



SERMON SERIES STUDY GUIDE

Such Were Some of You, Pt. 4

Pastor John Riggs

Key Scriptures:

Main passage

- 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.

Supporting scriptures

- Romans 8:18.
- Colossians 1:13.
- Ephesians 1:11-14.
- 1 Peter 1:3-5.
- John 3:3-7.
- 1 Corinthians 15:1-17.

Additional references mentioned

- Leviticus 18.
- Leviticus 19.
- Revelation 20:11-15.

Key Points:

- The sermon introduces the concept of the Kingdom of God, distinguishing between the current spiritual reality of belonging to Christ's kingdom and a future literal reign of Christ on Earth.
- The sermon emphasizes the urgency of evangelism, highlighting the eternal consequences of not accepting the gospel and the responsibility of believers to share the message of reconciliation.

- The concept of 'inheriting' the Kingdom of God is explained as a gift received by birthright as 'kingdom kids,' not something earned through works.
- Believers are joint heirs with Jesus Christ and children of God, receiving an inheritance set aside by God.
- The inheritance is exclusively for the righteous; the unrighteous, defined as those outside saving faith in Christ, will not inherit the kingdom of God.
- Obtaining an inheritance in Christ is not merited or earned but is a result of union with Jesus and God's predestined purpose.
- Saving faith is a profound trust and commitment to Jesus Christ, not mere intellectual agreement, and is a gift from God.
- Believers are sealed with the Holy Spirit, who serves as a guarantee or down payment for their future inheritance.
- The core of the gospel, essential for salvation and inheritance, is that Christ died for sins, was buried, and was raised on the third day, according to the scriptures.
- The resurrection of Jesus Christ is a critical and non-negotiable element of the Christian faith; without it, faith is futile, and believers remain in their sins.
- Salvation involves being washed, sanctified, and justified through Christ's work, signifying the complete removal of sin and guilt.
- Genuine salvation is evidenced by 'fruit' or transformation in a believer's life; a profession of faith without corresponding change indicates a potential lack of true salvation.
- Sanctification means being set apart from sin and guilt, made holy unto God.
- Christ's single, perfect sacrifice on the cross has eternally sanctified believers.
- Justification is being acquitted and declared righteous before God through faith in Christ, not by personal merit.
- Believers have a new identity in Christ, characterized by righteousness and holiness, not their past sins.
- Christians are called to live according to the renewed mind of Christ, putting off the old self and putting on the new self created in righteousness and holiness.
- Salvation is a gift of God's grace received by faith in Christ, who is our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.
- Believers are united with Christ, becoming joint heirs to His kingdom and anticipating future glory.
- Present sufferings are temporary and incomparable to the future glory that will be revealed to believers.

Question and Answer: (answers provided on pages 19-21 of the study)

Q: What does the Bible say about inheriting the Kingdom of God?

Q: Why is it important to share the gospel?

Q: What does it mean to be 'washed, sanctified, and justified'?

Q: What is the significance of the 'best is yet to come' for Christians?

Q: What does it mean to be a joint heir with Jesus Christ?

Q: Who is excluded from inheriting the kingdom of God?

Q: How does one receive the inheritance from God?

Q: What is the nature of saving faith as described in the video?

Q: What role does the Holy Spirit play in the inheritance of believers?

Q: What are the essential components of the gospel message?

Q: Why is the resurrection of Jesus Christ so important for Christians?

Q: What does it mean to be 'born again' in the context of salvation?

Q: How are sins washed away according to the teaching?

Q: What should be done about individuals who profess faith but show no evidence of transformation ('fruit')?

Q: Who is Satan in relation to believers, and why do I sometimes feel guilty?

Q: What does it mean to be 'set apart' or sanctified?

Q: How does Christ's sacrifice on the cross relate to atonement and forgiveness?

Q: Why are Christ's sacrifice considered superior to the Old Testament sacrifices?

Q: What does it mean to be justified in a Christian context?

Q: If I am a Christian, why might I still struggle with feelings of condemnation?

Q: How does being 'just as if I never sinned' work?

Sermon Transcript:

If you would please, open your Bibles once again to 1 Corinthians chapter 6. And then we have kind of parked here for a few weeks. Um, but I want to take this opportunity as we stop here and, um, as we just kind of just take a, just a, a break here, I want to just spend some time unpacking several things that we could easily just run over, but they'll be a blessing to you as you actually learn these incredible truths. And so, we're going to do that by God's grace today. So, 1 Corinthians chapter 6, verses 9-11. For those of you that are new, we're so glad that you're here. Those watching today and, uh, listening, we want to welcome you as well. I told also, uh, Jeff down there at our other campus, we want to make sure we say hi to them today as they live stream in as well. And, uh, he said that they love it down there when we, uh, make sure we mention them. So we've got a, a group of people meeting down there every Sunday live streaming along with us and studying the word together with us. So all right. Yeah. I don't know if they can hear you, but I'm sure that they're cheering anyway. So, uh, but absolutely.

