

Romans 20 – Hagiazo Process Begins

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Romans 5:1-6

Prologue: Στοιχειῖον

Στοιχειῖον is the imposition of the world's order rather than following God's order – Duality throughout Bible

Creation: Christ brought God's order out of chaos; and it was good (because it was God's order) (Ge 1:1-1:5)

Flesh maintained God's order only when totally reliant on God's guidance; once man's flesh tested, man sought to impose his own order; i.e., chaos compared to God's order (Ge 3:1-19)

The root stichos or stoichos means row, rank, line, especially battle line; i.e., to bring order
Context tells us that Law-works relies on the principles of the World to force order onto sin's chaos

Prologue: Worldly Orderliness

Στοιχειῖον (stoicheion) has frequently been linked to Satan, his demons, his powers and their methods by scholarly commentaries; I must disagree (Ga 4:3, 9)

Satan, his demons and all sinners in the flesh use these principles because they agree with sin and seek to bring order to sin's chaos; an *illusion* of control

Law-works is a principle of στοιχειῖον, enforcing order to control sin's chaos Man's Way; false order (Ge 4:6-7)

Prologue: Worldview

Worldview imposes your order on the world based on sin, culture and perception of self

This imposed order has little correlation with Satan's actual order at work in the world for his goals

Wars (violence) impose one worldview over another

God slowly reveals errors of our worldview so His truth may prevail in our lives: Choosing Good; rejecting Evil
(He 5:14)

Basis of Discernment: Man, Flesh, distrusted God's order and sought to find a new order
Man discovered that they were the old order of sin; now they must learn God's order of life, if saved

Faithfulness

Paul laid the foundation for salvation by faith and unhitched Christianity from Judaism's works & customs

Judaism did not openly discuss salvation, justification nor sanctification; especially of Gentiles

Judaism wrestled with the concept of faithfulness (Ro 4:12)

They missed lesson of Noah, Abraham, Habakkuk, etc.
(Hab 2:14)

Justification

Paul segues into doctrine of justification not discussed in the Gospel nor Acts; hinted in Romans (Ro 3:20-28)

δικαίωω (dikaioō) Gk punishment (dikē) and instruction; declaring one acquitted of punishment of sinning against God and instruction in righteousness

Acquittal is based on Christ's payment for sin as sin in one's place when accepted by faith by the sinner (Ro 4:25)

Justification a reality when God accepted His sacrifice

Christ Only Reason for Justification

Works are worthless, faith is the only means but faith must have an object to anchor its ethereal form

(Ro 3:20-26; He 11:1-3)

Christ as God, being sinless, could pay for sin (Ac 4:12)

Death, separation from God (1200-1500), paid for sin

Death, separation from body, revealed mission complete

Resurrection, in new body, signaled God's approval;

i.e., justification (acquittal) for all who believe(d) (Ro 4:25)

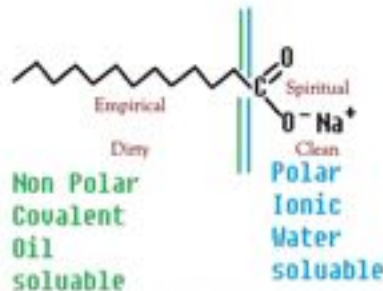
Punishment requires acknowledgement of guilt, repentance, before acquittal can occur
Innocent do not need acquittal. They are guiltless; however, all have sinned, hence guilty

Soap: Metaphor for Faith, Jesus, Spirit

Faith is bridge between empirical and spiritual

Jesus is bridge between Father and believer(s)

Spirit is bridge between Father and son and believer(s)



Totally dependent on the strength of the soap molecule; i.e., faithfulness of Christ alone
When this universe is melted with heat, those to whom Christ is attached are saved in Him from punishment

Peace is Only by Faith in Christ

Christ is the only basis by which believer(s) have peace, cessation of hostilities, with God

By Faith we identify with Christ giving us access to this grace of peace (Wrestle): Peace we never sought (Ro 3:10-18)

By this grace we stand (Concept) (ὑπομονή/hypomone)

By this grace we rejoice in the hope of glory with God

Without Christ we do not have access to these graces

However...Not the End

Salvation is the beginning of one's walk with Christ

The believer brings his, her, worldview (conceptual understanding of cosmos and self) into new life

