



Making our calling and election sure

Am I different now?

Am I growing and fruiting?

Am I hungering and thirsting?

Am I living by faith?

Am I an alien and stranger here?

Am I advancing His Kingdom?

***WHERE THERE'S LIFE,
THERE'S GROWTH***

John 15:1-17

A Vine and Branches

Jesus – the true vine. The One through whom the life-giving sap flows.

People – branches

- Branches that bear fruit
- Branches that bear no fruit

Fruit bearing – connected to the Vine

Fruit production is the result of being in Christ (v8, 16)

- The Spirit produces the fruit and growth (Eph 4:11-16; Gal 5:22-23)
- What is this fruit?
 - Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23)
 - Obedience (v10; Gal 5)

Works are not a prerequisite to salvation, but a product of salvation

Growth happens not by our effort, but because we're connected to the Vine

- So, is there ever any "rotten fruit"?
 - Rom 7, Gal 5
- What can increase production?
 - Pruning
 - Our obedience (which is fruit, in itself)

These branches will never be removed!

John 6:37 "All that the Father gives me will come to me; and the one who comes to me, I will by no means cast out"

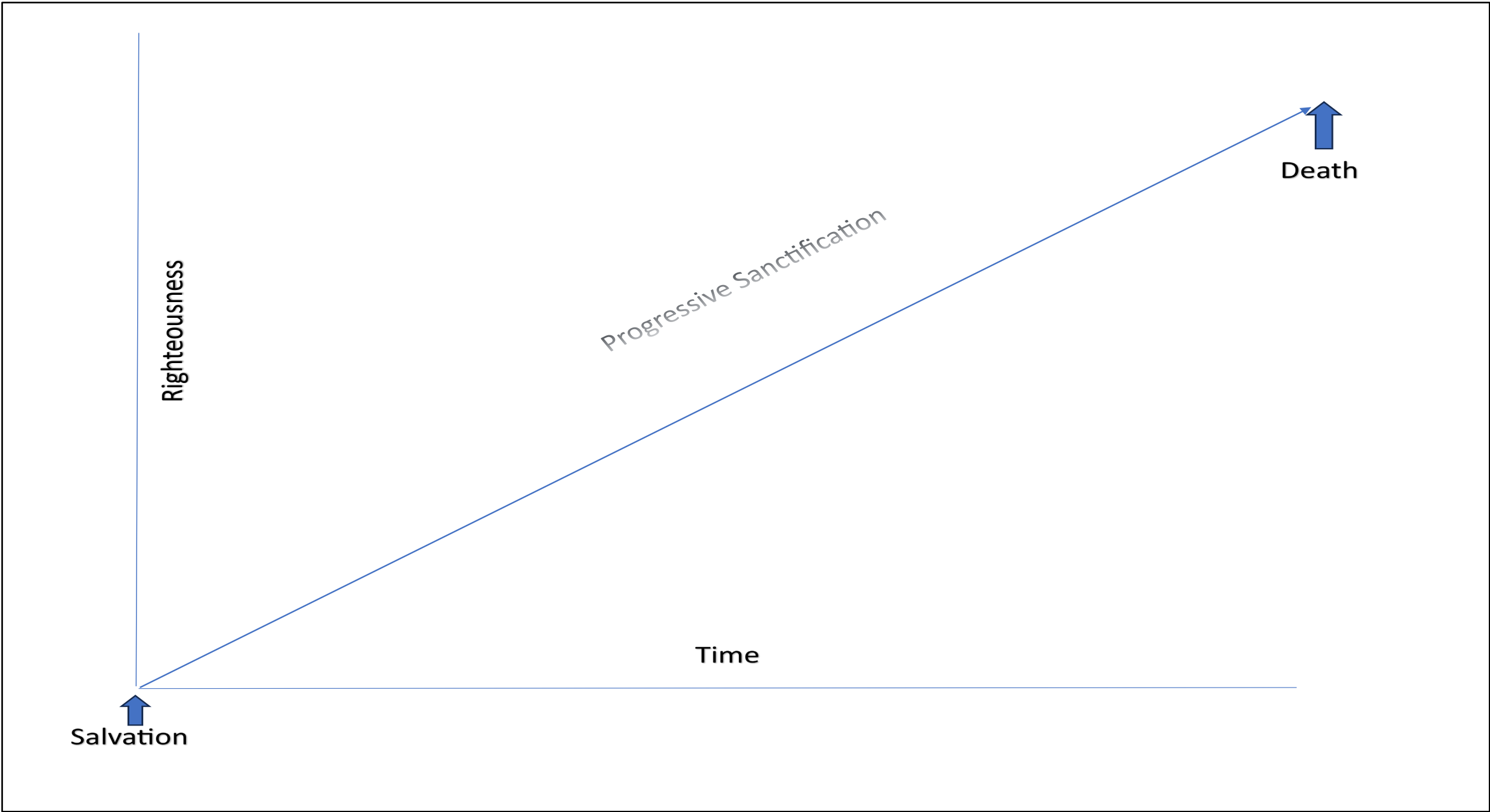
Non-fruit bearing – not connected to the Vine