Well, today guys, we're going to actually begin making our way, um, into what the Bible teaches about our future as followers of Christ. We've been looking at those who will not inherit the kingdom of God. We've been looking at that for a few weeks. Today, we're going to learn more about those who will inherit the kingdom of God and that this truth is our future. This is a factual thing that will take place. We currently right now are part of the kingdom of God in Christ by faith. If you're a Christian here today, uh, scripture tells us in Colossians 1:13 that we have been, we've been rescued from the domain of darkness and we have been transferred into the kingdom of the glorious son. So right now, if you're a Christian, Jesus Christ through his atoning work on the cross of Calvary made a way for you and I and the rest of the world to be reconciled to God and to be delivered from the kingdom of darkness. And we do that by faith in Jesus Christ. That's how we are saved, by faith. And we are now been taken out of the kingdom of darkness or the domain of darkness. We've been brought into the kingdom of the glorious son. You belong to the kingdom of God in Christ Jesus. And this is an incredible truth. Spiritually right now, this kingdom is growing and it is building. But there's coming a future time where Jesus Christ will literally set up his kingdom rule here upon the earth where he will rule with a rod of iron. And this is incredible as we're going to learn. Did you know, Christian, that you and I are going to rule and reign with Jesus Christ here on this earth for 1,000 years according to scripture. We will take part in the ruling and the reigning. This is the aspect of the kingdom of God. And so for us as Christians, this is a truth that we need to understand in order that we're able to know how we should be living our lives in this day in which we have been given this gift of life. Understanding these truths, I'm telling you, they are going to transform the way that you will live out the days that God has given you in this life. They will change the way you think about this life and about the life that is promised to come. Why is that important? Because the world is moving toward the day of the Lord. And we are living in a very uncertain time and it's going to begin to get more and more uncertain as we move forward. And the system that we've all been part of is going to have to be torn down in order for that the new system of antichrist and the new world order will actually rule the world for a very short period of time as the world accepts its false Christ being the antichrist who will be embodied by Satan himself. This is what's coming. That's why you're seeing all these things being torn down. The things that we've often held to be so normal for us in our own lives for boundaries and all of the things, economic systems, everything that's happening, even the birth of AI and how it's going to play a major, major, major role in the last day antichrist system, a surveillance system, and all that it will bring will be part of what the younger generation here for sure is going to live in. You younger, you younger people that are in here this morning, you're going to live in a world that you can't even imagine in the future. It's not going to be anything like the world you live in currently. It's going to drastically change. And if Jesus doesn't tar long, all of us are going to experience these incredible drastic changes that are coming upon the world. We're already seeing these things happen. They're going to continue to happen. Why is that? Because we're

moving to the day of the Lord. And when the day of the Lord happens, Christ is going to return. He's going to raise the dead in Christ. We who are alive and remain on the earth will be caught up to be gathered with Christ in the air. And when he comes and puts his feet on the Mount of Olives and splits the Mount of Olives from north to south, then he will set up his kingdom as he brings judgment upon this earth. And we at that time, we will then rule and reign with Christ for a thousand years according to what scripture teaches. So what is this going to be looking like? What is the reality of this? Well, we're going to begin to unpack this, Christian, for you to know and understand. Why is the gospel so important? Because everyone who is in here listening, watching, and outside who does not know Jesus Christ as their Lord and their Savior, they have not trusted and believed in the gospel. They're living lives of reality, lousness, and sin. They are outside the faith. They only have these two things to look forward to. One, to die and then face the judgment of God. That's what's coming. After that, they will be thrown alive into the lake of fire forever and ever and ever and ever. This is why we are to be about the Father's business because we don't want anyone to go to hell or then the judgment and then the following lake of fire. That's not what we want for anyone that we love or anyone that we know. Therefore, it is so imperative that we understand the days in which we are living in and our responsibility to be those who preach and teach and share the message of reconciliation. How man can be reconciled to God by faith through the only means of salvation, and that is Jesus Christ, the Son of God, God in flesh. That is the gospel, the good news. And we're going to look at that in a little more detail today. Church, if I had something that I could really give you to encourage you, is we need to be busy about telling people about Jesus. We need to be inviting people, sharing the truth with people. We want them to know the gospel. We want them to be saved. If you have family members, if you have friends, if you have co-workers that do not know Jesus, don't mess around. Tell them about Christ. Pray that God would give you opportunity in their life to share the truth of the gospel so that they can hear and in hearing that they might believe the gospel and be saved. That is the imperative work that God has called all of us to. So let's get started this morning.

Romans chapter 8 verse 18 says this. The Apostle Paul writing about this incredible future event that's going to take place called the kingdom of God in Christ. The literal physical ruling kingdom that is coming. Paul says this. He knows these things to be true. He says in Romans 8:18, he says, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time, they are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us." In other words, what is Paul trying to say? And the title of the next few weeks' messages will be entitled this for you to understand. Christian, this is not the best right now. No, the best is yet to come. This is the truth of us as Christians. The best is not now. The best is yet to come. And Christian, it is factually guaranteed going to happen. This is going to take place and the best is yet to come. That is a fact. So, let's get back to 1 Corinthians chapter 6 and we're going to unpack a little bit more of this. I'm going to read this passage to you again out of verses 9 through 11. And this is not a passage we want to be trivial with, nor the other passages that we've shared over the last three or four weeks. Remember, I spent about three weeks preparing our whole body to be able to understand this passage. If you just came last week, you probably don't have a great understanding of what we were really teaching last week. Go listen to the two sermons prior to that because I wanted to make sure that we did our due diligence and to build this up so you and I can fully grasp and understand the significance and the nature of what is being spoken of here by the Apostle Paul in verses 9-11 of chapter 6. Paul says, "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?" We talked about this last week. People compare themselves with the righteousness of those around them. And they have a tendency to say, "Well, I'm not as bad as so and so, but I may not be as good as some, so I think I'm pretty straight with God." No, you're not. The problem is our standard of righteousness is being measured with the wrong standard. It must be measured against the true standard of righteousness, which is God's holy perfection. That is the standard of righteousness. And so Paul, to make sure that his readers understand this because they might look around and say, "Well, I'm not as bad as old Joe over there." If your name's Joe, I'm not singling you out.

Okay? No, they have a tendency to do that. So what Paul does here is he now he's going to go ahead and share with them, not a full list, not exhaustive, but he's going to share with them some some attributes of the conduct of unrighteous people. And he gets every one of these from what? Leviticus chapter 18 and Leviticus chapter 19. Paul grabs these from the Old Testament. This is examples of how the unrighteous live. And he moves down through here. He says, "Don't be deceived." Paul says, "Neither the sexually immoral." We have a problem with that word today because most people don't even know what sexual immorality is anymore because we live in a sex-crazed society where even in the church, people think that fornication's no big deal. That's a bunch of baloney. Fornication is a very big deal and it's, it's no less of a big deal than homosexuality because it's a twisting and a perverting of what God has given in the gift of sex in marriage with one man and one woman. And if we take it outside of God's design, it's kind of like fire. It works great in a fireplace and it will heat your house and you can enjoy the benefits and the blessings of a fire that is crackling and that is burning and that is emitting heat. But you take that same fire and you take it out of the designed box that God intended for it to be in and you place that in the floor of that house, it will burn the house down. And that's the point. And so the sexually immoral will not inherit the kingdom of God. Paul says, he moves on. He says, "Nor idolaters, nor men who practice homosexuality, that encompasses all of that. Nor thieves." Before you get too haughty, Paul says, "Some of them might say, 'Well, at least I'm not engaged in those things.'" Paul says, "Hold on. Let's go back to Leviticus. Neither thieves. If you're a thief, Paul says, if you have a lifestyle of stealing, it's a big deal. It's breaking God's law." He says, "Nor thieves, nor greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers." And this is not an exhaustive list because he gives more of them in other letters he writes to other churches. He says, "These will not inherit the kingdom of God." He wants these Corinthian people to understand this. It's not trivial how we live. Our conduct matters greatly. We need to live like we are born again. Like we belong to the kingdom of God in Christ Jesus. Like Satan no longer has any power over us. Like sin has no power over us anymore. Like we've been set free from all of that and been given the Holy Spirit who lives in us to help us live in power the new life in Christ Jesus that produces fruits of righteousness. That's what Paul is teaching these people here.

