

Thanks to Calvary

[1 Corinthians 6:9-11](#)

1Co 6:9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

1Co 6:10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

1Co 6:11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

There is a song that was very popular quite a few years back entitled "*Thanks to Calvary.*" One stanza goes something like this:

*Today I went back to the place where I used to go,
Today I saw the same old crowd I knew before.
And when they asked me what had happened,
I tried to tell them:
Thanks to Calvary I don't come here anymore.*

Alot of us here this morning can say, "*Thanks to Calvary, I'm not the person I used to be.*" When we met the Lord Jesus Christ He made us a new man, a new creature in Christ Jesus.

D.L. Moody said that when he got saved, "*I went outdoors and fell in love with everything. I never loved the bright sun shining as much as I did that day. When I heard the birds sing, I fell in love with the birds. Everything was different.*"

On the grave of John Newton, author of "*Amazing Grace,*" are these words:

*John Newton,
Clerk,
Once an infidel and libertine,
A servant of slaves in Africa,
Was, by the rich mercy of our Lord and Saviour,
Jesus Christ,
Preserved, restored, pardoned,
And appointed to preach the faith
He had long labored to destroy.*

On one occasion Newton said to a friend, "*I am not all that I should be or what I want to be, but thank God I am not what I used to be.*"

Jesus makes everyone that places their trust in Him a new person and His salvation brings with it a brand new life. Our text is a wonderful description of the difference Jesus makes in the lives of those He saves.

Let's consider these 3 verses and be reminded that, *"Thanks to Calvary we are not the person we used to be."*

I. The Corruption of Sinners Is Exposed

In [verses 9-10](#) of our text, Paul describes the corrupt condition of the lost. But as indicated in [verse 11](#), many of the Corinthian believers had been saved from such a corrupt life.

The conditions that Paul described in [verses 9-10](#) describe many of us in this room today. Like the Corinthian believers, many of us were saved out of such a life. Paul wants to remind them and us of what we were before we were saved, and that now we should be different since we have been saved! Notice the life that is described prior to salvation.

A. We See a Lost Condition.

Look at verse 9. Paul asks a question here. He says:

1Co 6:9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?

Paul was simply declaring that before we were saved we were lost and separated from God. And the reason for our lost condition is that we were *"unrighteous."*

adikos

ad'-ee-kos

From [G1](#) (as a negative particle) and [G1349](#); *unjust*; by extension *wicked*; by implication *treacherous*; specifically *heathen*: - unjust, unrighteous.

The word *"unrighteous"* simply means that we were *"unjust"*, or wicked. And the result of our lost condition is that we were not an heir of "the kingdom of God." In other words we were cut off from God in this life and the life to come.

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

Eph 2:12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

Here we are told that even more than being simply unjust or wicked, we were actually dead in our trespasses and sins, without hope, and without God. Looking back at our text, not only can we see a lost condition, but:

B. We See a Lowly Condition

1Co 6:9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

1Co 6:10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

Because we were unrighteous, we lived a life of unrighteousness, and our condition was manifested in our conduct. These verses really hit home, and for some of us, it was a hard pill to swallow. I'm thankful that the Bible isn't politically correct. I'm thankful that it calls an ace an ace and a spade a spade. In our kinder, gentler society today, we aren't afforded that opportunity, but if we are truthful, we make judgements about others all of the time based on their conduct. You know what I mean, walks like a duck, quacks like a duck, it's probably a duck. I learned from an early age that you just can't pretend for very long. You can put lipstick and pearls on a pig all day long, but it's eventually gonna find a mudhole. Its condition is manifested in it's conduct. Lost people are gonna be lost people, no matter how well they clean up on Sunday. And that's what the Bible is telling us here.

Our condition was manifested in our conduct.

In [verses 9-10](#) Paul cataloged a list of sins that are characteristic of the lifestyles many lived before they were saved. In [verse 9](#) Paul speaks of those who lived a life of sexual corruption. He speaks of:

- **Fornicators:** those who lived in sexual immorality before they were either saved or married.
- **Adulterers:** those who were unfaithful to a marriage partner and lived a life of infidelity. (Can also refer to those who live lives of unfaithfulness before the Lord!)

I'm going to step on some toes here, because what I'm about to say isn't politically correct, but that's ok. If someone is offended by my next statement, I would suggest that they should take it up with the Author of the Book I am quoting from.

- **Effeminate and abusers of themselves with mankind:** those who lived a life of homosexuality, transvestitism, and other gender perversions.

Also, in [verse 9](#) Paul speaks of those who lived a life of spiritual corruption. He speaks of:

- **Idolaters:** those who worshiped and bowed down to false gods, including self, and false religious systems.

In [verse 10](#), Paul continues his list and speaks of those who lived a life of social corruption: He speaks of:

- **Thieves:** those who steal and take away from others.
- **Covetous:** those who in a greedy fashion desire what others have.
- **Drunkards:** those who are bound by alcohol and strong drink.
- **Revilers:** those who destroy with their tongues and wound with their words.
- **Extortioners:** those who steal indirectly and take unfair advantage of others.

