

WALKING OUT HIS WORD EACH DAY

The I Thessalonians Series #7

February 18th, 2018

TEXT: I Thessalonians 1:9-10; 2:12; 3:12 – 4:3; 5:23-24

CONSIDER THIS: One of the things we need to be careful about in Christianity is using biblical or theological terms incorrectly (having mistaken ideas about what a word means) or assuming that other Christians understand what key terms mean. In today's study we will investigate a very important word: **sanctification**. Unfortunately, this word is often misunderstood. Yet when it is understood, truly understood, it opens us to a glorious and exciting journey of change, growth and ultimate victory. Being sanctified now is the key to someday, when you stand in the Lord's presence, hearing Him say to you, "Well done, my good and faithful servant!" Beloved, this is why we should be **WALKING OUT HIS WORD EACH DAY**.

GOD'S WORD TEACHES US ...

I BE SANCTIFIED!

NOTE: Before going any further, remember how important the imminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ is in Paul's letter to the Thessalonians. Because the Lord can return at any time, Paul's admonition is GET READY! STAY READY!

- A) Sanctification = the root word is **holy**. The word *saint* means *holy one* (see Romans 1:7). Christian, you are called, by God, to be holy. The verb is *be sanctified*. It is a command and it is a generous invitation from the God Who loves you to share life with Him.
- B) What is *holy*? It is the perfection of God's righteousness **that sets Him apart** from everything that is: 1. common 2. sinful. In Exodus 3:5 God told Moses to take off his sandals because he stood on holy ground.
- C) Take another look at I Thessalonians 3:12 – 4:1; 5:23-24.

The Christian's main purpose in life is to become as much like Jesus as possible before that glorious moment when you step into eternity and see Him as He is.

(I John 3:1-3)

II THE BACKSTORY OF SANCTIFICATION IN I THESSALONIANS

Definition: Backstory is a story that tells what led up to the main story or plot.

- A) The summary of the backstory is found in I Thessalonians 1:9. They *turned away from* idols (a complete repudiation of former allegiances) to serve (referring to slavery/ownership) the **ONE** true living God.
- B) For the Thessalonians to say yes to Jesus, they had to say no to almost everything they had grown up with.
 - 1. For the Jews in Thessalonica who became Christians see Acts 17:1-9, 13; 18:12-13; 19:8-9.
 - 2. For the Gentiles in Thessalonica who became Christians see Acts 16:19-23; 17:7; 19:23-36.

The unbelieving Jews hated Christians for being “blasphemers”; the unbelieving Gentiles hated Christians for being “atheists”.

- C) Thessalonian Christians, with just a bit of “tactical compromise’ could have avoided persecution.
- D) This is a huge issue in THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. To be sanctified is to be loyal to Jesus Christ without compromise = we say no to pluralism. We say no to cultural “norms”. Here is where sanctification begins ... “I stand with Jesus Christ and Jesus alone!”

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