

The Judgement of God

1. The holiness of God is the base on which the rest of Christian teaching finds significance.
2. The God ordained genocide in the Old Testament can be addressed with a number of partial explanations.
3. The Cross of Christ provides a unique lens through which to make sense of the wrath of God in the Bible.
4. The Cross of Christ provides a unique lens through which one can understand salvation by faith and judgment by works.

The good news of the Gospel is that we are justified by faith through the work of Christ for us not through us.

Galatians 2:21

"I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then **Christ died needlessly.**"

Galatians 3:26

"For you are all sons of God **through faith** in Christ Jesus."

Galatians 5

"⁴ You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. ⁵ For we through the Spirit, **by faith**, are waiting for the hope of righteousness."

Romans 4

"⁴ Now to the one who works, his wage is not reckoned as a favor, but as what is due. ⁵ But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who **justifies the ungodly**, his faith is reckoned as righteousness,"

1. The **ungodly** are justified by faith without and before producing any godly works.
2. Godly works should be the **fruit** of "faith righteousness" not the essence of it.

When the Bible speaks of the final judgement it is almost always on the basis of our works, not our faith.

Romans 2

"⁵ . . . you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, ⁶ **who will render to every man according to his deeds:** ⁷ to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; ⁸ but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation."

1. The basis of judgment will be our deeds.
2. Eternal life or wrath are the results.

2 Corinthians 5:10

"For we must all appear before the judgment-seat of Christ, that each one may be **recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done**, whether good or bad."

1. All believers will face judgment.
2. The judgment will have to do with what they have done in this life.

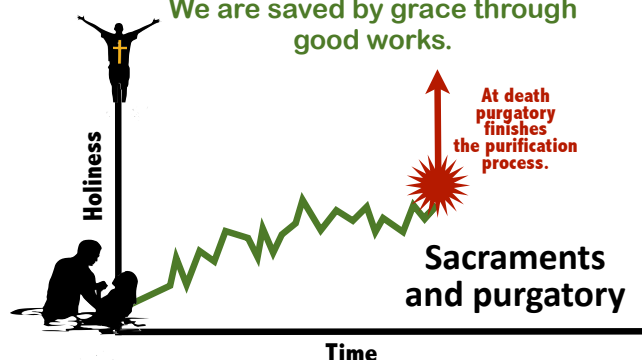
The general judgement of Matthew 25

the sheep	the goats
united with God in heaven	separated from God forever
the righteous by works (faith working through love)	the unrighteous

How have Christians reconciled these seemingly contradictory messages?

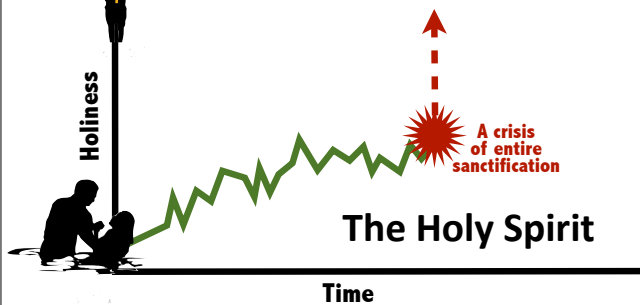
The Roman Catholic perspective

We are saved by grace through good works.



The Wesleyan perspective

We are saved by grace through faith, which enables good works.

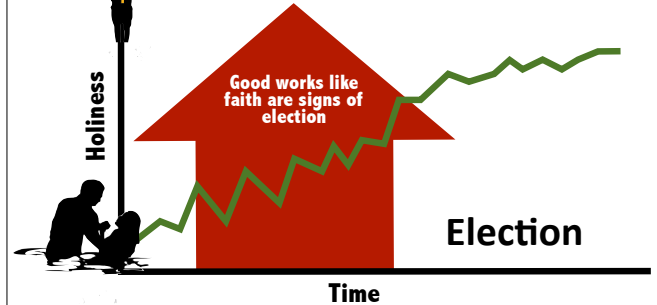


The Holy Spirit

Time

The Calvinistic perspective

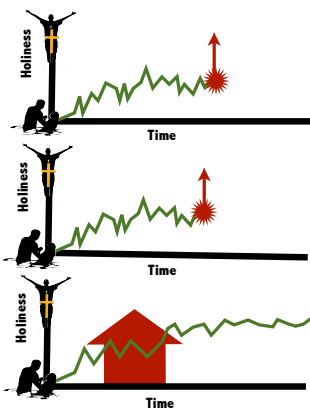
We are saved by God's gracious election to faith and good works.



