

## SANCTIFICATION

I Cor. 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption

[*Thinking caps ...!*] “Jesus Christ did not die only to save His people from their sins”, ... would you agree with that? “It was not the purpose of God that His Son would die on the cross of Calvary for sinners and leave it at that.” Would you agree with me there is more to it?

... What I’m trying to ‘hit on the head’ right away is the notion that someone says they have prayed the prayer asking Jesus to come into their heart and we automatically must then believe they are saved. Is that how it works?

Similarly you have people who become ‘touched’ when they hear the Gospel and they see Christianity as a way that might bring them through their particular set of difficult circumstances, ... and they are willing to ‘try it’.

With both these sets of people a radical change does not particularly take place. I’m not talking about ‘feelings’, - I hear people talk about “not feeling any different”; instead, when a person becomes a Christian there must be evidence of salvation and a changed life because Christ is now on the throne of their heart. He is their new Companion and He guides them ... He guides them into Christian fellowship, to the church meetings and to the prayer meetings. It is a process that the Bible calls ‘sanctification’.

This subject of sanctification is a hard one, because it demands so much. It does not belong to a ‘take-it-or-leave-it’ mentality. It is not the experience of a once-a week Christian. This subject of sanctification *is* a hard one, and can be a disagreeable one, but in our Bible Study we are going to look again into the Scriptures ... We have only one starting place ...

### SANCTIFICATION REFERS TO A CLEANSING

- \* The *Baptist Confession of Faith* says, “Those who are united to Christ, effectually called, and regenerated, have a new heart and a new spirit created in them; and by His Word and Spirit dwelling within them, this personal work of sanctification is indeed carried forward”. When Jesus Christ, by the power and work of the Holy Spirit, enters your life a cleansing takes place and a new heart is put within you.
- \* This therefore means that *nothing* remains untouched in your life by God! *Everything* is dealt with and cleansed.

- \* There are no sins that He leaves for a later date or another work, - He deals with your sin completely and absolutely at that moment of regeneration, when you are born again.
- \* ... and there is no need for you to cleanse your own sin, - because that takes away from His work!
- \* There is no way you can – as we say – atone for your sin; *that* is why Jesus died on the cross; He is the only Saviour and Redeemer from sin,
- \* ... And what does ‘Redeemer’ mean? It means He has paid the price for your sin in order to *buy* you back to Himself.
- \* And how much did it cost? - it cost Him great pain and terrible misery ... to the man Who is the King of kings.
- \* Ah! Could you see it ... an earthly king or prince doing what Jesus did!
- \* **Sanctification refers to a cleansing**, a cleansing from sin that binds and ruins the life, ... but there is even more to it than that.
- \* Sanctification is an ongoing process whereby not only is the born-again believer freed from the guilt of sin, but he is also released from the dominion, - i.e. power and control, - of sin.
- \* I have known people with strong alcoholic problems and they came to Christ and were saved and they no longer had any desire for the alcohol.
- \* When Jesus comes into a life He changes it. Jesus never touches someone and leaves them the way He found them! *Never!*
- \* If you are sleeping with another man’s husband and Christ saves you, you stop sleeping with him!
- \* If you are in the habit of going down to the pub or to the bingo hall and Christ saves you, you stop going to these places and atmospheres that His Word forbids you to go to.
- \* Something inside you causes you to assess your lifestyle and your commitments in the light of your faith in Christ, ... and if they don’t come up to the mark *you set them aside and you don’t have anything more to do with them!*
- \* You cannot be a worthwhile, successful Christian while still holding on to the things of the world; in fact, the Bible says it’s impossible, II Cor. 5:17 *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*
- \* There was no excuse for Peter to sit alongside those enemies of Christ around the fire in the garden of Caiaphas,
- \* He was courting spiritual disaster because it was only a matter of time before he would deny Christ, ... and he did it three times, ... he missed out on being beside Him at the cross, ... and he headed away back to his old life in Galilee.

