

Review (55): *It's a Wonderful Life*": Summary: Salvation as a Problem-Solving Device that Purifies an Adulterous Marriage

15. Paul uses the word **παρέρχομαι / *parerchomai*** / in 2 Corinthians 5:17 to refer to the death of the "old things," namely, the sinful nature and resultant spiritual death. Paul discusses this death in detail in the Romans 6:2-6 passage.
16. At salvation, the new believer's "old things" pass away and come to an end. His "newness of life" begins as a result of becoming a "new spiritual species."
17. And according to Colossians 2:13-14 the thing that makes all this possible is that God forgives us at the moment of salvation of all our presalvation sins:

Colossians 2:13 - When you were dead in your transgressions [**spiritual death**] and the uncircumcision of your flesh [**body of corruption**], He [**God the Father**] made you alive together with Him [**positional sanctification through the baptism of the Holy Spirit**], having forgiven [**χαρίζομαι / *charizomai*** /] us all our transgressions [**presalvation sins**],

v 14 - having cancelled out the certificate of debt [**χειρόγραφον / *cheirographon*** / : an obligation owed to God, i.e., **Plus-R**] consisting of decrees against us [**the PROM chip printout**] which were hostile to us; He has once and for all taken it out of the way [**aorist participle of ἐξαλείφω / *exaleipho*** / **permanent cancellation of the debt**] and nailed it to the cross [**imputation of our personal sins to Christ**].

18. I have gone into great detail to explain to you the phenomenal miracle that takes place at the moment anyone expresses personal faith in Jesus Christ. The tyranny of the sinful nature is broken, spiritual death comes to an end, newness of life begins, and the believer becomes a new spiritual species.
19. What causes the transition from the "old things" over to the "new" is that, as a result of our faith alone in Christ alone, God forgives us of all our presalvation sins.
20. So here is a summary of salvation as a problem-solving device that erases any sins associated with an adulterous marriage entered into by unbelievers:
 - 1) Colossians 2:13-14 informs us that God took our sins and imputed them to Christ on the cross. Then, at salvation the new believer is baptized by the Holy Spirit into union with Christ and God forgives him of all his presalvation sins.
 - 2) These presalvation sins include mistakes in seeking and obtaining a non-biblically approved divorce and the sins associated with an adulterous second marriage.
 - 3) This new believer is also said to be a new spiritual species according to 2 Corinthians 5:17, "If any man is in Christ he is a new spiritual species."
 - 4) Notice that the baptism of the Holy Spirit comes first: "In Christ." The adjective "new" refers to a creative act by God that makes him better than he was before, namely, his old condition of spiritual death.
 - 5) As a new species he is, according to Romans 6:4, given the "option to walk in newness of life." This "newness of life" is better by comparison with the worthlessness of his former fallen condition.
 - 6) As a new spiritual species the former things [**ἀρχαῖος / *archaios*** /] which determined his life have passed away [**παρέρχομαι / *parerchomai*** /] having been cancelled by the cross.
 - 7) The "old things," or those things that have existed from the beginning, namely, his fallen condition of spiritual death, have come to an end, a fact described in detail in Romans 6:3-6.

- 8) Therefore, a husband or wife or both, as unbelievers, erase all former failures and sins when they express their personal faith in Jesus Christ.
- 9) All presalvation sins are forgiven by God:

Colossians 2:13 - When you were dead in your transgressions [**spiritual death**] and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He [**God the Father**] made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions [**presalvation sins**].

- 10) Thus, faith alone in Christ alone takes the believer from darkness into light, transforms him into a new spiritual species, and all his presalvation sins are forgiven by God.
- 11) At salvation, an adulterous marriage is purified and is converted into a Christian marriage.
- 12) Both husband and wife by God's grace are now under obligation to fulfill the three laws of the Christian marriage and to become witnesses for the prosecution in the Appeal Trial of Satan.