



**"The Gracious Reversals of Our Salvation"**

(Ps 118:1-4, 14, 22-24, 103:1-2; Deut 8:11-14; Luke 18:9)

*4 gracious reversals of God's salvation  
that demonstrate Christ is worthy of all of our praise:*

I. Believers are granted spiritual sight where there was once spiritual blindness

(2 Cor 4:3-6; John 9:39-41)

II. Believers are granted protection under God's influence where there was once Satanic captivity

(2 Tim 2:25-26; 1 John 5:9; Col 1:13)

III. Believers are granted a clean slate, where there was once a guilty verdict

(Ps 32:1; Ps 103:12; Is 53:4-12; Eph 1:7; Col 2:13-15)

IV. Believers are granted a glorious inheritance where there was once a hopeless destiny

(Eph 1:13-14, 18; 1 Pet 1:3-5; Php 2:1; Eph 2:11-13)

As Christians, we are recipients of a never-ending outpouring of spiritual benefits—from salvation blessings to divine mercies that are new every morning. So perhaps nothing more clearly demonstrates our remaining sin than how easily we forget the staggering love that God consistently shows to us. So how can we put away our sinful forgetfulness and properly rejoice in God's infinite goodness? (1)

The essence of sin is to blind and to conceal; and therefore the sinner is unable to perceive and to discover, or to measure the depths of his own life...This clouding of man's eyes is the natural product of his self-alienation from God. It is implied in his own dreadful and idiotic choice of disobedience, and his own arrogance in making his own distinctions of good and evil...Therefore man, apart from that revealing light of grace and blinded by his sin, can only venture his own interpretation of the "defects" in his life and world. He can only spin out his own "[theory] of evil." But true insight into the nature of sin can only elude him, in that way, forever because of the blindness of his lies. (2)

The conversion of a single sinner is a miracle of staggering proportions. To be "rescued from the domain of darkness, and transferred to the kingdom of His beloved Son" (Col 1:13) required an invasion of this world by God so profound that no other work of God even touches it. God had to become one of us; Jesus Christ had to take our sin upon Himself; He had to be rejected by His Father; He had to die in agony and spiritual humiliation under the curse of sin; & He had to conquer death through the resurrection so that we could be given life. Pondering the magnitude of the miracle that transforms sinners from the old life to a new spiritual reality causes deeply grateful worship. Facing what we were gives profound meaning to what we are now in Christ, which is the same line of reasoning the apostle Paul has as he transitions in Romans from ch. 7 to ch. 8. After describing the impossible scenario of trying to be a "good moral person" without submitting to the Spirit's power, he erupts with a spontaneous word of gratitude: "Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (Rom 7:25). Why? Because God has rescued His people from the old life of destruction & death, and has given them new life in the Spirit. (3)

<sup>1</sup> GTY Booklet, "Remembering All His Benefits," 2025.

<sup>2</sup> G. C. Berkouwer, *Sin*, Studies in Dogmatics (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1971), 153-155, 275-276.

<sup>3</sup> Jerry Wragg & Paul Shirley, *Free to Be Holy: The Liberating Grace of Walking by Faith*, 102-103 (Kindle Edition).