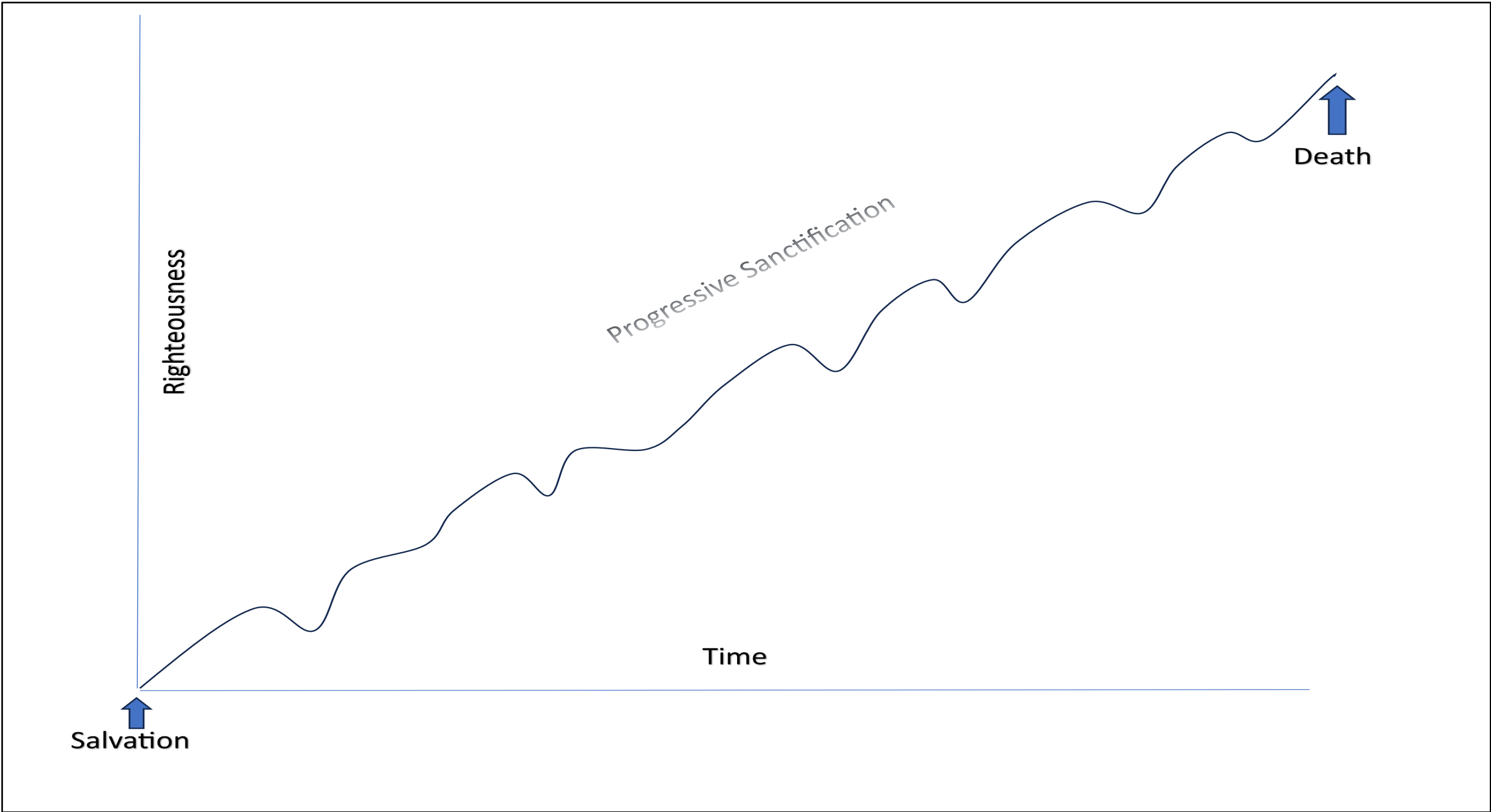
Fruit production is the result of being in Christ (v8, 16)