Look at verse 11.

1Co 6:11 And such were some of you:

Paul's words in [verse 11](#), imply that not every person lived this kind of life before they were saved. Some lived decent and moral lives.

Now I know that at this moment there is someone sitting out there that is saying to themselves, now wait a minute Brother Ray, the Bible says that all men are "dead" in trespasses and sins. And I would say, you are absolutely correct. In fact, let's go there. Look at Ephesians 2: 1-3.

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

Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

Eph 2:3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

There isn't any discrepancy here, Every one of us was, or is dead in our trespasses and sins. The only difference is the state of decay. The state of decay for many of us was a foul, putrefying, stench in the nostrils of God. We lived a corrupt self-serving life. We lived a perverse, and wicked life. For others, not so much. What Paul is saying here is that some of us went down the rabbit hole just a bit further than others. All of us were "*unrighteous*," all of us were "*dead in trespasses and sins*", and all of us were not heirs of the "*kingdom of God*." However, in some of us, it was just more obvious.

Well, this has been pretty depressing so far. And truthfully Paul, in all of his writings, masterfully paints the human condition as it is, before he flips the switch and shows the grace of God. Paul is about to flip the switch here. So, pay attention, because here comes the river card. Look at verse 11 and I want you to see that:

II. The Change in the Saints Is Exalted

1Co 6:11 And such were some of you:

Paul says, "*And such were some of you.*" Thank God for the word "*were*." Praise God I can say, "*Thanks to Calvary, I am not the man I used to be.*"

Paul was saying to these Corinthian believers, "*This is what you used to be. This is how you used to live, but there has been a marvelous and glorious change in your life.*"

What kind of change was Paul speaking of in their life?

A. There has Been a Positional Change

We were “*unrighteous*” positionally and therefore lost. We were not an heir of the “*kingdom of God.*” But salvation has made a change in that condition.

As John Newton said:

*Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I'm found,
Twas blind but now I see.*

Paul declared in [2 Corinthians 5:21](#):

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.

Paul also declared in [Romans 8:17](#):

Rom 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

Whereas before I trusted Christ, I was unrighteous and unable to inherit the Kingdom of God, I am now “*righteous*” in Jesus Christ and a “*joint-heir*” in Christ. There has been a positional change in our lives.

B. There Has Also Been a Personal Change.

Look back at verse 11 of our text:

“*And such were some of YOU.*” Paul declares that once we lived like those mentioned in [verses 9-10](#), but now we are totally different people.

2Co 5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Salvation produced a marvelous change in how we lived. Some used to be a drunkard but now they are a deacon. Some used to be convict with a bad name, but now they are a Christian with a blessed name.

Some used to be an embarrassment to the family, but now they are the envy of the family. Some used to be the talk of the community but now they are the talk of the Church. Some used to curse like a sailor but now they shout like a saint.

It used to be that parents did not want their children around you for you were a bad example. Now you teach their children and they pray they grow up to be just like you.

Some of you may have heard of Norma McCorvey. Norma McCorvey was named as “Jane Roe” of the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision in 1973, legalizing abortion. A few years ago McCorvey was working in a women's health clinic in Dallas.

The national headquarters for Operation Rescue moved in next door to this women's clinic. The head of this pro-life organization was Philip Benham. It was there that Benham first encountered Norma McCorvey.

Now you can imagine that two such individuals in such close proximity would generate a significant amount of hostility. After all, this was the same woman who (in a reporter's hearing) invited a critic who accused her of killing babies to “*bring yours over here and we'll do them too.*”

At first, the relationship was tense. Accusations bounced back and forth between the protest lines. But Benham, instead of personally attacking McCorvey, the poster child of the proabortion movement, lowered his defenses, cooled the rhetoric, and simply began talking to her. He took an interest in her. He listened to her. He showed her love and compassion. The two became unlikely friends.

Norma McCorvey slowly began to reveal the secret doubts that plagued her heart. The sight of empty swings in a playground one afternoon suddenly gripped her. She later told ABC News, “*They were swinging back and forth, but they were all empty, and I just totally lost it. And I thought, Oh my God, the playgrounds are empty because there's no children, because they have all been aborted.*”

Within a few weeks, Norma McCorvey began visiting the offices of Operation Rescue, even volunteering to do a few odd jobs. The folks at Operation Rescue showed her courtesy, warmth, and friendship. Then seven-year-old Emily, daughter of the office manager, invited McCorvey to church. McCorvey accepted and that very night she accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior.

Now Norma McCorvey volunteers at Operation Rescue and has become an outspoken opponent of the cause she once defended so fiercely. A correspondent from the Washington Times reported that she “prays, sometimes from 1 A.M. to 3 A.M.”

