected phase

A. Salvation was in the mind of God from *Before Time*

Act 15:18 Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.

B. Election and predestination occurred in the *Before Time Phase*

Eph 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world...

Eph 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children...

Rom 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

C. Election is not based on God foreseeing who would choose God

Joh 5:40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him...

Rom 9:16 So then *it is* not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.

Psa 65:4 Blessed *is the man whom* thou choosest, and causest to approach *unto thee*...

Act 13:48 ...and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.

D. In the Covenant of Grace—The Father gave His elect to Christ *Before Time*

Joh 6:39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

E. In the Covenant of Grace—The Father placed His elect 'in Christ' *Before Time*

1Co 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us...redemption:

1Co 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

II. Phase 2—The *Legal Phase* of Salvation

—Occurred on the cross and in the courtroom of heaven

—Saves from the penalty of sin

—The phase that is commonly overstated in scope—And undervalued in power

A. The ultimate legal questions

Job 9:2 I know *it is* so of a truth: but how should man be just with God?

Psa 130:3 If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?

B. The accomplishments of Christ in our salvation

Psa 85:10 Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed...

1. Christ took God's wrath against sin in the place of each one He died for

Isa 53:6 ...and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isa 53:8 ...for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

2. Christ eternally redeemed each one He died for

Heb 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*.

3. Christ removed the sins from and cleansed each one He died for

Rev 1:5 ...Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

4. God imputed the righteousness of Christ to each one Christ died for

2Co 5:21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

5. Christ eternally perfected each one He died for

Heb 10:14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

6. There is remission (*removal of consequences*) of sins for each one Jesus died for

Mat 26:28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

7. There is forgiveness (*removal of consequences*) of sins for each one Jesus died for

Eph 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins...

8. Christ reconciled to God each one He died for

2Co 5:18 ...God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ...

9. Christ made each one He died for to be acceptable

Eph 1:6 ...he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

10. Christ satisfied God

Isa 53:11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, *and* shall be satisfied...

C. God justified each and everyone that Jesus died for

Rom 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ...

Rom 5:9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved...

Rom 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Rom 8:33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth.

D. Salvation

Mat 1:21 ...thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

E. Jesus fulfilled all the legal requirements—So that all He died for must get to heaven

III. Phase 3—The *Life-Giving Phase* of Salvation

—Occurs at some point between natural conception and death

—Entirely an act of God

—Saves from the power of sin

A. Different ways that the scriptures describe the *Life-Giving Phase*

1. Born again

Joh 3:8 The wind bloweth where it listeth...so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

—Can a man cause his own birth? —What did you do before you were you?

—As there is no natural will or action prior to natural birth—

—There is no spiritual will or action prior to spiritual birth

2. Resurrection from spiritual deadness

Joh 5:25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

Eph 2:1 And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

—What can a dead man do? —How dead is dead? —Dead folks don't do!

—As there is no natural will or action in the naturally dead—

—There is no spiritual will or action in the spiritually dead

3. New creation

Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works...

—Can the uncreated create itself? —Could Adam have helped God create Adam?

—As there is no natural will or action in the naturally yet-to-be-created—

—There is no spiritual will or action in the spiritually yet-to-be-created

4. Effectual call

1Co 1:23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

1Co 1:24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

Rom 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

5. Regeneration

Tit 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

B. The natural man has no ‘want to’ or ‘can do’ prior to the vital phase

Joh 5:40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him...

C. The Bible is clear about the uncooperative nature of a natural sinful man

1Co 2:14 ...the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

Joh 8:43 Why do ye not understand my speech? *even* because ye cannot hear my word.

Joh 12:39 Therefore they could not believe...

Rom 9:16 So then *it is* not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.

D. God does the *Life-Giving Phase*—Independently—Without help—Without means

IV. Phase 4—The *Living What's Been Given Phase of Salvation*

—This phase involves living the spiritual life that came to you in the *Life-Giving Phase*

—This phase begins at spiritual birth and leads to spiritual maturity

—This phase is the only phase that partially hinges on man's actions

—The phase saves from the practice of sin—And saves to a fellowship with God

A. Things that happen and changes that come after God gives the *Life-Giving Phase*

1. At the time of the *Life-Giving Phase*—There is direct teaching from God

Joh 6:45 ...And they shall be all taught of God...

Heb 8:11 And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

Mat 16:17 ...And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

2. After the *Life-Giving Phase*—There is a new desire and ability to come

Rev 22:17 ...And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

3. After the *Life-Giving Phase*—The spiritual life shows itself by the spiritual traits

Gal 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance...

1Jn 4:7 ...and every one that loveth is born of God...

1Jn 5:1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God...

1Jn 2:29 ...every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.

B. *Living What's Been Given* is a joint work of the Spirit and the born again child

Php 2:12 ...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

Php 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.

C. *Living What's Been Given* is the only phase where man contributes to the saving

1. This is the phase where you can do something to save yourselves

Act 2:40 ...Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

2. This is the phase where the preacher and the gospel can save you

1Ti 4:16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

1Co 1:21 ...it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

1Co 15:1 ...I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you...

1Co 15:2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you...

Rom 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Rom 10:14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

Rom 10:15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace,

3. Since you have no faith until you have life—Saved by faith must be in this phase

Luk 7:50 And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.

D. *Living What's Been Given* is to live life now—Having joy in fellowship with Jesus

1Jn 1:3 ...and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

1Jn 1:4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

V. Phase 5—The *Heaven Phase* of Salvation

—Occurs in eternity future and includes body, soul and spirit

—The *Heaven Phase* saves from the presence of sin

—The *Heaven Phase* sees the accomplishment of all details of the *Before Time Phase*

A. God's purposes in the *Before Time Phase* shall come to pass in the *Heaven Phase*

Isa 46:9 ...I am God, and *there is* none else; I am God, and *there is* none like me,

Isa 46:10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times *the things* that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

Isa 46:11 ...I have spoken *it*, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed *it*, I will also do it.

B. The *Heaven Phase* is certain for each and all who were in the *Before Time Phase*

Rom 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Joh 6:39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

Joh 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

Joh 10:28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.

Joh 10:29 My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand.

Php 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

C. God's children can have assurance of and rest in the certain hope of eternal life

Tit 1:2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

Tit 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Tit 2:14 Who gave himself for us...

Tit 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Tit 3:6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

Tit 3:7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

D. The 1st part of the *Heaven Phase* is when Jesus takes our spirits to heaven

Luk 23:43 ...To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

2Co 5:8 ...absent from the body...present with the Lord.

E. Jesus is coming back to resurrect our dead bodies

Act 1:11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

F. The 2nd part of the *Heaven Phase* is when Jesus takes our raised bodies to heaven

1Th 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

1Th 4:17 Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.