The fruit that they do bear are the works of the flesh (Gal 5)

For more on those in close proximity to Christ, but not in Him:

- 1 John 2:19
- Matt 7:21-23
- Matt 13 (parable of soils; wheat and tares)





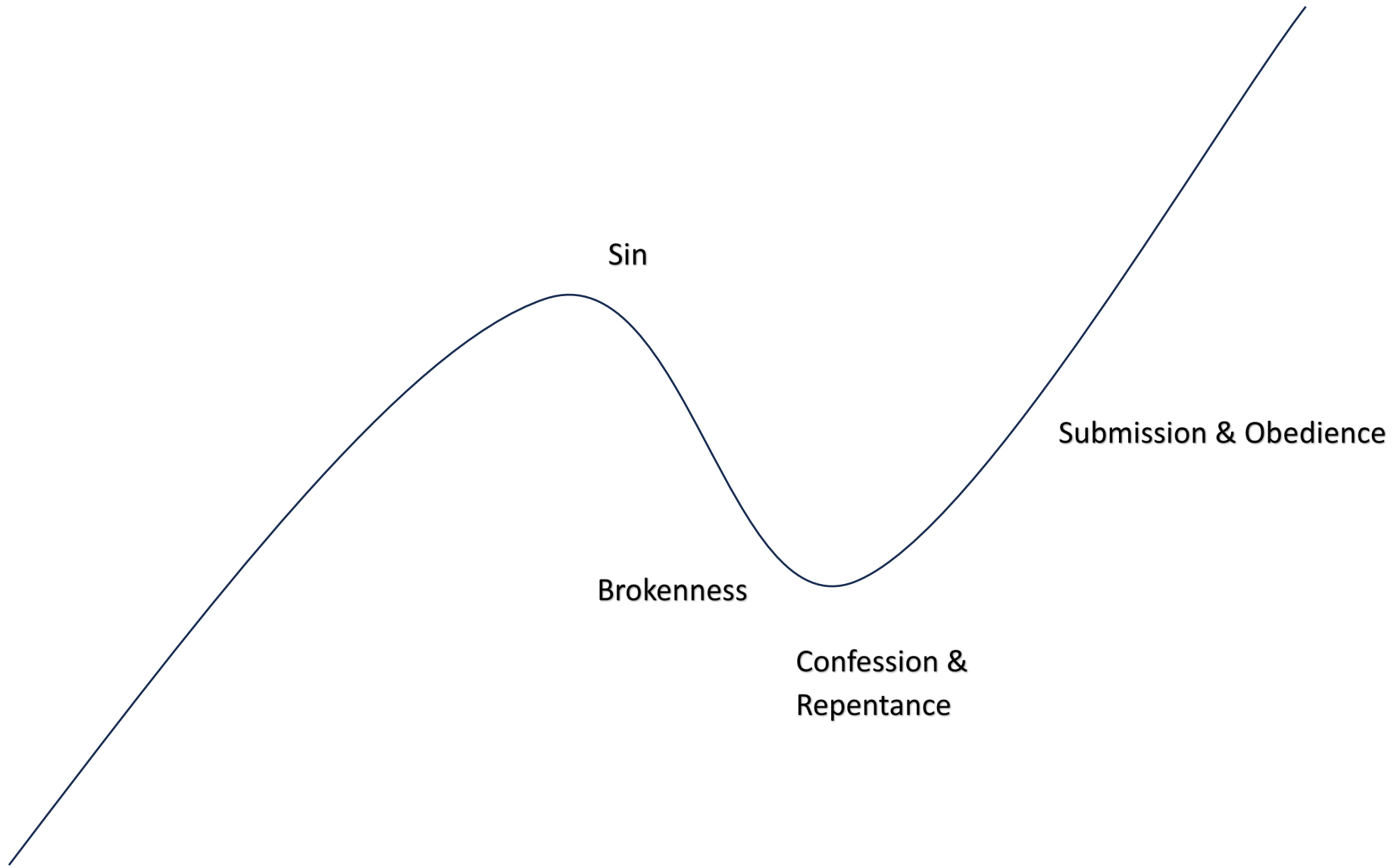
Righteousness


Progressive Sanctification

Time

Salvation

Death





There is only one way to bear this fruit...to be abiding in the Vine. If we have not come in repentance and faith in Christ, then we remain dead in our sin...even if we are in close proximity to Him.

If we and others are seeing this fruit in us, it is a great evidence that the life of the Vine is flowing through us!

Making Our Calling and Election Sure

“Where There’s Life, There’s Growth”

John 15:1-17

Making our calling and election sure

Making our calling and election sure has nothing to do with determining what tasks the Lord has called us to in life. What it means is that we need to verify, to be absolutely sure of our salvation. (2 Peter 1:10-11; 2 Cor 13:5)