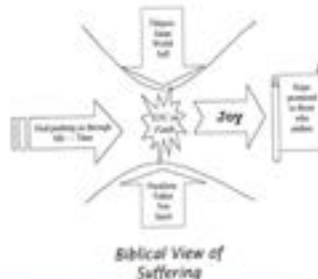
It is through the sanctification (Hagiazō) process that God develops us into the image of Christ, removes our sinful worldview; ongoing process throughout our lives (1Co 13:12)

Denying this process denies Christ (1c 12:4-6)

Tribulation Develops Character

This aspect of God's Hagiazō Process shows how God uses Tribulation (θλίψις/thlipsis) to reveal one's character

θλίψις (Pressing down) is process of testing (πειρασμός /peirasmos) used or allowed by God via Satan to develop us in Christ (Jb 1-2; Ga 2:20)



One never goes through peirasmoi alone though it may appear so in the moment
Not only are the advocates the avvil against which the hammer presses
Father, Son and Spirit keep us from being pushed beyond what we are able to endure (1Co 10:13)

Tribulation Develops Endurance

God uses tribulation to develop endurance, willingness to stand even if against all visible odds (2Ki 6:10-17; Ep 6:10-15)

Endurance (ὑπομονή/hypomone): Military command meaning to stand one's ground until relieved

When we stand in our strength, we sin (Adam & David) (1Co 1:29)

We gain confidence in Christ, vice self and world (Ps 23:6)

Endurance Builds Character

As one endures Tribulation in Christ, endurance develops leading to character forged by peirasmoi

Character (δοκιμή/dokimē) is rooted in Christ and in the reality of His promises

Immature need frequent reassurances (1Co 14:5-11)

Sinners may appear to possess endurance; however, before God they change, acknowledging Christ (Ps 2:9-11)

Character Yields Hope

Believers learn hope, synonymous with faith, as Christ builds them in His image (Ro 8:24)

Hope is not seen but believed as real for if it were seen, it would no longer be either hope nor faith

Hope, via faith, forms the conviction of truths of God; being without doubt though not seeing Him (He 11:6, 13-16)

Thus, this process strengthens faith building our confidence in the trustworthiness of God

Hope Prevents Shame

If Christ does not exist then we of all peoples are most miserable; ashamed (1Co 15:19)

God told Habakkuk that His words will occur in their appointed time; thus, the justified lives by faith (Hab 2:1-4)

We will not be ashamed to stand before Him if we stand in faith; unlike the lost who will be ashamed as they acknowledge Him before entering Lake of Fire

God's Love Prevents Shame

God's love is the foundation of salvation, developing us into the image of Christ (1Co 13:13)

This process teaches us the love God has for us so we will not be ashamed in the day of judgment (1Jo 4:16-19)

If we fear we retain sin and will answer to Him at the Bema Seat (Ro 14:10-12)

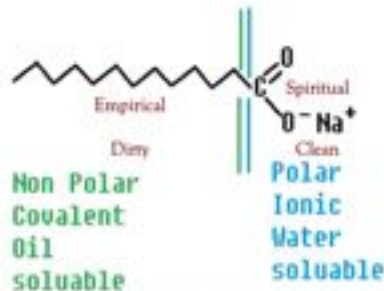
The indwelling Spirit is conduit God uses to pour His love into our hearts; Trinity at work during peirasmoi

Epilogue: Soap: Metaphor for ...

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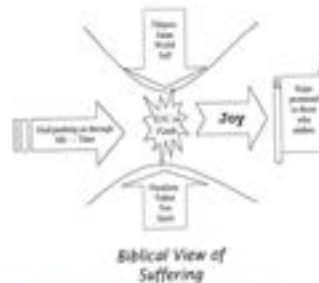


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This Process: Ascending Sacrifice

This particular aspect of the Hagiazo Process occurs without any input from us; much like the Ascending Offering represented the sacrificial relationship between Father and Son or Abrahamic Covenant
(Ge 15:12-20)

Reveals our sin and sinful worldview we have not given up since believing in Christ

As Abraham increased in faith during his process, we also will mature into greater Christlikeness

Began Weak: End in Christ

Each believer began as a sinner weak in sin and the self-righteousness of works

During this process we learn faithfulness of Christ which strengthens our faith in Him

Realization of the depth of His love

Knowing we are *never* alone: Father, Son and Spirit unless we seek to walk alone which reveals our sin we have ignored (1k 22:31-34)