Now, he moves on and he says this, "And such were some of you." He puts in the past tense here. This is important because it's not who we are anymore once we come to faith in Christ. He says, "You were washed. You were sanctified. And you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ our God." That is a picture of what it means to be born again, to be regenerated by the Holy Spirit. That is a picture of salvation, a picture of redemption. That is what happens to everyone who has been born again of the spirit. They've been washed, sanctified, and they have also been justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Now, the word unrighteous here, as we learned last week, is a person in violation of God's standards. Describes being found guilty in God's court of law. There is going to be a court date for every person. They will stand in God's court. You can read about that in the latter pages of the book of Revelation when the great white throne judgment is actually spoken of. And we can read what happens there. The court of law will be established. The books are going to be opened and scripture tells us each one will be judged according to the deeds that they've done in the body. It's all going to be recorded. It's not going to be hidden. Thank God in Christ Jesus we've been justified. That is a justice type of work where we are set right with God. That our sins have been completely forgiven. That there's no longer a record of our sins. Thank God for that. Why? Because those things have been covered by the blood and the sacrifice that Jesus Christ offered in his body through atoning work on the cross of Calvary. Um, it, it is also, um, a binding legal infraction against his law which calls for divine retribution because God is holy. He is also just. He is love. He's compassionate. He is good. He is all those things. But it calls for divine retribution for disrespecting true justice. When people say, "I want justice." No, you don't want justice. If you, Christian, were to get justice, you would receive hell, damnation, and the lake of fire. Grace is God giving us what we didn't earn and we didn't merit. It is the gift of salvation. And so, we don't want justice. We want mercy and we want grace. The word inherit

here is an, is a word that means to be an heir. Okay? It is someone who obtains an inheritance. And here's the thing, Christian, you don't earn your inheritance. Just with your family, for example, let's bring it into a physical reality here. You get an inheritance from your family if there's one to be given. Not because you worked for that inheritance. That inheritance was actually worked for and was actually established by another. But it is given to you from that individual. It is an offering. It's something that you obtain by birthright because your, your father's son or your father's daughter, whatever the situation might be, you receive an inheritance from your father and your mother. You didn't work for it. You didn't earn it. You were born into that family and you're one of their children. Same thing here with the kingdom of God. We don't actually work to inherit the kingdom. We work because we are kingdom kids. That's why we work. And so this is very important to understand that that the inheritance is something that you did not merit. You didn't earn it, but you're going to receive it. And that is a gift of God's incredible grace and mercy. And how do you become an heir? Only one way. Not because you work for it. Not because you merit it. It's because you have been joined to Jesus Christ, who is the heir of the kingdom. And because you're an heir of the kingdom, being joined with Jesus Christ, you're a joint heir. Think about this. With Jesus Christ. So the inheritance, the Christ, the, the whole thing, the kingdom, we get to take part in that. We have part in this inheritance because we are joined together with Jesus Christ and we are then called the children of God. That's why we receive this incredible inheritance. It's an incredible thing we're going to learn about. Now, the inheritance word, uh, in the Strongs actually means and it's, it's an act of receiving what God has set aside for his own. Who set this aside? God did, just like your parents set aside something to give to you if there's anything to give. But God has a lot to offer because he is God. It is covenant privilege as sons and daughters. We are in covenant with Christ. Therefore, as sons and daughters of God through faith in Christ, we receive this inheritance that God has set aside with his own doing. Each occurrence ties each occurrence of this word in the New Testament, uh, ties inheritance either to Christ himself or to the believer's relationship with him. This is very critical. Why do you get an inheritance? Because you are in Jesus Christ, Christian. That is why. You didn't merit it. You didn't earn it. But you're going to take part in this incredible inheritance. Now, the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God. We understand that the unrighteous guys are all those outside of saving faith in Jesus Christ. Why is that important? Because if you're outside of Christ, who is the only way to be reconciled to God, you're still in your sin. You're still at enmity with God, and you're still, um, you're still guilty of all of your sin. And justice will play its way out. But the good news of the gospel is that the free gift of salvation has been given by God out of his tremendous love, grace, and mercy. And it is open for anyone who will believe the gospel of Jesus and be saved. That's the good news. But that's going to come to an end one day. There's no such thing as being halfway in or halfway out of the kingdom of God. You're not in halfway and in the world halfway. You're either in the kingdom of God or you're out of the kingdom of God. There's no in between. There's only one that you can be a part of. You are either a son or daughter of God by faith in Christ or you're not. Only those who have the righteousness of God in Christ will inherit the kingdom. Because the kingdom is for the righteous. That's who the kingdom is for. Our inheritance is tied, guys, to our union with Jesus. That's where we are blessed through Christ, in Christ, by Christ. All of that is true.