When considering the exhortation to ***make our calling and election sure***, these are some diagnostic questions that we need to consider:

Am I different now? (last week)

Am I growing and fruiting? (this week)

Am I hungering and thirsting?

Am I living by faith?

Am I an alien and stranger here?

Am I advancing His Kingdom?

Growth is one of the evidences of a genuine disciple of Christ.

The Vine and the Branches

*Illustration of tangled garden/brush

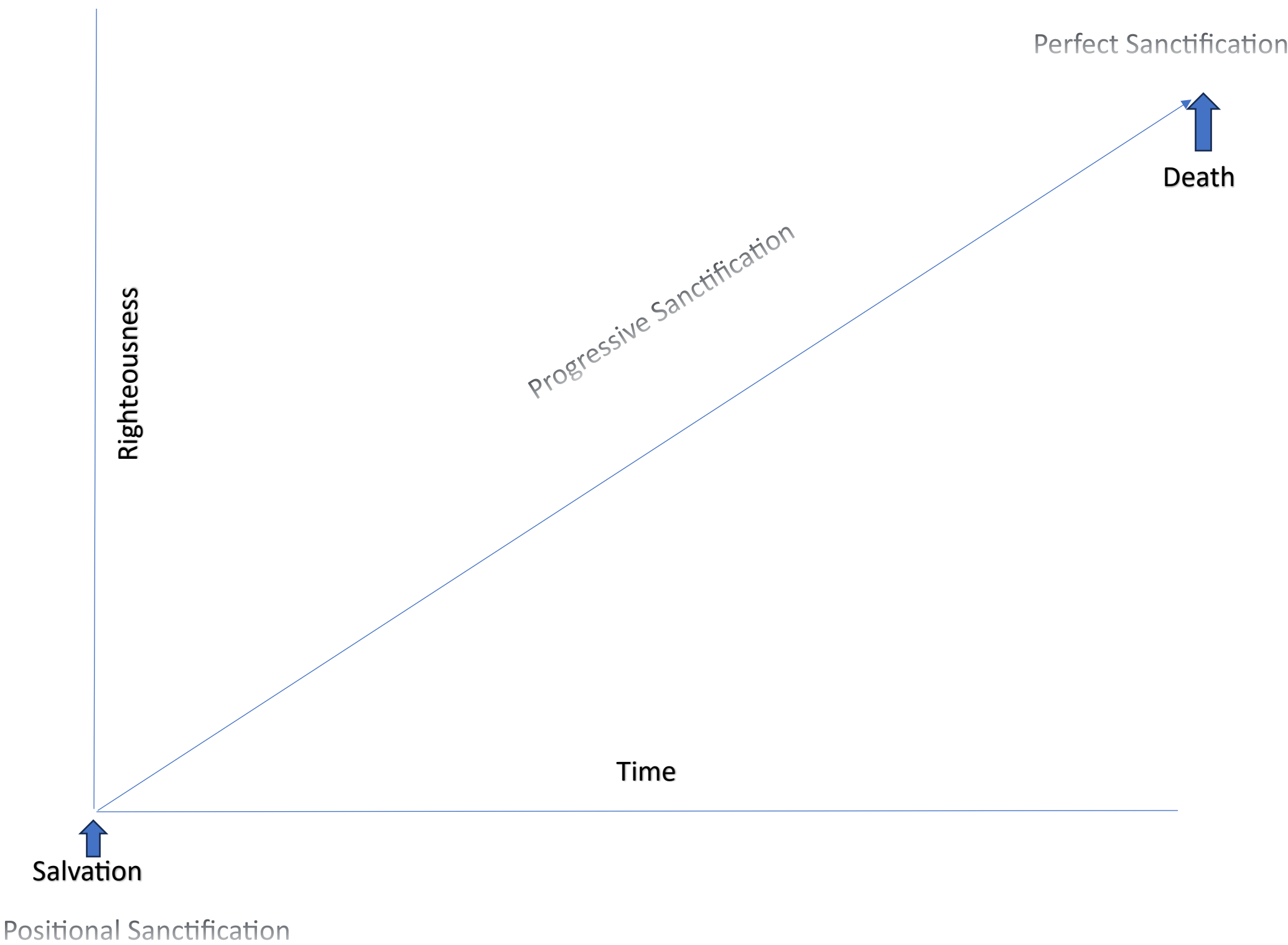
- I am the True Vine
 - The One in whom the life-giving sap flows (I have come that they may have life abundantly)
- You are the branches
 - People. Not even necessarily focusing on those who are obviously far from Christ (though, they would certainly be branches without fruit), but those who are *in close proximity to Christ*.

