

redemption was finished, the believer **perfected forever**,²⁰ and Christ glorified in heaven.²¹

There is no blessing outside of or apart from The Person of Christ – the heavenly man.²² When the eye is kept on the heavenly Christ,²³ all is light, joy, and peace; but if it be turned in on self and occupied with what it finds there, what it feels, or with anything that may come between the heart and Christ, all will be darkness, uncertainty, and unhappiness in the soul. Oh, how blessedly simple is the gospel of the glory and grace of God.²⁴

Entrance to the Calling

The Gospel of the Glory of Christ

The believer experiences all three offices of the Redeemer in their proper historical sequence: (1) Prophet – in his call and enlightenment; (2) Priest – in his conversion and justification; and (3) Priest and King – in his sanctification and glorification.

We experience first the prophetic service of Christ: (1) The Leading to Salvation – the call through His Word and enlightenment through His Spirit;²⁵ The awakening –

²⁰ Heb. 10:14

²¹ Eph. 1:3-6-7

²² 1 Cor. 15:47; Col. 2:9

²³ Heb. 12:2

²⁴ 1 Jn. 5:11-12; 2 Cor. 11:3

²⁵ Jn. 6:63

“Faith comes through the preaching.”²⁶ Alarmed by the accusation of an awakened conscience,²⁷ broken down under the Word of God,²⁸ self-condemned,²⁹ the man is allowed to recognize in the gospel of Christ the offer of salvation.³⁰ Then comes the priestly service, the experience of Golgotha.

(2) The Entrance into Salvation – through conversion and regeneration, the sinner reconciles the pardon of his guilt on the grounds of the priestly sacrifice and is renewed,³¹ transformed,³² made alive,³³ and born of God.³⁴

Regeneration is therefore the real entrance into redemption.³⁵ It is the counterpart to Christ having become man, the imputing (and imparting) of His life to us,³⁶ the dead.³⁷ Only by it (His life) do we become “new” men,³⁸ and members³⁹ of the “last Adam.”⁴⁰

²⁶ Rom. 10:17

²⁷ First comes Jn 1:9; Rom. 2:14-16, Jn 16: 8-11, then comes Jn 16: 13-14

²⁸ Ps. 51:1-8; Jer. 1:9-10

²⁹ Rom. 7:8-24

³⁰ Jn. 1:12; 3:3-5

³¹ Titus 3:5

³² 1 Cor. 6:11

³³ Eph. 2:5

³⁴ 1 Jn. 3:9; 4:7; 5:1, 4; Jn. 3:5

³⁵ Titus 3:5

³⁶ Jn. 14:6; Col. 3:4; Jn. 1:4

³⁷ Col. 1:27

³⁸ Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10

³⁹ 1 Cor. 12:27; Eph. 5:30; 4:25b

⁴⁰ 1 Cor. 15:45

But this new birth is connected inseparably with conversion, that is, a turning around.⁴¹ Regeneration is the divine side and conversion the human side of the same experience. Man experiences both simultaneously, but conversion is the condition (based upon a response to the call or offer of grace, through the gift of the free will) for regeneration, and regeneration is the divine answer to conversion.⁴² Man is responsible (to use his free will to respond to grace, Eph. 2:8-9) for conversion, for turning from self to God.⁴³

In conversion, the man is active (in his free will, voluntary response to grace, Rom. 5:6, 8, 10); “turn yourselves” – imperative.⁴⁴ In regeneration⁴⁵ he is passive; he “becomes regenerate” (“grace” – passive voice).

Conversion itself⁴⁶ is twofold: turning from and turning to, repentance and faith.⁴⁷ Repentance is denying (negative), faith is affirming (positive); repentance looks within, faith looks above; repentance sees our misery, faith sees our Deliverer. (This explains expiation – to expiate: “to atone for;” “make amends or reparation for one’s crimes”).

⁴¹ Acts 3:19; 15:19; 26:18; Lk. 22:31-32

⁴² Rom. 2:4; 2 Cor. 7:10

⁴³ Rom. 2:4; Ps. 25:16; 80:3; 85:4; Ps. 3:8; 25:5; Jonah 2:9

⁴⁴ Acts 3:19

⁴⁵ Jn. 3:3-5; Titus 3:5

⁴⁶ 1 Thess. 1:9

⁴⁷ Mk. 1:15