Now look with me in Ephesians chapter 1, 11-14. If you would please open your Bibles there. Ephesians chapter 1, 11-14. If you happen to be here for the first time, we, we really, really encourage you. Please bring your Bible. Bring your Bible with you. Why? Because we're here to study the word of God. Bring your Bibles. Yeah, I know there's some really interesting things on Facebook to be scrolling through, but let me tell you something. It's all worthless stuff. This is what we need to know, Christian. And it's far past time. We're not living in Mayberry anymore. We need to get serious about our relationship with Christ. And let me tell you something. Don't take for granted the fact that you have a Bible. You may not always have one. And if you're looking at AI to give you the right scriptures, don't think for a moment it can't be changed at any time. You need a hard copy of the Bible. You need to read it and you need to

study it. And let me encourage you one more step. Memorize the word of God. Why? Because if you were ever at a place in time where you don't have access to one of these, you have access to this all the time. Know the word, study the word, memorize the word of God. Why is that important? Don't take it for granted in these days, Christian. Please do not do that. All right, moving right along here. Um, Ephesians chapter 1, 11-14. "In him," who is him? It's Christ. "In Christ we have obtained an inheritance." In Christ, we have, he is the son. He is the Son of God. He is God in flesh. He is the eternal Son of God. He has the inheritance of the Father. We, in union with Christ by faith, we have, according to Paul, obtained an inheritance. And that word, "obtained an inheritance," the whole word, we have obtained an inheritance, is actually one word in the Greek and it simply means by casting lots. It's what it means. "We are part of that having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works out all things according to the counsel of his will. So that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory." In him, that's Christ. Listen, we're in him. "You also when you heard, when you heard the, what, the word of truth." This is why you share the gospel because it's the word of truth. And scripture says, "How will people believe if they don't hear? And how will people hear if no one goes or is sent?" This is the important aspect, hearing the gospel. It says, and Paul says to these Ephesians believers, "And when you heard the word of truth, what is that?" He goes on and says, "The gospel of your salvation and believed." You heard and you believed. And this belief, we're going to get to here in a minute. It's talking about this faith, this trust. It is placing our entire trust upon Jesus Christ, who we believe is the Son of God and who died for our sins. Why do you believe? Because of faith. Why do you believe? Because you've heard the gospel and the work of God in you and the Spirit of God moving in you. You went from being an atheist, an unbeliever, and agnostic, and then you hear the gospel and for some reason you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and he died for your sins and he was buried and he rose again. You believe that that is because of God's work in our life and this incredible gift of faith that we have. And we hear the gospel. We believe and we are saved. Moving along, "We were sealed at that moment that we believe that genuine trust." I'm not talking about flippant belief here like a head knowledge like, "Oh yeah, yeah, I believe in God." Well, what God do you believe in? A lot of people believe in God. If you don't believe in Jesus Christ, He is God, by the way. That's why I make so much of who is Jesus. He's God. That's who he is. If you're just believing in the pie in the sky guy called God, you're not believing the gospel because the gospel is centered around God the Son, Jesus Christ. That's who we believe in. And we put our full trust. I mean, it is putting every chip you have on Jesus Christ because you realize how definitively hopeless you are lost in your sin. And the payment of your sin is death and understanding the judgment and the coming wrath of God and the lake of fire for all eternity. You have no hope outside of Jesus. So when you learn of this incredible gospel, what do you do? You turn away from that old life. You repent of that thing. You turn away from it and you trust fully upon Jesus Christ. He says, "We were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit who is a guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it." We will possess the kingdom one day and we will. And the Holy Spirit has been given to us as a stamp seal that what guarantees your inheritance that you have obtained by faith in Jesus Christ. It's good to know that. So in Christ, we have obtained an inheritance. In Christ, we have been given the Holy Spirit to live in us, to seal us, who guarantees our inheritance until we acquire possession of it. All to the praise of you. No. To the praise of his glory. Who gets all the glory? God does. God does. When does this happen? It happens the moment we hear and believe. And this belief is just like I said, not a cavalier thing. It's not a cavalier thing. No, it is putting full trust in Christ. And the only way you can do that is with faith. Genuine saving faith that God gives a portion of faith to everyone. Now let's move through this and see what else we can learn here. The word believed here is the word pistou or pisto yo yo yo, I think is how you pronounce that. I don't speak fluent Greek, but anyway, that's the pronunciation of it. It comes from the Greek word pistus, is where the foundation of that word or the root of that word is. But let's learn a little bit more about this. This word means to commit. See, there's something that happens when you let go of something and you commit to something else. You ever had to do that before? That before you could get to the next thing, you had to let go of what you had a hold

of. That's called commitment. In other words, when you're dating people and you tell your wife, "I want to marry you." And you know that when you marry her, what are you doing? You are leaving every other girl on the face of the earth. You are turning away from anyone outside of her and you're grabbing hold of her and she is what you are committing yourself to. It's the same way with Christ. You turn away from the rest of that old world and that old life of sin. Why? Because it only brought you death, judgment, and the lake of fire that's coming. And what do you do? You turn loose to that thing, man. And you commit and take hold of Jesus Christ. It's commitment. It's a commitment you make. It's a beautiful thing. It also means to put in trust, to entrust, especially one's spiritual well-being to Christ. In this context, this word means believing that leads to proceeds from God's in birthing faith. That's what this is. So, we're sealed and we're guaranteed this inheritance. And this inheritance is awarded by allotment, which we can go back to the Old Testament and study that as well, but we're not going to for sake of time in this particular message this morning. It is the portion that God assigns. That's what this inheritance is speaking of here. Colossians 1:13. We talked about that. Let's move on to First Peter 1:3-5. I promise you, I, I told my wife, I think we'll actually have a shorter message this week, but I don't know. We're trying to, trying to keep them as short as we can here for sake of time without, you know, we want to make sure we get to these things because they're so important. Christians, Peter here in 1 Peter chapter 1, 3-5, he says, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. According to his great mercy, God's great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." Where does our hope come from? The resurrection. Absolutely it does. "To an inheritance that what? That is imperishable. It is undefiled and it's unfading. It is kept in heaven for you who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in this last time."