Election

Time

In each case believers are judged by their works.



The Roman Catholic perspective

(faith = **works**)

The Wesleyan perspective

(faith the path to **works**)

The Calvinistic perspective

(**Works** authenticate faith)

Is the Gospel story all about me or about Christ?

- my faith - my faithfulness - my fruitfulness - my fulfillment -

"Me" centered religion is preoccupied with:

- ✓ This temporal life
- ✓ Spiritual experience
- ✓ Holy Spirit power
- ✓ Ministry results
- ✓ Ethics in action
- ✓ Practical application

"Me" centered religion makes us vulnerable to:

- ✓ Guilt and shame
- ✓ Pride
- ✓ Jealousy
- ✓ Superficial judgment
- ✓ Fear

"Practiced holiness" for salvation raises difficult questions.

- ✓ How holy do I have to be and for how long?
- ✓ How does Christianity differ from Judaism?
- ✓ What is the meaning of the Cross?
- ✓ In what sense is the Gospel good news?

The Gospel story is about God's action in Christ that affects me!



- ✓ Creator - image bearer
- ✓ Redeemer - saved
- ✓ Lord - disciple
- ✓ Revealer - receiver

As Christians we are holy in two senses:

1.

Positional holiness

The imputed righteousness of Christ to all who believe.

what Christ has done for us.

This makes us fit for heaven.

2.

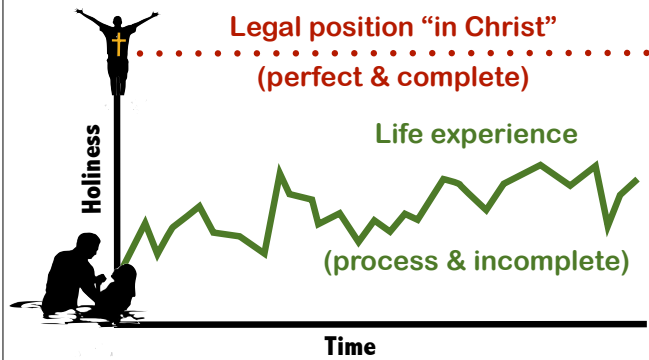
Practiced holiness

The imparted righteousness of Christ to all who obey.

what the Spirit can do in & through us.

This makes us fit for earth.

The two aspects of holiness



The two aspects of Christ's work



- ✓ a **child** of God
- ✓ **fixed** position
- ✓ based on **faith**
- ✓ my **identity**
- ✓ a **disciple** of Christ
- ✓ **dynamic** posture
- ✓ based on **faithfulness**
- ✓ my **calling**

Christians are judged on the basis of Christ's work for us with respect to our salvation, and our work for him with respect to our rewards.

1 Corinthians 3

"¹¹ For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if any man builds upon the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is to be revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. ¹⁴ If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a reward. ¹⁵ If any man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire."

1. The foundation of faith (Christ) is not the issue.
2. How we build on that foundation is the issue.
3. The believer's judgment is not about eternal destiny.



