

# Three Tenses of Salvation

## Introduction

- Sometimes, if we are not careful, we can become confused by the many ways the Bible speaks about Salvation.
- Sometimes the Bible speaks about salvation in a non-spiritual sense, speaking of deliverance from things such as:
  - Danger – Jeremiah 15:20
  - Oppression – Psalm 35:9-10
  - Enemies – Exodus 14:13
- In this lesson, we will look at the importance of our salvation from sin as expressed in three different tenses (past, present, future).

## Past Tense

- *I am saved from the penalty of sin.*
- Justification – “that act of God whereby He declares righteous him who believes on Christ.” - Thiessen
- There are three elements to Justification:
  - Remission of sin’s penalty – Romans 8:1
  - Restoration to favor – John 3:36
  - Imputation of righteousness – II Corinthians 5:21
- It does not come through works or keeping the Law – Galatians 2:16, Ephesians 2:8-9
- It comes to us through God’s grace – Romans 3:24.
- We receive it through our faith – Romans 3:26,28

## Present Tense

- *I am being saved from the power of sin.*
- Sanctification – “a separation to God, an imputation of Christ as our holiness, purification from moral evil, and conformation to the image of Christ.” - Thiessen
- There are three aspects/tenses to Sanctification:
  - An initial act of positional sanctification – I Corinthians 6:11
  - A present process of sanctification – Philippians 3:13-14
  - A future, ultimate sanctification – I Thessalonians 5:23
- Generally, we speak of sanctification as the present process.
- God the Father (Jude 1), God the Son (Hebrews 2:9-11), and God the Holy Spirit (I Peter 1:2) all work in our sanctification.

- However, there is a human element involved in that we also participate in the process – Romans 8:13
- The Word of God is key to our present sanctification – John 17:17, Ephesians 5:26

## **Future Tense**

- *I will be saved from the presence of sin.*
- Glorification – a future state which is free from sin and its effects.
- A better state is promised to God's children – Romans 8:16-18
- This state will be ours through the Second Coming – I John 3:2
  - This motivates us to holiness in our present state – I John 3:3