John chapter 3. If you go there with me, go left in your Bible. You'll come there. John chapter 3. We're going to look at verses 3 through 7. Most of you probably already know where we're going. This is the story of Nicodemus coming to Jesus at night. And he's going to be asking, as one of the religious leaders of the nation of Israel, he's going to be asking Jesus some questions. He sees all the miracles. He sees everything, the teachings, and all that's going on. And he's sitting back, scratching his head, and he wants to know some things. Jesus answered him, that's Nicodemus. "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again," that's what we're looking at in First Peter. That's what we've been talking about in Ephesians. This is the work of God, um, in the gospel. This is the, the, the, the response of faith. This is the outcome. It's the salvation. This is what we're looking at. This is the being washed. This is the being sanctified. This is the being justified. This is speaking of what Paul writes to the First Corinthians here in their salvation. This is what it is. And he says, "Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. You're not going to enter it. You're not going to see it. You must be born again." Jesus tells Nicodemus. Nicodemus says, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into the womb of his mother and be, and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and of the spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of flesh is flesh, and that which is born of spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said this to you. You must be born again." So the only way anyone enters the kingdom is if they are born again. And how are they born again? They are born again when they heard the gospel and they believed upon Christ and they were regenerated and born again. And what they have been born of the spirit. The Holy Spirit comes and indwells, giving a seal that we are born again. And it's a guarantee of the deposit that has been made toward the coming inheritance that we will receive as Christians. Paul here in, uh, here speaking a lot about the salvation aspect. So here's the question. What is the gospel, the word of truth that brings salvation and the promise to inherit the kingdom of God for those who are by faith trusting in Jesus Christ, committing, putting full trust in him? What is the gospel? Paul tells us in First Corinthians what the gospel is, in case you're wondering. Yes, we do a lot of talking about the gospel here. Why? Because it's the power of God to salvation for all who believe. It's why the gospel matters so much. If you want people to know Jesus Christ, share

with them the gospel. Share with them the gospel. Here's what Paul says the gospel is. Just in case you were wondering, you can find this in 1 Corinthians chapter 15, 1-4. And you might want to highlight this or underline it. This is important that you understand this. Notice what Paul is going to say here. Sometimes when people share what they call the gospel, they just say, "Hey, uh, do you know that God loves you?" And God's God sent his son to die for you. Isn't that great? Oh, yeah. That's great. Well, if you believe, you're saved. Hold on. They don't even know why they need to believe. And who is Jesus? Let me show you why this is so important. You ready? Here we go. In verse one of chapter 15, this is the gospel. "Now, now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel that I preached to you." This is the same group of people that Paul's writing to there in 1 Corinthians chapter 6 that we're reading about in verses 9-11 in our text today. This is later in the letter. He says, "This is what I want to remind you of the gospel that I preached to you which you received it." Okay? You received this gospel message in which you stand. They have this standing by faith in this gospel. They're standing in this position of righteousness before God, not merited by their own righteousness, but by the imputed righteousness of Christ that was given.

to them by faith in Christ's work of atonement, his burial, and as we're going to see this resurrection. It's very important. And by which you are being saved, this gospel, faith in Christ, his gospel message.

Well, what did Christ do? He goes on, "If you hold fast to the word I preach to you, you might underline this, unless you believed in vain." There are lots of people who believe in vain. For I delivered, Paul says, to you as of first importance that what I also received that Christ died for sin. He didn't die because of the problems that we have in our culture in America. He He didn't die for all of these things that they're making the main things. No, these are all symptoms of the root problem. Jesus died for sin. That's why he died. Number one thing to note, Paul says this is the gospel.

Look what else he says. In accordance with the scriptures, the Old Testament already spoke forward about this coming Christ who would die and God would crush and he would atone for the sins of man and he would bring many sons to glory. This is the Christ. Notice what else he says. And Christ number one, he died according to the scriptures. That he was buried. This is important because Christ really literally died and experienced the wages of death. He experienced the wages of sin, excuse me, which is death. And he was buried. Very important. And the length of time he was buried was very important according to the mandate of the day that said how long someone had to be considered dead to be really dead. Didn't want to swoon. Didn't want to come out of a coma, you know, whatever it is. Let's make sure they're really dead. So, let's wait three days. This is what's happened here with Christ. He was buried.

Then notice that's not all of the gospel yet. That he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures. This is so vital that we understand this because Paul goes on and talks about this um this gospel. Where did he get this gospel, folks? He didn't get it from Peter. He didn't get it from James. He didn't get it from John. He didn't get it from any of the apostles, by the way. They had the same gospel. Where did Paul get his gospel? Galatians 1:11-12 tells us where Paul got his gospel. It wasn't handed down to him from the apostles. Not that it would have been incorrect to do so. Paul makes it clear where he got his gospel from. For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me, it is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it from any man, but I received it through revelation of Jesus Christ. Who gave Paul the gospel? Jesus Christ gave Paul the gospel. Who gave the apostles the gospel? Jesus Christ gave the apostles the gospel. The gospel is that Jesus Christ died for sin according to scripture. He was buried and he was raised again to life victoriously on the third day according to the scriptures.

You say, "Well, John, why does that matter?" Well, let's look here and let's see here. There is only one true gospel and Paul received this from Christ. This is the finished work of Christ in his atoning sacrifice, redemption that brought reconciliation for mankind. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, "For our sake, God made him," that's Christ, who knew no sin, to be sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. See the change there and how that all worked. Christ who never sinned. God in flesh came and took upon our sin and God made him sin. He bore our sin. God's wrath was poured out on Christ. That is the wrath that we had merited, the death that we had merited. And God crushed his own son in order that his perfect sacrifice and the shedding of his blood would atone for all who believe by faith upon Christ. That they would receive the grace and the mercy of God's gift of a s of of righteousness placed on them as they put their trust in the lamb of God who was sacrificed for their sin. And by faith we trust and believe all that and we are born again, regenerated, filled with the spirit of God sealed until the day of redemption is completely full. And this is the work of atonement and regeneration and new birth that these Corinthians had received. This is the gospel that they believed, that they were standing in, that they were being saved in. It is that Jesus died, was buried, and he rose from the dead.