Every individual is either connected to the Vine or not. And NOT is our natural condition. To be connected to the Vine means to be cut from the diseased plant and grafted into the vine. This happens by repentance and faith in Christ, the Vine. And contrary to how grafting works in the natural world, the sap that flows from the Vine through us doesn’t help us to produce the same fruit that we have been producing, but it makes us new – a new creation – and causes us to bear good fruit – fruit of the Vine.

- Branches that bear fruit to varying degrees – These are connected to the Vine.
 - 1) Fruit production is the result of being in Christ – v8, 16
 - The Spirit (sap) produces fruit and growth (Eph 4:11-16)
 - What is this fruit? Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5); Obedience (v10, and submission to the Spirit, Gal 5)
 - Works are not a prerequisite to salvation, but a product of salvation
 - 2) Growth happens not by our effort, but because we're connected to the Vine.
 - *Example of Hunter
 - So, is there never any "rotten fruit" evident?
 - Rom 7, Gal 5
 - Progressive sanctification charts
 - Then what can increase production?
 - a. Pruning – the Lord's work
 - b. Our obedience (which is fruit, itself)
 - 3) These branches will never be removed! (I will by no means cast out)
- Branches that do not bear fruit – These are not connected to the Vine.

Those who are in close proximity to Christ, but have not been cut from the diseased plant and grafted into the Vine (repentance and faith), therefore do not have life from the Vine, nor do they have fruit as a result.

- 1) Fruit production is the result of being in Christ – v8, 16
 - The fruit that they do bear are the works of the flesh (Gal 5)
 - For branches in close proximity to Christ, but not in Him, see also:
 - They went out from us, but were not of us (1 John 2:19)
 - Those who will say, "Lord, Lord"... (Matt 7:21-23)
 - Wheat and the tares (Matt 13:24-30)
 - Parable of the soils (Matt 13)
- This diagnostic tool serves as:
 - 1) A great warning to those who are not in Christ
 - Not just for ourselves, but for our consideration of those around us
 - 2) A great encouragement to those of us who are in Christ!
 - That your joy may be full! (v11)



