

Progressive Sanctification

1 Cor. 1:10-18

“There is, of course only one starting point in the Christian life: Calvary, where the sinner meets his Savior and is ransomed, healed, restored, and forgiven. But beyond that starting point may occur many deviations from the plan of God; in this letter the apostle Paul warns us of some of them.

It is possible for a Christian to live on a carnal level instead of on a spiritual level. It is possible to walk after the flesh even though we are converted to walk in the Spirit. It is possible to be saved, but to be saved as by fire: one day to stand before the judgment seat of Christ stripped of everything but our soul’s salvation. On the other hand, there is a royal route to heaven, and the word “royal” implies sovereignty. In the Christian life, it means placing the crown where it rightly belongs: on the Savior’s brow...

I am not interested in getting to heaven by the skin of my teeth, are you? My one desire is to get there by the grace of God, after a useful life in which the purpose of the Lord in saving my soul has been fulfilled.” Alan Redpath

- I. 1 Cor. 1:18 is foundational to our understanding of the **progressive sanctification** process the Lord puts us through to avoid the problems we find here in 1 Corinthians. The two verbs **“perishing”** and **“being saved”** are in a tense that means present ongoing action. They describe two contrasting experiences in life that depict a journey along two different paths. The path that we are on, and the category we fall into, is clearly defined by our attitude toward the message of the cross. For those who are in a constant ongoing state of perishing, it is foolishness. For those who are in a constant ongoing state of being saved (progressive sanctification), it is the power of God.

1 Cor. 1:18

Eph. 2:8

Prov. 3:6

Rom. 8:12-14

“The thing that will characterize the life of every genuine believer in the Lord Jesus, truly born of the Spirit of God, is growth development.” Redpath

2 Cor. 3:17-18 *Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom. And we, with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*

- II. The power of God removes us from the path of perishing because of sin and places us on his path of righteousness because we believed the message of the gospel. His path is to have one central focus, Jesus Christ. That is the only way we can remain perfectly united in mind and thought, otherwise we will find ourselves acting no better than those who are in a constant state of perishing. We bring him great honor when we glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ with one heart and mouth (**Rom. 15:5-6**).

1 Cor. 1:10-17

2 Peter 1:3-11

“Whenever a cult of personality arises in Christendom, nothing comes of it but trouble, division, and a dishonoring of Jesus Christ and His gospel.” Stedman

Heb. 12:1-3 ¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.