

## SOTERIOLOGY (117)

**Achievement #12** - At the moment of salvation, a person is brought near . Eph. 2:13

It is very clear that at the moment of salvation a new relationship occurs between God and the believer. There is a closeness that previously did not exist. There is a whole new positional reality in that one once far removed from God is now brought close to God. This positional reality becomes the potential possibility for every believer to live life in close, intimate harmony with the Holy God of the bible. This potential of having a close relationship with God began at the moment of salvation (James 4:8; Heb. 10:22).

**Achievement #13** - At the moment of salvation, a person is delivered from the power of darkness . Col. 1:13

As we have already seen in this study, prior to salvation, a person is totally under the dominating power of Satan (II Cor. 4:3-4; Eph. 2:1-2; I John 5:19). However, at the moment of salvation, the believer is delivered from that power (Acts 26:18). Although believers are destined for a war against satanic forces, it is also revealed in Scripture that if the believer arms himself properly, he can victoriously win every skirmish (Eph. 6:10-12). Only the believer has been delivered from Satan's power, the rest of the world is still dominated by him.

**Achievement #14** - At the moment of salvation, a person is placed into the Kingdom of God . Col. 1:13-14; I Thess. 2:12; II Pet. 1:11

The kingdom the N.T. believer is placed in is far different than the Jewish Kingdom longed for by Israel. We are not looking or longing or hoping for a kingdom, we are already in it. Although it is doubtful that any believer will fully grasp the significance of this important reality, it is clearly revealed that at the moment of salvation a person is not only delivered from the powers of darkness, but is delivered into God's Kingdom. This means that instantly a person becomes part of God's family which immediately entitles him to share in God's eternal program and wealth.

**Achievement #15** - At the moment of salvation, a person is placed on the rock .

At the moment of salvation, a believer has a life that is instantly established on the only right foundation. Jesus Christ referred to this concept in Matt. 7:24-27. In this He taught a very important principle—any structure build on the foundation of the rock is one that will withstand anything. Later, Paul would use this imagery to teach that anyone who had the foundation of Jesus Christ would stand, even if his works were burned (I Cor. 3:11-15). Those who have not believed on Christ have their foundation on the sand and someday they will crumble.

**Achievement #16** - At the moment of salvation, a person becomes a gift to Christ .

Every believer in Jesus Christ is a gift from God the Father to Jesus Christ. That fact is clearly brought out in Jesus' prayer found in John 17 (17:6-9, 11-12, 24).

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Dr. C. I. Scofield says, “Seven times Jesus speaks of Christians as given to Him by the Father (vv. 2, 6 (twice), 9, 11, 12, 24). Jesus Christ is God’s love gift to the world (3:16), and believers are the Father’s love gift to Jesus Christ. It is Christ who commits the Christian to the Father for safekeeping, so that the believer’s security rests upon the Father’s faithfulness to His Son Jesus Christ” (NASV, p. 1511).

Little did we realize that at the moment of our salvation we were actually a love gift from God the Father to God the Son. Jesus Christ clearly reveals that He loses none of these gifts given to Him by His Father (John 18:9).

**Achievement #17** - At the moment of salvation, a person is circumcised in Christ.

At the moment of salvation, a new believer is classified as being spiritually circumcised in Christ (Col. 2:11; Eph. 2:11). O.T. circumcision was a rite in which an Israelite separated himself from the rest of the world. Circumcision became an identifying mark that he was separated unto God. This spiritual circumcision of the heart is a Divine work of God in which He separates a believer spiritually unto Jesus Christ forever.

**Achievement #18** - At the moment of salvation, a person becomes a partaker of God’s priesthood.

Believers in Jesus Christ form a holy, royal priesthood (I Pet. 2:5, 9). In fact, together believers form a kingdom of priests (Rev. 1:6). At the moment of salvation, the believer in Jesus Christ was given this royal status by God.

**Achievement #19** - At the moment of salvation, a person becomes part of the chosen generation.

This point is clearly stated in I Pet. 2:9. Dr. Chafer, in discussing this verse, writes: “All three of these designations (Chosen Generation, Holy Nation, Peculiar People) refer to one and the same general idea, namely, that the company of believers of this age—individuals called out from the Jews and Gentiles alike—are different from the unsaved Jew and Gentile to the extent to which thirty-three stupendous miracles transform them. They are a generation, not in the sense that they are restricted to one span of human life, but in the sense that they are the offspring of God. They are a nation in the sense that they are separate, a distinct grouping among all the peoples of the earth. They are a peculiar people in the sense that they are born of God and are, therefore, not of this cosmos world. These three designations represent permanent positions to which the believer has been brought and they, likewise, make a large contribution to the sum total of all the riches of divine grace” (Vol. 3, pp. 251-252).

