

Ephesians 2:1-10; Philippians 1:6
So Great a Salvation

We have much to rejoice about in our “So Great a Salvation.” For one nothing has been left undone. Our glorious redemption has been secured for us long ago by the crucified Christ and Resurrected Lord. (Romans 8:31-39) What’s wrong with this bumper sticker? “Christians are not perfect just forgiven”

I. Our Preconverted State

A. Sin brings a horrible state of death – v.1

B. Sin brings a horrible state of slavery – Rom. 6:16,20

1. Paul’s favorite metaphor – “walked” v.2
2. Controlled by Satan – v.2

C. Good News:

1. Grace abounded much more – Rom. 5:20
2. God did something about our deadness – v.5
3. If Christ merely died our salvation would be incomplete – I Cor. 15:3,4-20
4. The necessity of the resurrection – Eph. 2:5-6 (Dr. Richard Gaffin)
5. Christ’s resurrection took place with us – II Cor.5:17; Rom. 8:10,11

II. Our Post Converted State

A. Our justified faith (Eph. 2:8,9) Our sanctified works – Eph. 2:10

1. Anti-text Illustrated...
2. Our text – Phil. 1:6

B. Our “sin remains but does not reign” (Murray)

1. Our union with Christ – Rom. 6:4,5
2. Our sanctification process is not to be taken figuratively – Gal. 2:20; Col. 1:1, 3

C. Raised with Christ

1. What if I don’t feel like I have been raised with Christ?
Ans. It’s not a matter of feeling; it is a matter of believing what the Word of God says. II Cor. 4:16; Eph. 2:10
2. What are the good works the believer performs?
3. Is Sanctification really necessary for our salvation? – Heb. 12:14
4. What is the origin of our works? Eph. 2:10
5. What is Sanctification? (Shorter Catechism)

D. The Golden chain of our salvation – Rom. 8:29-30

Conclusion:

How should we change this bumper sticker? “Christians are not perfect just forgiven”
The answer is Christians are not “just” forgiven. Christians are justified, sanctified and glorified. Perfection in the believer has already begun in Christ’s death and resurrection and will reach complete perfection at the return of the Lord Jesus on the last day.