

COG 151: Life, Part 2 | Salvation

I. Desperation

- All men come into the world dead. (Ephesians 2:1, 5; Colossians 2:13)
- God, knowing our state, loving us, and “*not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance*” (II Peter 3:9), He shows us just how desperate our situation is. He sent His Son, His Spirit, His Scriptures, and His saints into our lives to teach us, convict us, and introduce us to the Living God. It’s the reality of death that God uses to juxtapose against a relationship of life.
- But we must be careful. Countless men and women have focused on the idea of living forever to the exclusion of the most important realities of salvation. Easy believe-ism and other poorly conceived evangelistical models have tried to scare people away from eternal death with the promise of eternal life. But instead of the goal, purpose, and point of that eternal life being that we could enjoy and glorify God for all eternity, God became merely the necessary power-source to achieve everlasting life . . . and nothing more. (Matthew 7:21; Romans 2:6-8)
- Yes, the gift of eternal life is a joyous reality, but it’s not really the point

II. Justification

- Ephesians 2:1-7; Colossians 2:13-14
- When most people think about life in salvation, this is the part about which they think. That moment when spiritual life is granted to us, when we walk through the veil from death to life, when we’re born again to new life in Christ, this is life, but there’s more.
- First, let’s consider this idea of being born again by the Spirit. It’s impossible for us to truly comprehend, and we’ll likely spend the rest of our eternal life meditating on it. But God took those of us who trust in Him, and made us alive!
- It was a categorical, diametric, nature-shifting change that He wrought in those who are born again. He forgave all of our transgressions, He canceled our debt, and He made us partakers in Christ’s death and resurrection.

III. Sanctification

- Ephesians 2:10; John 3:20-21; Genesis 3:22-23
- Living things grow. Period. Dead things may change as they decompose and deconstruct, but everything that is alive is in a process of growing.
- Sanctification multiplies that life as we mature in it. Not only does the quantity of our living increase into eternity, but the quality of our spiritual life on this earth is designed to improve as we are further transformed into the image of our Savior.
- What’s the point of getting life if you don’t live that life, and what’s the point of living that life if it never changes?
- Praise God that His life in us is a glorious process of change, growth, transformation, and maturation.
- Eternal life was not given to us simply so that we could continue as we are. If that were the case, God wouldn’t have withheld the Tree of Life from Adam and Eve after they sinned.
- We were given life so that we would be His workmanship, “*created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*”

IV. Glorification

- The point of life is not merely to show us our death.
- The point of life is not simply to make us alive.
- The point of life is not wholly to transition us from sin to righteousness.
- The point of life is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever in eternal perfection!
- We can't do that in this fallen, mortal body. Though spiritual life gave us a living, spiritual nature, we still have the sinful flesh in us, and we still have deteriorating physical bodies.
- But glorification is the moment where God eradicates all that is death in us. Not only will he recreate our physical bodies into the perfect state He originally intended, but—more importantly—He will vaporize our sinful hearts. We will be left with nothing but a perfect body and a perfect spirit with which we will bask in God's glory for all eternity.
- And though glorification too is a one-time event that though it may currently be in our futures, will one day be in our past, it sets in motion our eternal state.
- Now, that's not to say that our eternal life will be stagnate on unchanging. No, no. We will spend eternity learning about God and adoring Him for every new truth we learn about Him. We'll grow and mature in our knowledge, understanding, and wisdom, but we won't be moving from sinful to less sinful, we'll be moving from perfection to greater perfection.
- And none of this would be possible without God's gift of life!
- If you do not yet have spiritual life, recognize your need. See your death and the destruction it brings.
- If you are born again into new life in Christ, praise the Lord for it, but realize that He's given it to you for a purpose. He wants you to mature in it and use it to glorify Him on this earth—namely, to be salt and light so that others can come to have life eternal as well.
- But also remember that this portion our eternal life is not the end. We should be living a life that is focused forward, ever looking forward to our Lord's return and our everlasting relationship with Him. Stop being so short-sighted, stop being distracted from eternity with the tawdry pleasures of this world.
- There is so much for which we should be living . . . start now!