What can make such a drastic turnaround and difference in a Norma McCorvey? It is the saving power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

As Charles Gabriel wrote:

*What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought,
Since Jesus came into my heart!
I have light in my soul, for which long I had sought,
Since Jesus came into my heart!*

Let's look back at our text and see that:

III. The Condition of the Saints Is Examined

In [verse 11](#), Paul tells us that our salvation not only changed us but also completed us. In other words, we have been given in our salvation all that is needed for this new life we have in Christ. We are complete in Christ.

He says,

1Co 6:11 ...but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Notice the repeated use of the word “*but*”. This word indicates the extent of the changes which have taken place. It made no difference what the Corinthians had been before they came to know Jesus, all that mattered at this point was what they had become because of His work in them. There are three things I would like you to see here. First:

A. We See How God Cleansed Us

Paul says, “*but ye are washed.*” Paul is saying that all the wicked things we did in the past have been cleansed and forgiven. He is talking about the new birth.

Joh 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**

Joh 3:7 **Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.**

When we come to Jesus by faith, we are regenerated, not through personal effort, but through the grace and mercy of the Lord.

Tit 3:3 **For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, *and* hating one another.**

Tit 3:4 **But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,**

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.**

If you are troubled and tortured by your past, then remember that God has “*washed*” you. The word “*wash*” speaks of “*that which has been purified.*” All the pollution of a past life has been purged and the life purified.

Please look back at verse 11 of our text. And I want you to look at the words “are washed”, “sanctified”, and “justified”.

Now, I am not a Greek scholar, nor do I play one on TV, but I did find out something very interesting about this verse. There is cause and effect, action and result.

The verbs in this verse, *sanctified* and *justified* are in the *passive voice* signifying that they happen to us apart from any action on our part. These are gifts of God. They are the result of an action.

However, the verb “*are washed*” is in the *middle voice* meaning literally “*ye have washed yourselves*”. This is the action. The idea is that *we responded to the message of the Gospel by faith and as a result we were washed*.

Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:
Eph 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Salvation is of the Lord, but *He requires a faith response from us*. God has done everything necessary to save you, all that remains is understanding the Gospel message and trusting God to do what He said He would do.

Looking again to verse 11 of our text:

B. We See How God Claims Us

Paul not only tells us that we have been purified but we also have been sanctified. Paul says, “*but ye are sanctified.*”

The word “*sanctified*” speaks of “*that which has been set apart for God*”.

1Co 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*
1Co 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

The particular word used here speaks of a *positional sanctification*. This is another big 5 dollar term that theologians like to throw around with a whole bunch of other big words that make your head hurt. But the idea is this:

We belong to God and He claims us as His own.

Often we think of how we used to live and think to ourselves, “God could never use me or bless me. I have been too mean and lived such a wicked life. God could never do anything with me.”

But, that is where you are wrong. See, it doesn't matter what you did or how you lived before you were saved, because the moment you were saved you were God's. He took you from an old life and gave you a new life. He claims you as a trophy of grace.

Not only does God claim us, but He makes us holy inwardly, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, He enables us to live holy lives outwardly. When you meet Jesus, you will never be the same again, because as we have already seen, you are a new creature, the old things have passed away, never to be brought up again, everything has become new. You were regenerated, not remodeled.

Finally, looking back at our text:

C. We See How God Considers Us

We are not only purified and sanctified, but we are also justified. Paul says, *“but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”*

The word *“justified”* speaks of *our standing before God*. When God considers us, He no longer considers us, fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, effeminate, abusers of ourselves with mankind, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers, extortioners, but as righteous in His Son the Lord Jesus.

God no longer looks at us as what we used to be as sinners, but what we are in His Son. In Christ we have been declared righteous.

Salvation has provided all we need to be complete in Christ. Because I am purified I can face my guilt. Because I am sanctified I can be what I should be and now live godly. Because I am justified, I do not have to worry about what I am, who I am or what I was!

The chorus to the song: *Thanks To Calvary* goes like this:

Thanks to Calvary, I am not the man that I used to be!

Thanks to Calvary, things are different than before.

While the tears ran down my face, I tried to tell them:

Thanks to Calvary I don't come here anymore!

Has the Lord Jesus Christ ever changed your life? Is there light where there used to be darkness? Is there hope where there used to be defeat? Is there life where there used to be defeat?

You should praise His name and raise the roof on this place if you have been changed!

If you haven't been changed, please listen very closely. You see, in our text this morning, Paul was writing to Christians. He was writing to these people to tell them that they should have been ashamed to be living like the lost world. He was writing to tell them and us, that they were not saved for that, but from that! These people had been changed, they just weren't acting like it.

But, if you haven't been changed, none of the good stuff in this message applies to you, you might be a good ol' boy, but, you haven't been declared righteous, and you aren't going to heaven. God doesn't grade on the curve, and frankly friend, you need to be saved!

If there has never been a time when you understood the Gospel and placed your trust in Jesus Christ to save you, don't let this moment pass. It would be our pleasure to sit down with you and show you how that you too can say, that Thanks to Calvary, I'm not the man I used to be.