

WHAT GOD DOES WHEN HE SAVES US

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:14-17, 28-39; 6:4
TEXT: Romans 8:28 “God works for the good of those who love Him.”
PURPOSE: To praise God for His complete work of redemption.

INTRODUCTION:

1. We may leave the mistaken impression: humans change themselves.
2. Salvation causes us to do a psychological flip-flop.
3. People say, “He turned over a new leaf.”
4. It is not just another side of the same man.
5. God takes a crumbling hunk of humanity and molds him into a godly saint.
6. We evangelicals emphasize humans’ part in conversion.
7. We stress the need to repent and have faith.
8. The majestic part of conversion, however, is God's work in us.
9. From Scripture we find God does three things in us when we experience conversion:
 - I. God justifies us, “It is God who justifies” (33).
 - A. We feel a need to be justified.
 1. When we are challenged for doing wrong, we try to justify ourselves.
 2. We utilize psychological defense mechanisms in order to place ourselves in a right position (2).
 - B. The Bible term justification has three applications.
 1. It is applied to a person who is right and against whom no charge can be brought.
 - a. The person has been faithfully obedient.
 - b. “Doers of law shall be justified” (Romans 2:13).
 2. Justified is applied to a person against whom an accusation has been made, but not sustained.
 - a. A person may be charged, but found innocent (Deuteronomy 25:1).
 - b. This is legal justification.
 3. Justification is applied to one who is accused, guilty and condemned.
 - a. How can such a person be justified?
 - b. In one sense only—that of pardon.
 - C. By an act of God sins are pardoned for Christ's sake.
 1. Our guilt is canceled.
 2. Our punishment is remitted.
 3. We are accepted before God as righteous.
 4. By a judicial act of God we are brought close to God as though we had never sinned.
 # Vern went to court where he was to be sentenced for shooting a man. His sentence was suspended. What relief he experienced. He was free!
- II. God adopts us into His family; “The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children” (16).
 - A. What is God like?
 1. Jesus referred to Him repeatedly as “Our Father.”
 2. This probably tells the most about God—He is as a father.
 3. We know (despite our home life) that a father is one who is responsible for us.

4. We know He cares and He provides for us.
 5. We know He rules with authority.
 - B. When we are converted, we are adopted into His family.
 1. We become His children.
 2. We hold all the rights and privileges due a child in good standing.
 3. We share in the glories of the family.
 4. God takes us in.
 - # (Tell of an actual adoption.)
 - # Jesus taught adoption in the moving story of the prodigal who reentered the family; the wayward son was welcomed home.
- III. God regenerates us; “Just as Christ was raised from the dead...we too may live a new life” (6:4).
- A. What regeneration is not.
 - #A lady once asked, “Can God really change a person?”
 1. The question came because of a wrong idea.
 2. Regeneration is a moral change in our hearts.
 3. It is not a physical or intellectual change.
 4. Regeneration is not a metamorphosis of human nature.
 - # It is not like a worm becoming a butterfly.
 5. We do not receive new egos.
 6. Our personality is the same after regeneration.
 7. We have the same I.Q.; the same feelings, and will.
 8. God does not undo in the new creation what He did in the first creation.
 9. What God changes is our spiritual and moral nature.
 10. He gives new direction to the intellect.
 11. The choices of the will are directed to a godly objective.
 12. Feelings are channeled in a holy direction.
 - B. We are regenerated by two agents:
 1. The Holy Spirit.
 - a. God changes us.
 - b. All the power of God Almighty is brought upon us.
 - # As Christ was changed from death to life in the resurrection, so are we changed.
 - c. “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, old things have passed away, behold all things are become new” (II Corinthians 5:17).
 - # Jesus described the whole process of regeneration to Nicodemus by saying, “You must be born again.”
 2. The Word of God.
 - a. The Bible's message changes us.
 - b. As we touch truth, it makes us different.
 - c. As we walk in the light, God illuminates us.
 - # As clay in the potter's hands is still clay, so are we. But God molds us for different purposes.

CONCLUSION:

1. What God does in us, no other person can do.
2. We must come to Him for pardon, adoption and new life—genuine transformation.
3. What happens in a moment's time at conversion is a terrific thing.
4. God works for us and in us.