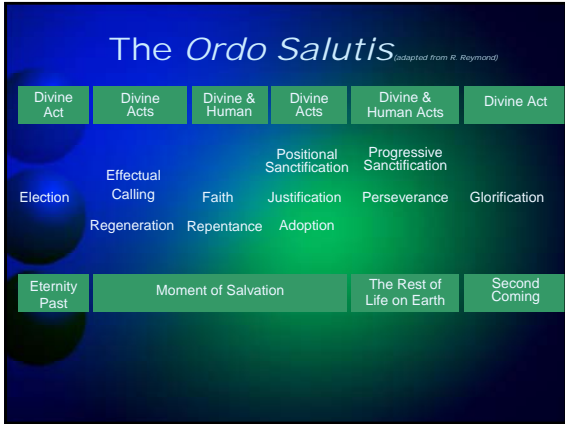


Me? A Saint?

A Study of Positional Sanctification



The Biblical Words

- OT (*qadash*)
 - To be consecrated or holy
- Moral (Lev. 19:2; 2 Sam. 22:21; Ps. 24:3-4; 51:10)
- Ceremonial
 - Persons:
 - Angels (Deut. 33:2)
 - Priests (Lev. 21:7-8)
 - Prophets (2 Kings 4:9)
 - Israel (Ex. 19:6)
 - Places:
 - Mt. Sinai (Ex. 3:5)
 - Mt. Zion (Ps. 15:1)
 - Israel's land (Ps. 78:54)
 - Objects:
 - Tabernacle (Ex. 40:9)
 - The altar (Ex. 29:37)
 - The sacrifices (Lev. 27:9)
 - The temple (Ps. 11:4)

The Biblical Words

- NT (*hagios*)
 - To consecrate, make holy; holy
 - Some ceremonial usage (e.g., law in Rom. 7:12).
 - Primary usage is moral and ethical

The Three Stages

- An event at salvation
 - Called: Definitive or Positional Sanctification
 - 1 Cor. 1:2 - To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus
 - Ultimate grounds: the death of Christ
 - Col. 1:2 - To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ *who are* at Colossae
 - Heb. 10:10, 29
 - Heb. 13:12 - Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate.
 - Immediate grounds: our union with Christ
 - Rom. 6:8 - knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;

The Three Stages

- A process now
 - Called: Progressive Sanctification
 - Heb. 10:14 - For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.
- An event in the future
 - Called: Ultimate Sanctification
 - 1 Th. 5:23 - Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Biblical Arguments for Definitive Sanctification

- We are called "saints".
- OT believers (Ps. 16:3; 34:9; Matt. 27:52)
- NT believers
 - Rom. 1:7 – to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints
 - Rom. 8:27 –He intercedes for the saints according to *the will of God*.
 - 1 Cor. 1:2 - to the church of God...at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling
 - Eph. 1:1 - to the saints who are at Ephesus and *who are faithful in Christ Jesus*:
 - Eph. 4:12 - for the equipping of the saints for the work of service
 - Phil. 1:1 - Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons

The Biblical Arguments for Definitive Sanctification

- We have been sanctified as a past event.
 - Acts 20:32 (perfect tense) - "And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build *you* up and to give *you* the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.
 - Acts 26:18 (perfect) - to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.'
 - 1 Cor. 1:2 (perfect) - To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus
 - 1 Cor. 6:9-11

The Biblical Arguments for Definitive Sanctification

- We have died to sin.
 - Rom. 6:2 - How shall we who died to sin still live in it?
 - Rom. 6:6 - knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*.
 - Rom. 6:18 – and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.
 - Rom. 7:4-6
 - 1 Pet. 2:24 - He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

The Meaning of Definitive Sanctification - Definitions

- Robert Reymond: "Every Christian, the moment he becomes a Christian, by virtue of his union with Christ, is instantly constituted a saint and enters into a new relationship with respect to the former reign of sin in his life and with God himself, in which new relationship he ceases to be a slave to sin and becomes a servant of Christ and of God."
- Bruce Demarest: "we mean the believer's being set aside for God's possession and declared holy by faith in Christ's sanctifying work."

The Meaning of Definitive Sanctification - Elements

- Set apart from sin unto God
 - 1 Cor. 6:11 - Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified
- The dominion or rule of sin is broken.
 - Cf. Rom. 6:11, 14, 18
- Given the new ability to obey God and pursue righteousness
 - Rom. 6:17-18

The Implications

- It demands that I live daily in way in keeping with my status (Eph. 5:3; Rev. 19:8).
- It serves as the basis for growing in real practical holiness (Rom. 6:1-14).