Righteousness

Progressive Sanctification

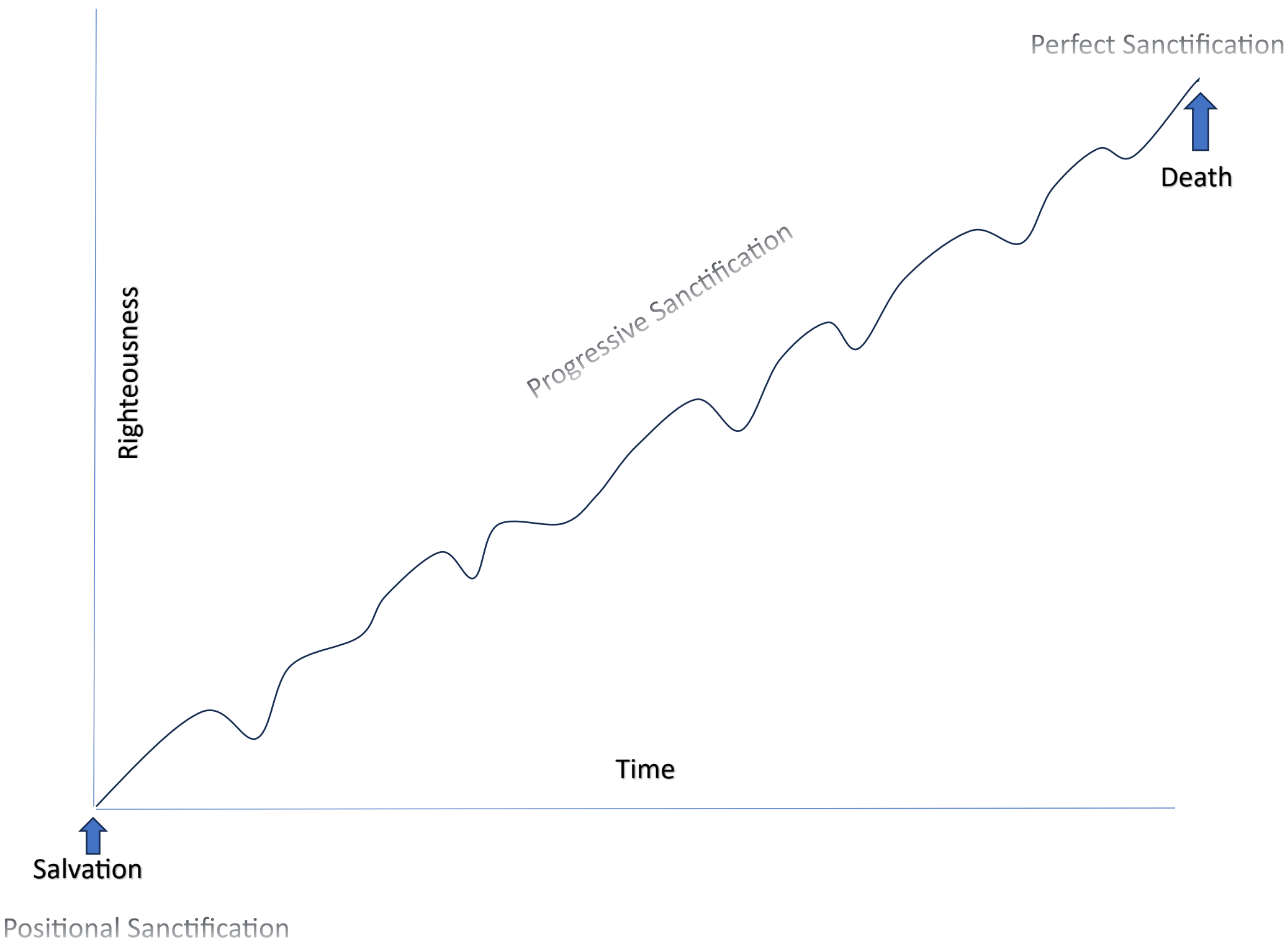
Perfect Sanctification

Death

Time

Salvation

Positional Sanctification



Perfect Sanctification

Death