Israel was the chosen nation of the O.T. age and the Christian, comprised of both Jew and Gentile, are the chosen people of this present age (I Cor. 1:24).

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When a person comes to faith in Jesus Christ, he actually becomes part of a very special Divine choice of God which is, in many ways, on the same sovereign scale of God's selection of the nation Israel. This is not a replacement for Israel, but it is a relationship like Israel.

**Achievement #20** - At the moment of salvation, a person becomes a heavenly citizen.

Every Christian, at the moment of salvation, becomes a citizen of heaven (Phil. 3:20). This fact is so positionally secure that once a person believes on Christ, he is classified by God as being a stranger and pilgrim while here on earth (Heb. 11:13; I Pet. 1:1). When a person believes on Christ, he is no longer a citizen of earth. He, by Divine Decree of God, becomes a citizen of heaven. This is why it is very foolish to invest the majority of life on things pertaining to this world, when this world is not home for the believer.

**Achievement #21** - At the moment of salvation, a person becomes a member of the family of God's household.

This is very close to the fact that a believer is a citizen of heaven, but it is more restrictive in that, at the moment of salvation, the believer actually becomes part of the family and household of God (Eph. 2:19). This privilege means we have a responsibility to other family members (Gal. 6:10). This privilege also means that we will hold a household position of honor or dishonor depending on how much we did for God's glory as a family member (II Tim. 2:19-21).

**Achievement #22** - At the moment of salvation, a person has immediate fellowship with the saints.

There is a supernatural unity among all true Christians of all ages that is immediately applied at the moment of salvation (Eph. 4:4-6). This special fellowship was the object of a prayer of Jesus Christ (John 17:11, 21-23). Since this is positionally applied at the moment of salvation, it ought to be practically applied in salvation. A unified church is a powerful church.

**Achievement #23** - At the moment of salvation, a person becomes part of heavenly associations.

The link one has with heavenly things at the moment of salvation is truly a powerful demonstration of God's amazing grace:

- 1) A person becomes a partner with Jesus Christ in His life. Col. 1:27; 3:4
- 2) A person becomes a partner with Jesus Christ in His position. Eph. 2:6; Col. 3:1
- 3) A person becomes a partner with Jesus Christ in His service. I Cor. 3:9; II Cor. 6:1, 4

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- 4) A person becomes a partner with Jesus Christ in His suffering. Phil 1:29; Col. 1:24  
I Thess. 3:3 II Tim. 3:12; I Pet. 4:12-13

True partners of Jesus Christ are destined to suffer like Jesus Christ. If we analyze Christ's life, we may conclude He suffered verbally, emotionally, financially and physically. Dr. Chafer writes: "Partnership with Christ in suffering is real and reflects the fact that the Christian occupies a position of untold distinction" (Vol. 3, pp. 256-257).

- 5) A person becomes a partner with Jesus Christ in His prayer. John 14:12-14

The words of John Walvoord are powerful on this point: "Christians are also partners with Christ in prayer and are exhorted to pray in the name of Christ. Through prayer in the name of Christ they will be able to accomplish greater things than Christ could have accomplished if He remained on earth (John 14:12-14). Christ performed many wonderful miracles on earth, but He operated in only one place at a time.

Believers in Christ may be scattered over the world, each with a direct connection with Christ on His throne, and with their ministry can accomplish more than Christ could have accomplished if He had remained on earth after His resurrection" (Vol. 2, p. 144).

- 6) A person becomes a partner with Jesus Christ in His betrothal. Eph. 5:25-32

At the moment of salvation, every believer becomes part of the Church which is the bride of Jesus Christ. Every believer is united with Jesus Christ in true Holy Matrimony. Every believer is waiting for the day when Christ will come to get His bride and waiting for the wedding feast when Christ will come back with His bride.

- 7) A person becomes a partner with Jesus Christ in His hope. Titus 2:13

We share in the blessed hope of someday being with and reigning with Jesus Christ. It will be a time when all evil is abolished and perfect righteousness will reign. We learn from the Word of God that Christ also shares this same blessed hope (John 14:3; Heb. 10:13). He, too, longs for the day when He will be with His people forever and all evil will be done away. At the moment of salvation, we become a partner with Christ in this great expectation.

Clearly, when we come to faith in Christ, we become associated with many heavenly things. These are all part of the grace of God given to one who believes.

**Achievement #24** - At the moment of salvation, a person has access to God.

At the moment of salvation, a believer is not only saved by God's grace (Eph. 2:8), but he also stands in God's grace (Rom. 5:2). As Dr. Chafer said, "The same grace that saved him, sustains" (Vol. 3, p. 258).