

Steps Forward with Grace and into Real Progress in Christlikeness in Real Life

Renovaré Series Video #3 - Part 2 – The Goal of Formation is Life

© Dallas Willard Ministries

1. Many have a wrong perception of what Romans teaches about salvation and the Gospel, so we must look at what Romans actually teaches.
 - *Ro. 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jews then to the Gentiles.*
What is the Gospel of Christ? The popular gospel is that Jesus suffered what you need to suffer, so that you won't have to suffer. God beat up Jesus, so He doesn't have to beat up you.
 - *Ro. 1:17 For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed - a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."*
The Gospel is the revelation of the righteousness of God in life.

The Apostle Paul is an example of one who experienced salvation as transformation of "the inner world of the human self."

- *1 Corinthians 2:3-4 I came to you in weakness... Me and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power.*
- *2 Cor. 12:8 ...in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan, to torment me.*
Dallas suggests that Paul's thorn was not a physical problem, but the insults, disrespect and persecution he was subjected to in spite of the fact that he was highly educated, a man of great character, and a Roman citizen. In Philippians 3:3-4 Paul writes, "we ...glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh, although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more... Paul's battle with the flesh was centered here. He had the right to demand respect, compensation, credit, and honor, but unfairly endured insults and persecution.
- *2 Cor. 10:10 His letters are weighty and forceful, but in person he is unimpressive and his speaking amounts to nothing."*
- *2 Cor. 12:9 my grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.*
- *2 Cor. 12:10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weakness, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

Paul's decision was to turn from his flesh and see that God was using his circumstances to perfect the treasure within. The point is that Paul did not view salvation simply as forgiveness of sins, but the transformation of the inner self. This was "the power of God for salvation" (Ro. 1:16) of which he was not ashamed.

2. Romans 1-3

- *Romans 1:18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of people...* He allows people to go their own way.
- *Ro. 3:21 But now, apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets.* He also invites everyone into the good life.
- *v22 ...even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe,*

Steps Forward with Grace and into Real Progress in Christlikeness in Real Life

Renovaré Series Video #3 - Part 2 – The Goal of Formation is Life

© Dallas Willard Ministries

- v23 *for there is no distinction, all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*
- v24 *being justified as a gift by grace through the redemption which is in Jesus Christ*
- V25...*whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in his blood through faith. This was to demonstrate his righteousness because of the forbearance of God... he passed over the sins previously committed*

What was the redemption which is in Christ Jesus? It's the availability of life in the kingdom of God. Faith does not just get us forgiveness, but throws our life into God's life in the kingdom of God. If you get the gospel wrong, you won't go on into spiritual transformation!

- v26 *for the demonstration, I say, of his righteousness at the present time, so that he would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

The problem is, "How can you be just and justify people who are ungodly?" Is it that the Father beat up the Son so he doesn't beat up you? Is it only a heavenly transaction where God makes a deposit in your account? No, it's his good in making life available to people in Jesus Christ. The rightness of God that makes him just and the justifier of those who put their faith in Christ is the goodness of God in making life from above available in Christ. People, today, are thinking there is a way around Jesus Christ, but there isn't. *1 Tim. 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator also God and men, the man Jesus Christ.* There is no question he died for our sins, but forgiveness is not the Gospel. It's part of it, but not the Gospel. Your life in Christ and in the kingdom is the Gospel. What is the righteousness of God? It's life from above that delivers us. My main task is to help us see the focus on salvation as deliverance into the kingdom of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

3. Romans 7

- The problem in Romans 7 is the broken soul. Paul confesses, "I can't do it because I'm broken." This is where deliverance comes in. Salvation is deliverance. Deliverance from the weight of our guilt is good, cancelled sin still has power. Forgiveness is not enough.
- What frees us in the life in the Trinity.

John 14: 16 I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. 18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also. 20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. 21 He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."

The promise is that the Trinity moves into the life; that's deliverance. The presence of God is the key. *Col. 2:2 ...a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself, in who are hidden all treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

Paul did not live in Romans 7!

Steps Forward with Grace and into Real Progress in Christlikeness in Real Life
Renovaré Series Video #3 - Part 2 – The Goal of Formation is Life
© Dallas Willard Ministries

QUESTIONS

1. Dallas is helping us gain a full understanding of “salvation.” In a few sentences try to share a summary of how salvation includes spiritual formation, discipleship, forgiveness, deliverance and life in Christ.
2. *Romans 7: 18 For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.* Dallas said, “Paul did not live in Romans 7.” What does he mean? Do you think that many Christians live here? Do you believe we can get out of Romans 7?
3. After listening to this message, how would you explain the Good News of Jesus Christ to someone who knows nothing about it?

Notes, outline and summary are by Bill Dwyer.