Now, moving along. Why is this important? We said that earlier. Paul goes on in this same passage in 1 Corinthians chapter 15. He goes on and this is what he says in verses 14-24. This is why this is significant. 1 Corinthians 15:14-24 this morning. And if Christ has not been raised, this is a big deal. Then our preaching, Paul says, is in vain. If Jesus Christ has not rose from the dead, Paul says that his preaching is an absolute total vanity. It's in vain. And then he says to these believers in Corinth, "And your faith is in vain." If you don't believe the resurrection of Jesus Christ, you're not saved because you haven't believed the gospel. He makes it very clear. We are even found, Paul says, if Christ hasn't been raised from the dead to be misrepresenting God because we testify about God that he raised Christ whom he did not raise. If it's true that the dead are not raised for if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, notice this, your faith is futile. You're still in your sin sins. And then those who have fallen asleep in Christ, they have perished. If Jesus didn't rise from the dead, he was nothing more than another zealot who simply died for a movement. But oh, he's not just another man. See, if Christ didn't raise from the dead, then your faith is futile and you're still in your sins. Paul says to these Corinthian believers, "Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ, I know you think they're doing well, but if Jesus didn't raise from the dead, guess what? They've actually perished." If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pided, Paul says. But in fact, but in fact, Paul says, "Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead." Adam the first man, all die. Jesus Christ the second Adam, all made righteous. Not all, but all who have put their faith in him. This isn't teaching universalism here. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ, Paul says, shall all be made alive, but each in his own order, Christ the first fruits, then at his coming, those who belong to Christ. You read about that in one of my favorite passages of scripture in the New Testament. When you read about that in 1 Thessalonians chapter 4, you read about this rapture event, this resurrection event. This is what Paul's speaking about. This is so cool to to know these truths. He says, "Then comes the end when he delivers the kingdom of to God. The father after destroying every rule and every authority and every power, Jesus Christ will destroy all power, all authority and all rule. And he will do that when he comes and destroys the antichrist and this world system who worships Satan, the antichrist, the beast system. He will come and he is going to level it all in more ways than one.

Now 1 Corinthians chapter 6:11, he reminds us such were some of you. Now we're going to get into this and beautiful aspect of this. You're washed. You were sanctified. You were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the spirit of our God. We've been looking at salvation here, the gospel, and all of these truths about those who will inherit the kingdom of God. We are going to next week begin to unpack what is the kingdom of God, what's going to happen in

the kingdom of God, and why is this so incredible for us to know that? Well, the word washed here means to be u to be washed away. It means that our sins have been washed away. It refers to an entire washing, the complete removal of sin and its debt. Paul says, "Such were some of you, but this is what's happened to you. You've been washed. You've been cleansed by the blood of the lamb. And all of your sin, all of your sin, praise God, has been covered by the blood of Jesus Christ. He is purified for us. All one time he did this work." Isn't that good news? Hebrews 9:22, that's who these Corinthians were. Paul's reminding them of who they are in Jesus Christ. Hebrews chapter 9 verse 22. And I know I'm rushing this morning, but I do need to get through this. U it's getting lengthy here, but let me let me get through this. I'm going to go quickly so you can maybe go there. If not, please write these down and do further study. Eric will help you keep up on the on the screens. Hebrews 9:22 says this, "Indeed, under the law, almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins." That's why you remain in your sins if you reject the gospel of Jesus Christ. Because nothing has been able to wash away your sin and your guilt before God. There is one thing by by God's grace that does wash away not only your sin, but also all of your guilt, and it is the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. The sinless blood of the lamb who takes away the sin of the world. Christ, your lamb, died, God's lamb, for you, and his blood washes away and purifies us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:7 says, "But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his son cleanses us from all sin." Titus chapter 3 5-7. He saved us not because of the works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy. Some of you need to be reminded of this. By the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ, our savior.

You say, "Well, John, what about someone who professes to be a Christian, but they have no fruit of Christ in their life? There's no this regeneration. There's no renewal. They still are no different than before they lived and before they made a profession of faith. Here's what I tell you to do. Continue to pray for them. Number two, continue to talk to them about the things of God and assume in your mind that they may not be saved. Don't simply just stop it when somebody makes a profession of faith and they live like the rest of the world, like nothing's ever changed. There's been no power, no gifting of the Holy Spirit. Nothing new has come. Don't just go, "Well, I dunked them in the water and they're good to go." And try to settle in your own mind this nagging QUESTION THAT THEY MAY NOT BE SAVED. DON'T DECEIVE YOURSELF. DON'T LIE TO YOURSELF JUST to make you sleep better at night. If they have no fruit of righteousness IN THEIR LIFE, YOU LOVE THEM. YOU PRAY FOR THEM AND YOU KEEP TALKING TO THEM ABOUT JESUS. YOU ASSUME THAT MAYBE THEY JUST DON'T KNOW CHRIST. It's why people in this infant baptism stuff in the Roman Catholic Church irritates me so bad. NUMBER ONE, IT'S NOT BIBLICAL. NUMBER TWO, IT'S BECAUSE THEY TELL PEOPLE THAT BABY IS GOOD TO GO NOW THE REST OF THEIR LIFE. They've been dunked in water and parents have this appeasing that comes over their mind because some priest who lies TO THEM TELLS THEM HE'S GOOD EVEN THOUGH THEY live like a hellion all their life. That's why I get frustrated at that system because IT'S SO FULL OF LIES AND BILLIONS OF PEOPLE ARE BEING LED ASTRAY. SORRY, I got a little frustrated there. Some of you say, "You're too passionate, John." No, you're not passionate enough. >> That's the difference. And that's the problem. If you get a little passionate about Jesus, like you do football or or whatever thing you're passionate ABOUT, YOU MIGHT ACTUALLY TELL PEOPLE ABOUT HIM AND THEY MIGHT GET SAVED. But we're not passionate about Jesus. And if someone preaches with passion, we get up and leave because that guy, he's just got too loud on me. Oh my word. Really? Because I love people. Because I care about their soul. Because I don't want anybody to go to hell. And hopefully you don't either.

Hebrews 10:22 says, "Let us draw near with a true heart and full assurance of faith with our hearts sprinkled clean." Oh, isn't it nice that your heart is sprinkled clean? A clean heart, man. Doesn't that do something for you? Your heart's been sprinkled clean from an evil conscience

and our bodies washed with pure water. Oh, man. Acts 15, for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. We've been baptized by the Holy Spirit. That's our true baptism. You know that you can be dunked in water 25 times and never actually be saved. But you get baptized by the Holy Spirit in regeneration, you are saved. Yeah. Ephesians 1:13, we talked about that one.