Our security rests with



our positional holiness

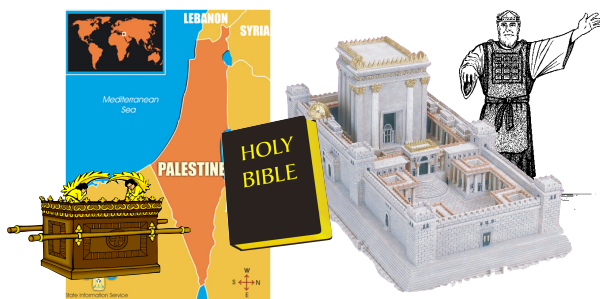
not

our practiced holiness

1. Positional holiness in the Old Testament
2. Imputed righteousness 2 Corinthians 5:21
3. Propitiation Isaiah 53:4-12
4. The Law, Christ, & the Spirit Isaiah 53:4-12
5. No condemnation in Christ Romans 8:1
6. The pattern of Paul's letters Romans 12:1-2
7. The message of Romans

Our salvation rests with our positional holiness not our practiced holiness

1. Positional holiness in the Old Testament



The temple priest was ceremonially sanctified with water before he performed his sacred duties.

This had to do with his official position not his personal character.

Water baptism is our "positional" washing as believer priests.

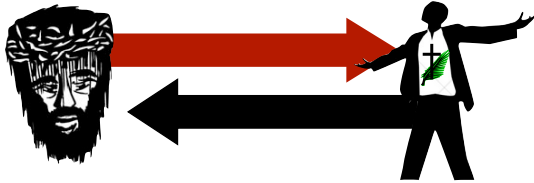
This has to do with our union with Christ not our meritorious good works.



**Our salvation rests with our positional holiness
not our practiced holiness**

1. Positional holiness in the Old Testament
2. Imputed righteousness 2 Corinthians 5:21

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”



What changes

when a person becomes a Christian?

- ✓ **Some things will change immediately, completely, and irrevocably.** (our position in Christ, our direction in life)
- ✓ **Some things may not change at all.** (personality, physical body, formative circumstances, etc.)
- ✓ **Some things may change gradually and incompletely.** (wisdom, spiritual maturity, moral perfection, character, etc.)

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“4 . . . we considered him **stricken by God, smitten by him**, and afflicted. . . . 6 **the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all**. . . . 12 For he **bore the sin of many**, and made intercession for the transgressors.”

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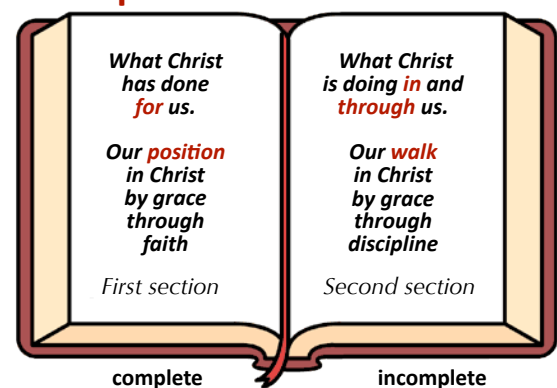


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“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

The pattern of Paul's letters



The order is consistent and significant

The emphasis of the Gospels

The Passion and Resurrection

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

The Passion and Resurrection

birth, teaching, miracles, deeds of Jesus

The emphasis of the Epistles

Epistles

Romans

1. God will judge everyone by their works.
2. Everyone will fall short.
3. Christ is a propitiation through his blood.
4. The Gospel is the righteousness of faith.
5. There is now no condemnation in Christ.
6. We are to offer ourselves as living sacrifices.
7. Love is the fruit of grace and the fulfillment of the law.

Three concerns

*When my positional holiness does
not inspire the practice of holiness:*

1. *I lose my saltiness.*
2. *I fail to see and know God.*
3. *I become a candidate for discipline.*

2 Corinthians 5:14

“For the **love of Christ controls us**, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died.”

1. We are **motivated** not by fear of God’s wrath but by the love seen in Christ.
2. We believe that **we died with Christ**.

Romans 12

“¹ I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,”

1. We know and walk in the will of God only when we **present ourselves to Him and resist the ways of the world**.
2. Holy living **starts in the mind**.

Dwight L. Moody



“A holy life will make the deepest impression. Lighthouses blow no horns, they just shine.”