

The Foundation of Growth in Christ

Lesson Three:

What Has God Done to Secure Your Growth in Christ?

“For He rescued us...”

Rescue has the idea of being delivered from or being freed from.

What did God rescue your soul from?

He rescued your soul from the domain of darkness.

This refers to the spiritual authority you were ruled by as you lived in spiritual bondage to the ruler of this darkness, Satan.

How did God do this?

God transferred (repositioned/moved) your soul

- from imprisonment in the spiritual realm under the dominion of Satan
- into the spiritual realm under the dominion of Jesus Christ.

Redemption: releasing by payment of a ransom

Who did Jesus pay on my behalf?

He accomplished this satisfaction for you in two ways as it concerns your need to be holy before a holy God:

First, Jesus took your sins on Himself.

“When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with Jesus, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having cancelled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed [that decree] to the cross.” (Col. 2:13-14)

Who did Jesus pay on my behalf?

He accomplished this satisfaction for you in two ways as it concerns your need to be holy before a holy God:

The second way Jesus acted as your substitute is by living a life of sinless perfection on your behalf.

God applies Jesus' righteousness to you and sees you as He sees His own Son.

He's done this for you—by acting as your Substitute in living His perfect life for you, by dying His all-sufficient death for you, and by being raised in His glorious resurrection for you.

You don't need more transferring; you need more transforming.

Your growth in Christ is about the Holy Spirit's work to continually transform your mind by renewing it in the truth.

You learn to live out the truth that God is working into your now spiritually-alive heart.

This new spiritual position of your soul, transferred into the kingdom of God's Son,
and...

being rightly related to God by grace through faith in Jesus Christ...

is what you grow from and what you grow to show.

“...but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ....” (Eph. 4:15)

Remember, your spiritual position of being united to Jesus is not what is growing in you.

This position is fixed; it never changes, fades, or falters by what you do or do not do, because your position is based on the righteousness of Jesus and not a righteousness of your own. You are rooted in Christ as a new person by God's miracle of spiritual union.

You are fixed as God's child, and now God commands you and provides for you to grow as His child. You grow to show that Jesus' life is your new life; you are living in Him.

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