

TRANSITION BY OBEDIENCE (2) By Keith Greer

Prescribed Action – “Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.” {1 Peter 1:23} God requires one who is a slave to sin to be “born again” to become a slave to righteousness. This is what Jesus told Nicodemus {John 3:3-5}. New Relationship – “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” {2 Corinthians 5:17} Why are we NEW creatures? Simply put, we have been spiritually “born again,” not of the flesh but of the Spirit. This shows a change in a person’s spiritual state.

From the Sinful World to Sanctification in Christ. Natural State – “We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.” {1 John 5:19} The one who is part of the sinful world is in a degenerate state – something needs to change that situation! Yet, remember one is in this state by bad choices of their own making! Prescribed Action – “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.” {Titus 3:5} The “washing” in water brings the sinner into contact with Christ’s blood – thereby making the necessary change. New Relationship – “And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.” {1 Corinthians 6:11} Those who are sanctified are set apart from the sinful world unto Christ for His work. By their obedience, they have been sanctified through Christ. Now they have a different type of work to do!

From Lost and Undone to Saved in Christ. Natural State. – “And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” {Matthew 1:21} God sent Jesus into the world to save sinners {Luke 19:10}. Prescribed Action – “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.” {Mark 16:16} When Jesus sent His disciples out to deliver the Great Commission, He called upon every creature to believe and submit to baptism – thus gaining salvation. New Relationship – “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” {Acts 4:12} Remember, we find salvation in no name other than Christ’s. The transition – from lost and undone to salvation in Christ!

From the Guilt of Sin to Remission. Natural State – “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” {Romans 5:8} Because of his sin, mankind stood condemned before God. Prescribed Action – “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.” {Acts 3:19} Christ promised to change the state of one who repents and submits to baptism. New relationship – “To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.” {Acts 10:43} Christ’s blood removes the burden and guilt of our sins – for those who obey the gospel.

Take a close look at the role of obedience in God’s plan. Does a man need faith? Absolutely! Salvation is an undeserved gift – but God gave certain terms of obedience in order to obtain

it! Unfortunately, religious men have tried to sell the bill of goods that any WORK on the part of the sinner negates God's grace. False! One could never earn or merit their salvation but out of love and obedience, one can become a gracious recipient of this wonderful gift! ***