

The Four Priorities Chapter 2

Book by John Tolson

Facilitator Guide by Reclamation Church

Chapter 2: What's the Big Picture

Note: The timelines below are only a guide, as well as the questions to ask. Make this your own and go where the Holy Spirit leads you. Take your time and, when needed, break this chapter into several meetings.

Open
(10 min.)

Spend a few minutes each week catching up with one another, then share prayer requests.

Open with a brief prayer.

Recap
(2 min.)

Briefly summarize your meeting last week (because of the original sin found in Genesis 3, we are born into sin and cannot do anything to please God). *We are, in fact, separated from God. We learned that we are cut off from God, cut off from ourselves, cut off from others, and from creation. The only way to be “made right with God” is by receiving help from God. He provides a way to be made right with Him, and that is by the provision of Christ Jesus. By trusting in Christ to take your place from God’s wrath against sin, Jesus will restore that relationship between you and God. You will be “justified,” and sin’s penalty is paid for by the costly death of Jesus Christ, but this Salvation is a free gift to you and me.)*

Ask: Do you have any further questions from last week?

3 Tenses of Salvation
(5 min.)

Say: This is not in your book, but it is helpful for understanding the Bible when it says:

You *were* saved

You *are* saved, and

You *are being* saved.

Share the following diagram.



RECLAMATION
— CHURCH —

3 Tenses of Salvation, cont.

Say: There are *three* tenses of our salvation (past, present, and future). If you are a believer, you have *been* saved. However, you are currently *being* saved and will one day *be* saved. Here's the breakdown:

THREE TENSES OF SALVATION		
JUSTIFICATION	SANCTIFICATION	GLORIFICATION
DELIVERANCE FROM THE PENALTY OF SIN	DELIVERANCE FROM THE POWER OF SIN	SAVED FROM THE PRESENCE OF SIN
PAST TENSE I HAVE BEEN SAVED FROM THE PENALTY OF SIN (IN HELL)	PRESENT TENSE I AM BEING SAVED FROM THE POWER OF SIN (IN YOUR LIFE)	FUTURE TENSE I WILL BE SAVED FROM THE PRESENCE OF SIN (IN HEAVEN)
HAPPENS AT ONE POINT OF TIME WHEN YOU BELIEVE IN CHRIST ALONE	HAPPENS OVER A PROCESS OF TIME(WHILE YOU WALK BY FAITH BY MEANS OF THE SPIRIT)	HAPPENS AT A POINT OF TIME EITHER WHEN YOU DIE OR ARE RAPTURED
EPH 2:8-9, TITUS 3:5, LUKE 7:50 2 TIMOTHY 1:9	CORINTHIANS 7:10 1 TIMOTHY 4:16 JAMES 1:21, 2:14, 5:20 PHILIPPIANS 2:12-13	ROMANS 5:9-10 ROMANS 13:11 1 CORINTHIANS 3:15
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Say: Once a person has been born again (saved or **justified**), they have been delivered from the *penalty* of sin and are now made right with God. Next, they begin the **sanctification** process, which lasts their entire lives. During this timeframe, we are being delivered from the *power* of sin in our lives. That means the Holy Spirit is helping us say “NO” to sin in our lives. One day in the future, we will be saved from the *presence* of sin altogether when we are **glorified**. These are the three tenses of our salvation.

Do: You might consider looking up the Scriptures at the bottom of each description.



RECLAMATION
— C H U R C H —

What's wrong with this picture, page 17 (5 min)

Ask: If the Holy Spirit has “moved in” and is living within us, why is it that we are still capable of sin? (We are still in our flesh, which sins. One day, God will do away with our flesh and give us new bodies that will be free from sin’s *presence*. As we just learned, this is called glorification. However, since we are still in sinful bodies, we must learn to walk in obedience and are told to “take off the old nature and put on the new.” Ephesians 4:22-24. This is the sanctification process.)

Say: The author gives an example of seeing a whole city from the top of a skyscraper. God also has a broader knowledge of our lives and how He wants to use us in this life. For a believer in Christ to be more productive for God, we must learn to “put to death” the things in our lives and in this flesh that inhibit our holiness.

Ask: Have you ever sinned and then thought, “If I were truly saved, I would not have sinned? (Discuss).

If we sin, we fall away from fellowship with God – we don’t fall out of salvation. Once the Holy Spirit moves into your life, you can’t get rid of Him (Romans 8:38-39). The author also mentions this at the top of page 21.

Say: Let’s see what the author says God’s plan is for us.

God’s Plan for you.

Say: The author says at the bottom of page 19, “So, if God has taken responsibility for transforming us into good (holy) people, what is our part? What responsibility do we have? (How did they answer this question?)

Say: Scripture tells us to “put off our old selves.”

Ask: How do we do this? Read **1 Peter 1:13-16** (live obediently, follow the teachings of Christ and the Bible)

**The Beachhead
and Great
Invasion
(20 min)**

Say: This is an excellent illustration of what it's like to have the Holy Spirit come into your life.

The author also mentioned on page 21 that Christ “doesn’t do a total takeover.”

Ask: *Why* do you think the Lord doesn’t do an entire takeover? (This might remind you of the Israelites when they were entering the Promised Land. As they walked in obedience to come against the enemy or to fight a battle, God would miraculously give them the victory. They still had to fight, but God did the work through them. If needed, you can read Joshua 8.)

**What’s the
Bottom Line?
Pg 21
(5 min.)**

Say: God’s purpose is to make us into Christ’s likeness (Romans 8:28).

Ask: What did you think about the biking poem?

Say: Hopefully, as we journey this life with the Lord, we are learning to trust and enjoy the great adventure!

**Take Action
Pages 23-25
(30 min.)**

Read through and discuss the questions at the end of the chapter.

**Close
(5 min.)**

Homework: Read Chapter 3 and come prepared with questions you might have from this chapter, as well as completing the end-of-chapter questions.

Schedule for the next meeting and close in prayer.