- \* Yes, sanctification refers to a cleansing, - an initial cleansing of the soul from sin, and also a daily cleansing in order to fulfil our commitment to Christ. **Sanctification refers to a cleansing.**

### SANCTIFICATION REQUIRES A COMMITMENT

- \* Sanctification means separation. (Heb. *qadosh*; Gk. **agios**)
- \* When an implement was created in the Tabernacle and in the Temple it was made as "Holy (i.e. separated, separate) unto the Lord".
- \* It didn't become an implement with special qualities, - e.g. if it was made from brass it remained brass (etc.), - but its purpose was *particular* and not to be used for anything else.
- \* This table on which we remember the Lord's Supper is only a table, - no special magical qualities, - but yet we are careful as to how we use it, because it is an implement that is set aside for a *particular* purpose.
- \* There are two words in the Hebrew that were very important in the Old Testament times, - *qadosh* and *hillel*.
- \* Anything that was declared *qadosh* was blessed of God and holy; anything that was *hillel* was unclean and you were not permitted to touch, e.g. Lev. 10: 8 And the LORD spake unto Aaron, saying, 9 Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations: **10 And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean.** ... between *qadosh* and *hillel* ... and it required that you committed yourself to keep yourself clean.
- \* Another example: when you decided to marry a young lady you put your mark on her, - she was yours, and no-one else's because she was 'set apart' ('reserved', 'sanctified', *qadosh*).
- \* This still happens in our society too. When you buy the young woman the engagement ring you pledge yourselves to each other, ... and you are both *qadosh* unto the other.
- \* You see, **sanctification requires a commitment**, and it is a commitment on both sides, - a *covenant* between two parties,
  - \* Rom. 8: 28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. 29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.
- \* Here we have five individual stages in the progression of our faith: God's foreknowledge (His love from before the foundation of the world), predestination, effectual calling, justification, glorification.

- \* Foreknowledge, what does that mean? Easy, it means ‘knowing something beforehand’.
- \* Now, this word has some theologians and Bible commentators doing hermeneutical cartwheels; ... do you know when the first derivative of the word was used? ...
  - \* Gen. 4:1 And Adam knew Eve his wife (cf. 4:17,25)
  - \* I Sam. 1:19 Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the LORD remembered her. 20 Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel
  - \* Mt. 1:25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.
- \* You see, the word has a special meaning of intimacy and love between a husband and wife, and within this context Paul wrote, “whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, ... 30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.
- \* Yes, sanctification requires a commitment and the commitment began in the foreknowledge of God when in love, - without any outside influence or interference, - He chose you unto Himself; therefore, you love Him because in electing grace He first loved you.
- \* So, you see, sanctification is evidenced by a commitment on both sides, - God committed Himself to you, and the least He requires is that you commit everything you are and have to Him.

**Sanctification refers to a Cleansing, and Sanctification requires a Commitment**, the consequence of which ...

### SANCTIFICATION REVEALS A CHRISTLIKENESS

- \* That is the whole purpose of God’s salvation,
  - \* Eph. 5:25 Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.
  - \* Titus 2: 13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; 14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.
  - \* I Pet. 2: 24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.
  - \* Col. 1: 19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; 20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. 21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled 22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight.

- \* That is the purpose for which Christ died, and if you think He only died to save you from sin you have only got ‘half the picture’; ... He died to bring you unto Himself (that’s redemption) in order to make you like Himself (that’s sanctification), *and you can’t have one without the other!*
- \* Christlikeness, what does it mean? It means searching the Word of God for the example and the standard that God expects His people to live up to, ... and it is there in the one Person of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- \* It means being drawn after a desire to be like Christ.
- \* We needn’t look to the prophets or the kings of the Old Testament, neither need we look to the disciples and the apostles of the New, ... *only to Christ.*
- \* “What would He have us do in our situation?” ... *search the Scriptures and see!*
- \* “How would He have us act and think?” ... *search God’s Word and you will find the answer.*

**CONCLUSION.** *Holiness is not handiness!* It is something as a Christian you need to seek after, [Lk. 13: 24 Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.](#)

- \* Sanctification is the quality whereby the believer lives his/her life for Christ, and it is pleasing to God.
- \* Sanctification makes a believer a co-worker with other believers.
- \* Sanctification leads to the uniting of the Body of Christ and not to its dividing.
- \* Sanctification is the process of God that leads to the perfecting of the saints of God.
- \* It does not come out of an external righteousness but it comes from an inward holiness.
- \* J.C. Ryle wrote something very true, “Christ will never be found the Saviour of those who know nothing of following His example.”
- \* How do these things come across to you?
  - \* Are you living your life for Christ, - sanctified, different, given over completely to Him?
  - \* Is there a joy in your step as you walk with Him today?
  - \* You know, ... the devil’s war is better than the devil’s peace, and you are sure to do battle with him every day if you are faithful to Christ and strive after His standards of holiness.
- \* Here, ... let’s learn from the experiences of Peter as we allow him the final word, [II Peter 1:10 give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.](#)