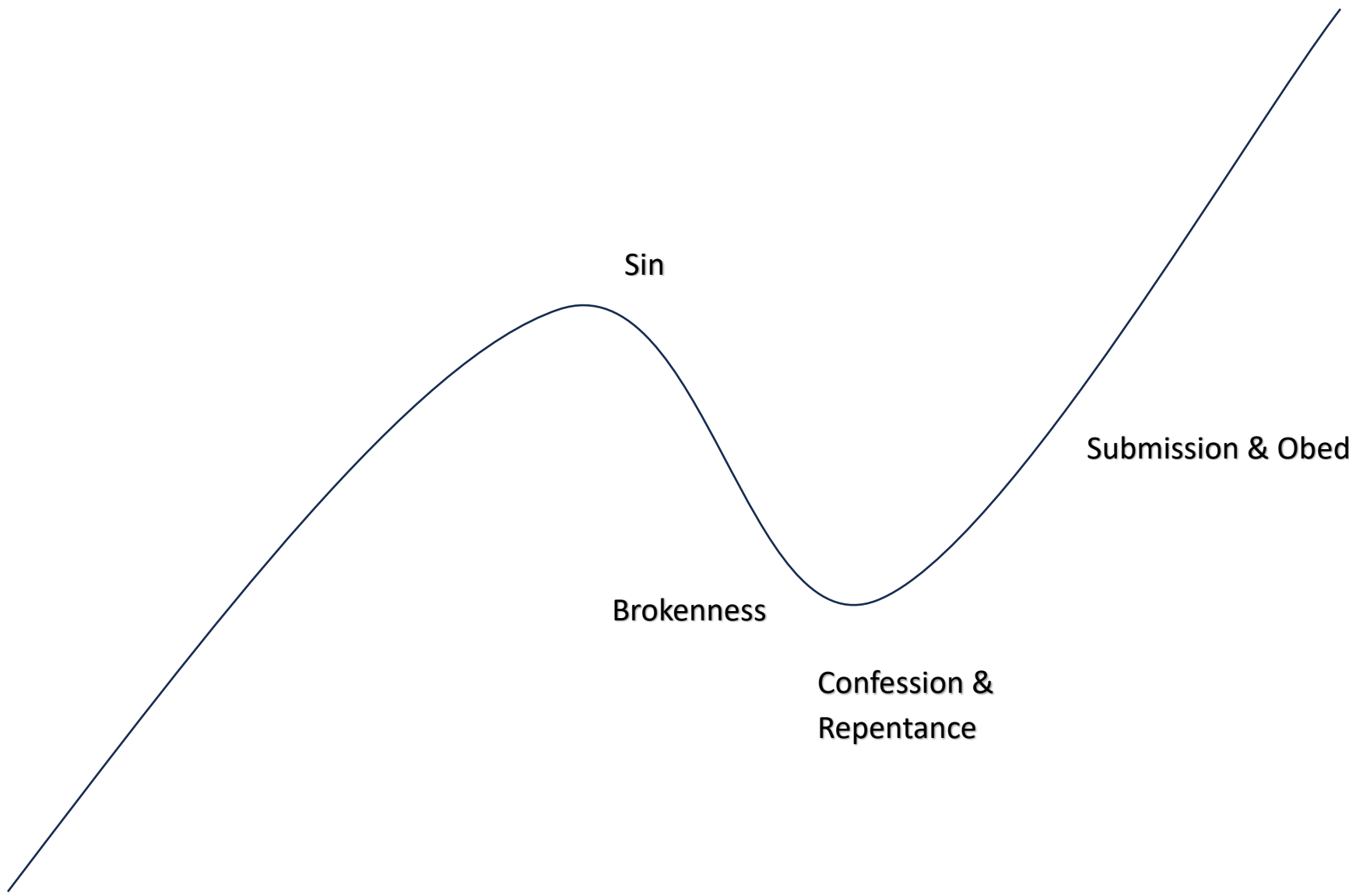
Righteousness

Progressive Sanctification

Time

Salvation

Positional Sanctification



Sin

Brokenness

Confession &
Repentance

Submission & Obedience