Number two, they were sanctified. There is hagiazdo here again to purify by expeation. That means to be free from all guilt. These Corinthian believers like you, Christian, you've been freed from all guilt. Satan is the accuser of the brother. He brings these things to your mind. Makes you feel dirty. Makes you feel guilty of what you've done in the past that Jesus Christ died for, covered, and washed clean with his blood. There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. If you feel condemned, it's not because Christ is condemning you. It's because the condemmer, Satan himself, is condemning you. Maybe you're condemned by your own thoughts, but Christ is not condemning you. Not happening. It means to be set apart from God, free from all sin, all guilt. Expeation is in in in uh in this word, it simply means by definition the act of extinguishing the guilt of someone. Atonement, it is Christ's sacrificial offering on the cross for sin. Colossians 2:13-14. And you who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive with him, having forgiven us all our sins by cancelling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. We read about that earlier. This he set aside, nailing it all to the cross.

Hebrews 10 8-14. When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings, these are offered according to the law." Then he added, "Behold, I," speaking of Christ, "I have come to do your will." Speaking to the father, "He does away with the first in order to establish the second. And by that will, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all time. And every priest stands daily at his service offering repeatedly the same sacrifices which can never take away sins. That's why they constantly keep working and working and working because those sacrifices couldn't take away sin, couldn't wash you clean. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice, that being himself, for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a foottool for his feet. For by a single offering, he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

Notice the third thing these Christians had experienced in their salvation was justification. They were justified. The word here in the Greek means to be acquitted, cleared of all charges. That would be the punishment we had merited, related to our sins. Moreover, they are justified, made right, declared righteous. We've talked about this several times, but it doesn't hurt to repeat these things. Romans chapter 5 1-2 says, "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him, we have also obtained access by faith into his this grace in which we stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. We've been justified by faith. Isn't that good? You've been declared righteous before God. These these Corinthian believers who were once those things, all the unrighteousness of that, Paul says, "That's not who you are anymore." Why? Because you've been washed. You've been washed clean. You've been sanctified, set apart as holy, consecrated unto God. And you have been justified. You have been considered just as if you never sinned. Legally, God has set it right. You are completely perfectly righteous before God. Not because of your righteous works, but because of the righteous Christ who came and gave his life so we could be reconciled to God.

Ephesians chapter 4:17-24. We're almost finished. Ephesians 4:17-24. Now this I say and testify in the Lord that you must no longer walk as Gentiles do in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding. As Christians, we're no longer darkened in our understanding. We have the mind of Christ. We have the word of Christ. We also have the Holy Spirit of God living in us. We don't live in darkness anymore. Our understanding is something

that God is going to teach us through his word and the Holy Spirit leading and directing us. We're not darkened in our understanding any longer. We're not alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to their hardness of heart. Speaking of the Gentiles, that would be everyone outside of Christ. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality. That's what they do. That's what we all did at one time. Paul says, "Not anymore." They're greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way that you learned Christ. Paul says, "Assuming that you have heard about him and you were taught in him as the truth is in Jesus to what? To put off the old self. It's something that we do. We deny the flesh. Yes, we battle with it. Yes, we struggle with it. Sometimes we lose that fight, but that's not who we are. It's not our identity. Thank God that's not any longer. Which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires. and to be renewed in the spirit of your mind and to put on the new self created. Remember, we are his workmanship. Created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. The Christian has not merited right standing before God by his own merits of righteousness, but rather by grace from God through faith in Christ Jesus who has become, as Paul said in 1 Corinthians 1:30, because of him that is God, you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption. We must never forget this amazing gift of God's incredible grace. This is ours by faith in Christ. As Christians, we have been washed. We have been justified and we have been sanctified. You are uni. We are united with Christ by faith. We have become joint heirs with Christ Jesus who is the king of the kingdom who is now spiritually growing and taking back what it rightfully is his. And then finally the kingdom to come in reality in the physical world in a physical kingdom this is coming. Jesus Christ he is our king and he is our Lord.

Finally we're going to wrap this up here. Romans 8:14-17 and then we'll close this morning. For all who are led by the spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear. But you have received the spirit of adoption as sons by whom we cry, "Aba, Father." Isn't that amazing? You can call God your father. This is a term of endearment. It's kind of like when your child comes up to you and calls you dad or daddy. Only your children call you daddy. I hope this is the point of what we're making here. We have been adopted by faith in Christ. We've been adopted as children of God. And we stand in this place, righteous before God, an heir, a joint heir with Christ Jesus of the glory to come. And we call God our dad, our father. It is personal. It is intimate. It is not God spinning the time when the time hand and just stepping back. No, God is so personal that he has come and he has dwelt inside of us by his spirit. If you even could grasp what it means that the spirit of God lives in you. Oh, let's move on here. The spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. And if children, then we are heirs. We are heirs of God and we are fellow heirs with Christ provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. But as Paul said, I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. Christian, this isn't the best time. It's a good time, but the best is yet to come.

Answers to the Study Questions:

Q: What does the Bible say about inheriting the Kingdom of God?

A: According to 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, those who live in unrighteous conduct will not inherit the Kingdom of God. However, for believers, past sins are forgiven through Christ's sacrifice, and they are washed, sanctified, and justified. The inheritance is a gift received by faith, not earned through works, as believers become 'kingdom kids' through their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Q: Why is it important to share the gospel?

A: It is crucial to share the gospel because those who do not know Jesus Christ face judgment and eternal consequences. Believers have a responsibility to share the message of reconciliation and salvation through Christ, so that others may hear, believe, and be saved from eternal separation from God.

Q: What does it mean to be 'washed, sanctified, and justified'?

A: These terms describe the transformative work of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life upon coming to faith in Christ. 'Washed' refers to the cleansing from sin, 'sanctified' means being set apart for God's purposes, and 'justified' means being declared righteous in God's sight through Christ's atoning sacrifice. It signifies a complete spiritual regeneration and redemption.

