

**WALKING OUT HIS WORD EACH DAY**  
**The I Thessalonians Series #19**  
June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**TEXT:** I Thessalonians 1:4-7; 2:11-13; 3:12 – 4:2; 5:23-24

**CONSIDER THIS:** I Thessalonians 5:23-24 is both a prayer and a benediction. It was written by Paul but it perfectly portrays to us how important our sanctification is to God. **It is the most important thing in the universe.** It glorifies God, it exalts Christ and it blesses us. It makes Heaven possible for us and it makes Heaven permanent for us. The biblical doctrine of sanctification is a message from God shouted to us which says “I love you more than you can know and my interest in every aspect of your life will never cease.” In response, may we always long to honor Him, please Him, serve Him, enjoy Him and live in the eager expectation of being with Him soon and forever.

**REMINDER:** “Sanctification” is directly related to the words “holy” and “saint”. Sanctification is the instantaneous act by which God permanently sets us apart unto Himself forever (a new POSITION). Sanctification is also the process through which God changes and refines our character to progressively grow to become more like Christ (a new PRACTICE).

**TEN TRUTHS FROM I THESSALONIANS 5:23-24**

1. **“May God Himself”:** Just as God took the initiative in saving us (Ephesians 1:3-6) so He is the ultimate agent of our sanctification. However, it is also a cooperative venture and we are fully responsible to pursue personal holiness by obeying His commands (I Thessalonians 1:9-10; 4:1-2).
2. **“sanctify you”:** Since this is a prayer of benediction it is not referring to past positional sanctification which had already been accomplished. Paul is expressing his wish/desire that God would draw them ever closer to Himself by forming Christ in their lives.

The more we grow in imitating Christ the deeper our joy becomes  
and the more intensely we delight in having intimacy with God.

3. **“through and through”:** This means completely and to the finish line. Each of us has at least one area in our lives where sanctification lags behind. We must tear down any **no trespassing** signs we have posted to the Holy Spirit = marriage, parenting, singleness, greed, anger, lust, jealousy, job, finances, hobbies, relationships, friendships, memories.
4. **“your whole spirit, soul and body”:** Continuing the thought of completion, remember that Satan is looking for a single foothold in your life that he can turn into a stronghold (see Ephesians 4:26-27). Satan can't do a thing about your permanent **position** in Christ, but he can render you useless if he hinders your **practice** in Christ.

In war, there is no substitute for victory.

5. **“kept”**: God stands guard over you, see the vivid imagery of I Peter 1:3-5 and what is “kept” by God for you.
6. **“blameless”**: WOW! Here it is. The Greek word *amemptos* which declares that wretched sinners who are clearly at fault and are blameworthy, are nevertheless declared to be counted as without fault and blame! Here is where justification and sanctification intersect.

*“To Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy – to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore.”*  
Jude 24-25

Discovery has been made in the archaeological remains of ancient Thessalonica of Christian graves marked with a single word – AMEMPTOS.

7. **“at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ”**: Remember, the second coming of Jesus (and the rapture of the church which precedes it) is primarily a judgment event of epic proportions! Please see I Thessalonians 3:13.
8. **“The one who calls you”**: The thought that God “calls” us is a powerful expression that demands we pay attention. It is a profoundly personal thing for each Christian (see Romans 8:28-30). If He had not chosen and called you personally you would never have come to Him. Now He calls you to be sanctified.
9. **“is faithful”**: Because of the limitations of our finite minds and the limits of our own character and creatureliness, we cannot begin to fathom the infinite perfection of His character. His faithfulness will never increase in response to us or decrease in response to us. Because it is perfect, it is unchanging.
10. **“and He will do it”**: In the end, when all is said and done, everything that pertains to our sanctification be it past, present or future and be it positional or progressive, will be done. He will do it!
  - A) Philippians 1:6
  - B) Philippians 2:12-13
  - C) Philippians 3:12-14
  - D) Ephesians 1:11-14

This is why we should be  
**WALKING OUT HIS WORD EACH DAY**