

# First Corinthians

VERSE-BY-VERSE

1st Corinthians

59 A.D.

Ephesus

Verse 11–From Session 19

For all Christians, any sin is forgiven. And, any sin is forgivable (including those in the previous verses). In the context, for this Jewish congregation, Paul is telling them that their forgiveness not only gives them everlasting life but makes them whole for the future kingdom.

When it comes to salvation (not kingdom inheritance) all those who believe, Jew or Greek, **are washed, sanctified, and justified**. These are all one time, once and for all events **in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God**.

## Verse 12–

- All Jews to whom Paul and the other apostles have preached the good news are living in a time of overlap of two gospels; those who had not heard the gospel of grace were under Peter's Gospel of the kingdom (which included works), and the other was Paul's message of grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8,9). But there is an overlap in these two gospels. One was the gospel of the kingdom, the other the gospel of grace, or as Paul says in Galatians, the gospel of the circumcision (to the nation of Israel), and the gospel of the uncircumcised (to the Gentiles; see Galatians 2:7,8).
  - The nation of Israel, and the Jews who were living under the Law of Moses, were granted an inheritance in the Kingdom provided they believed the gospel of the kingdom, which meant changing their mind about who the Messiah was, through repentance and baptism (see 6:9-10). But as Paul explained in verse 11, once they heard the gospel of grace they were washed, sanctified, and justified.
- Now, Paul moves on from talking about the Kingdom and life under the Law to what their Christian life, under grace is to be like.
  - Before grace they were under the Law, now **all things are lawful**. What is permissible for a Christian? All things. Paul is probably thinking "All things pertaining to the Jewish Law" like, tithing, keeping the Sabbath, eating certain foods, etc. But there are laws Christians today put in place like, tithing, attending church, baptism, etc., along with various superstitions like, "If I do this or that, then God will punish me" etc. In other words, our salvation (or even our sanctification) is not dependent on what we do because **all things** under grace **are lawful**. Why are all things lawful?
    1. Because we are no longer under Law, but grace (Ephesians 2:8,9).
    2. We are not justified (declared righteous) by the works of the law (Galatians 2:16)
    3. We are dead to the Law (Galatians 2:19).
      - Because we live unto God.
    4. Sin is not imputed when there is no Law (Romans 5:13).
    5. Yet, the consequence of sin remains (Romans 5:14). This is Paul's continuing point:
  - **But**, Paul continues, **all things are not expedient**, meaning some things will cause a considerable burden (and carry human consequences), so they are not profitable. They may not keep you out of heaven, but they will not bring any return on investment. The time spent doing certain things will not result in anything positive, they are a waste of time.
  - While **all things are lawful for me**, Paul makes it clear that he will not **be brought under the power of any** sin. He will not let unprofitable things master him.