

The Crystallization

God's Full Salvation

The New Testament revelation of God's salvation has a judicial and an organic aspect. The judicial aspect—redemption—is according to the righteousness of God, based on Christ's death on the cross. The deeper, organic aspect includes regeneration, dispositional sanctification, renewing, transformation, conformation, and glorification. Through regeneration we receive the eternal life of God in our spirit. Through dispositional sanctification we are permeated with the holy nature of God in our soul. Through renewing, the elements of the old creation in our soul are discharged, and the elements of the new creation in our regenerated spirit saturate our soul. Through transformation we undergo a living, metabolic process that causes us to bear the image of the resurrected Christ. Through conformation we are saved from every form of self-expression into the image of Christ. Through glorification we are permeated with the divine glory in our mortal body. These organic steps fulfill God's eternal purpose to have an enlarged, corporate expression of Himself, and these organic steps occur in three stages according to our ongoing experience of the divine life: the initial stage, the progressing stage, and the completing stage. The initial stage includes redemption, positional sanctification, justification, reconciliation, and regeneration. The progressing stage includes freedom from sin, dispositional sanctification, growth in the divine life, transformation, building up, and maturing. And the completing stage includes the redemption of our body, conformity to the Lord, glorification, the inheritance of God's kingdom, participation in Christ's kingship, and the topmost enjoyment of the Lord.

In order to enter into the topmost enjoyment of the Lord in the coming age, we need to pass through the process of sanctification in this age by being separated unto God and by being saturated with God as the Holy One. We need to cooperate with the operation of the divine life in every part of our tripartite being. In order to preserve our spirit in sanctification, we must keep our spirit in a living condition by exercising our spirit to worship, serve, and fellowship with God in prayer and by calling on the Lord's name. Furthermore, we must keep our spirit from all defilement and contamination, exercise to have a conscience without offense toward God and men, and set our mind on the spirit. In order to preserve our soul in sanctification, our mind must become the mind of Christ, our emotion must be saturated with the love of Christ, our will must be subdued, and we must love the Lord

with our whole being. In order to preserve our body in sanctification, we must present our body to Him in order to live a holy life for the church life and to practice the Body life to carry out God's perfect will. If we are unwilling to cooperate with God's divine operation in us, we will save our soul in this age but lose it in the next. Our future position in the kingdom will be determined by whether we save or lose our soul-life today. If we receive full satisfaction from the world now, we will lose our reigning position with the Lord in the future. It is quite possible to lose the enjoyment of our soul in the coming millennial kingdom by wandering in the wilderness of our fallen soul-life today.

The Epistle to the Hebrews addresses our tendency to wander in our soul by presenting a salvation that is "so great." Our participation in this great salvation is entirely related to our experience of the all-inclusive Christ, who carries out God's economy through His ministry on earth, His ministry in the heavens, and His reign in the coming kingdom. In His earthly ministry He partook of blood and flesh, tasted death on our behalf, made propitiation for our sins, and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for our sins once for all. In His heavenly ministry He is now applying His organic salvation through His heavenly intercession so that we will be saved through His operation in us as the law of the Spirit of life. For His reign in the coming kingdom Christ will return to the inhabited earth, inherit God's unshakable kingdom, and share His rule with those who have been matured by His divine and saving life in this age.

God's full salvation is powerfully conveyed through the gospel of God. The gospel of God has the power to save us organically because it makes sinners into sons of God by virtue of joining us in life and nature to the designated Son of God, by virtue of imparting Christ's organic faith into us, and by virtue of grafting us into Christ. The gospel of God has the power to save us corporately by joining us to one another in Christ in the corporate Body of Christ. And the gospel of God has the power to save us practically through our manifestation of the Body of Christ in local churches that meet as one. May we speak and experience the contents of God's full salvation. **AFC**

by the Editors