Q: What is the significance of the 'best is yet to come' for Christians?

A: The phrase 'the best is yet to come' signifies that while current life has challenges and sufferings, the ultimate glory and reward in God's eternal kingdom far surpass present difficulties. This truth provides hope, encouragement, and a transformed perspective on life, assuring believers of a guaranteed glorious future with Christ.

Q: What does it mean to be a joint heir with Jesus Christ?

A: Being a joint heir with Jesus Christ means that because you are united with Him through faith, you share in the inheritance that belongs to Him as the Son of God. This inheritance includes participation in the kingdom of God and all that God has set aside for His children.

Q: Who is excluded from inheriting the kingdom of God?

A: The unrighteous, which includes all those outside of saving faith in Jesus Christ, will not inherit the kingdom of God. They remain in their sins, at enmity with God, and guilty before Him. Justice will take its course for those who reject Christ.

Q: How does one receive the inheritance from God?

A: The inheritance is received not by earning it or through personal merit, but through faith in Jesus Christ. It is a covenant privilege granted by God, who has set aside this inheritance for His children through His own doing and purpose.

Q: What is the nature of saving faith as described in the video?

A: Saving faith is not just intellectual agreement but a deep, genuine trust and commitment to Jesus Christ. It involves recognizing one's utter hopelessness apart from Him, turning away from sin, and entrusting one's entire spiritual well-being to Christ. This faith is a gift from God.

Q: What role does the Holy Spirit play in the inheritance of believers?

A: The Holy Spirit is given to believers as a seal and a guarantee of their inheritance. He acts as a down payment, assuring believers that their inheritance is secure until they fully acquire possession of it.

Q: What are the essential components of the gospel message?

A: According to the Apostle Paul, the essential components of the gospel are that Christ died for sins, was buried, and was raised on the third day, all in accordance with the scriptures. This message was received by divine revelation from Jesus Christ himself.

Q: Why is the resurrection of Jesus Christ so important for Christians?

A: The resurrection of Jesus Christ is vital because it validates the gospel message. If Christ was not raised, then Christian preaching is empty, faith is futile, believers are still in their sins, and those who have died in Christ have perished. The resurrection is the foundation of Christian hope and salvation.

Q: What does it mean to be 'born again' in the context of salvation?

A: Being 'born again' is a spiritual rebirth initiated by God, essential for entering the kingdom of God. It occurs when one hears and believes the gospel, leading to regeneration by the Holy Spirit. It signifies a complete transformation and a new spiritual life.

Q: How are sins washed away according to the teaching?

A: Sins are washed away not by human works or rituals like water baptism alone, but by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. This cleansing is a complete removal of sin and guilt, achieved through Christ's atoning sacrifice, which purifies believers from all unrighteousness.

Q: What should be done about individuals who profess faith but show no evidence of transformation ('fruit')?

A: If someone professes faith but shows no 'fruit' of Christ in their life, indicating no regeneration or renewal, it's advised to continue praying for them, speaking to them about God, and assuming they may not be truly saved. It's crucial not to deceive oneself or others into thinking they are saved without evidence of a changed life.

Q: Who is Satan in relation to believers, and why do I sometimes feel guilty?

A: Satan is referred to as the accuser of the brethren. If you feel condemned or guilty about past actions, it's likely Satan bringing those things to your mind to make you feel dirty. However, as a Christian, you have been freed from all guilt because Jesus Christ died for those sins, covering and washing them clean with His blood. True condemnation does not come from Christ.

Q: What does it mean to be 'set apart' or sanctified?

A: To be set apart, or sanctified, means to be freed from all sin and guilt, and consecrated unto God. It signifies being separated from a life of sin and dedicated to God's purposes. Expiation, related to this, is the act of extinguishing guilt.

Q: How does Christ's sacrifice on the cross relate to atonement and forgiveness?

A: Atonement refers to Christ's sacrificial offering on the cross for sin. Through this single, perfect offering, God has forgiven all our sins by canceling the record of debt that stood against us. This act, nailing the legal demands to the cross, effectively sets aside our past transgressions.

Q: Why are Christ's sacrifice considered superior to the Old Testament sacrifices?

A: Under the Old Covenant, sacrifices and offerings were made repeatedly according to the law, but they could never truly take away sins. Christ, however, offered Himself as a single, perfect sacrifice for sins once for all time. By God's will, this offering has eternally sanctified believers and perfected them.

Q: What does it mean to be justified in a Christian context?

A: Justification, in the Greek, means to be acquitted or cleared of all charges. It means being declared righteous before God. This is not achieved through our own righteous works but is a gift received by faith in Jesus Christ, who has made us right with God.

Q: If I am a Christian, why might I still struggle with feelings of condemnation?

A: If you feel condemned, it is not because Christ is condemning you. Christ has already paid for your sins and declared you righteous. Feelings of condemnation often stem from Satan, the accuser, or from your own thoughts. Remember that legally, God has set things right, and you are considered just as if you never sinned.

Q: How does being 'just as if I never sinned' work?

A: This is a legal declaration by God. Because of Christ's righteousness, which is imputed to us through faith, God considers us righteous. It's not about erasing the past but about Christ's perfect life and sacrifice covering our sin, so that legally, we stand before God as if we had never sinned.

Q: What does it mean for Christians to 'put off the old self' and 'put on the new self'?

A: This refers to a transformation in identity and behavior. 'Putting off the old self' means denying the flesh, turning away from former sinful ways and deceitful desires. 'Putting on the new self' means embracing a renewed mind, living in true righteousness and holiness, reflecting the likeness of God as His workmanship.

Q: What is the significance of being adopted by God?

A: Through the Holy Spirit, believers are adopted as children of God. This adoption grants us the privilege to intimately call God 'Father' or 'Dad' ('Abba'). It signifies a personal, intimate relationship where we are heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ Jesus, destined for future glory.

Q: What is the Christian perspective on current difficulties and future hope?

A: While Christians may face sufferings in this present time, these are considered temporary and not worth comparing to the immense glory that will be revealed. The ultimate hope is in the future glory of God and the reality of His kingdom, which is already spiritually present and will be fully realized physically.