

Sanctification

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The second work of Grace in God's great plan of redemption.

Many people ask the question "Is it the privilege of believers in Christ to be sanctified in this life?"

The answer is clear and proven without doubt that entire sanctification in a true scriptural sense is attainable in this life: and true believers may arrive at a state of spiritual purity in which they are able to remain free from condemnation.

Nearly all Christian churches teach that the soul of man must be cleansed from all sin before entering Heaven. For the Bible teaches that Heaven is sinless and pure, and that sin cannot enter therein.

The time and place at which sanctification must be obtained is in need of study.

It is a well-established fact that while forgiveness of sins relieves the burden of past sins; it does not, however, set a person free from the inherited sinful nature and the resulting condemnation.

This fact accounts for many people being disappointed in their experience with Christ Jesus, because they failed to receive complete freedom from sin and condemnation with only the forgiveness of sins.

The joy of salvation, evident by its lasting quality, is only obtained when a person is truly sanctified.

Jesus does not want his people to be disappointed, dismayed, or dissatisfied.

The Son of God, Jesus Christ, loved man and wanted him to be completely reclaimed, repossessed, and redeemed from the fall into sin by disobeying God in the Garden of Eden.

Since the price was so high and the cost too great for any man on earth to pay, Jesus, the Son of God in Heaven, came to this world to pay the price of our sanctification.

While He waited for the appointed time of the greatest transaction that has ever been (or ever would be), He lived a beautiful sinless and holy life among men, leaving us an example that we should walk in His footsteps who did not sin, neither was guile found in His mouth.

As the appointed time approached, Jesus poured out His heart to God His father in prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane and said, "I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil. Sanctify them through

thy truth: thy word is truth. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified." (St. John 17:15,17, &19) .

Jesus prayed earnestly and fervently that we might be sanctified while living in the world, not after we died!

And He then went to the cross and gave His life, and there on Mt. Calvary paid the supreme price and purchased for us, who were poor and lost, salvation through sanctification of the spirit.

In the Old Testament economy, things, places, times, as well as persons were sanctified; that is, consecrated to holy purposes. These rites as purposed under the law were for the ceremonial purification of the believers.

These rites, however, when applied to persons were effective only in a ceremonial and legal sense, and did not extend to the purifying of the moral and spiritual nature. They were symbolic, and thus were intended not only to remind the Jews of the necessity of spiritual cleansing, but also of the gracious purpose of God to actually accomplish this work, through Jesus Christ. So David prayed not only "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean," but also, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." (Psalm 51:7&10)

God heard David's prayer and Jesus purchased the redemptive cleansing of the heart and the rebirth of the Holy Spirit... Hallelujah!!

Jesus taught in the third chapter of St. John, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh," (first birth) "and that which is born of the spirit is spirit" (second birth). "Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again" (spiritual birth).

Everyone that is born into the world has a birthday and a birthplace: so does everyone that is born again.. They can tell you when and where Jesus sanctified them.

St. Paul, the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, makes it very clear in all his letters that salvation through sanctification was not only intended for the Jewish people but that the Great God of the Universe included all people in His wonderful salvation plan.

"That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost."

Jesus Christ was the Son of God because the Holy Ghost was His father. When the angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she would be the mother of the Son of God (see St. Luke 1:26-35), she asked, "How can this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God."

Today, any man, woman, boy, or girl who wants to become a child of God can do so through the power of the Holy Ghost. The baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire, which John the Baptist said Jesus would use (Matthew 3:11), will burn out the root and cause of sin which forgiveness of sins does not eliminate. If this root is not removed, it will produce another crop of sins. On the other hand, if a person seeks the second work of grace, the baptism of the Holy Ghost, which eliminates the seed of sin and replaces it with the Holy Ghost, sanctification is thus obtained... sanctification that saves, keeps, and satisfies the soul.

In the New Testament times, St. Paul found people at Ephesus to whom he said, "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost come on them" (Acts 19:2-6).

Many other such examples of people are recorded in the Bible, whom after they were converted, prayed for and received the second blessing of sanctification. Among such are: St. Paul, the great apostle, after being converted on the road to Damascus (see Acts 9:1-22); Apollos, the eloquent Alexandrian speaker, who at Corinth met Aquilla and Priscilla, they "explained the way more fully unto him" (see Acts 18:24-28); Cornelius, the army officer, in Caesarea who sent to Joppa for St. Peter "to tell him the words whereby he and his house would be saved" (see Acts 10).

Sanctification is important because it is necessary to salvation. God wants us to have it, and Jesus died that we might have it. No one is saved without being sanctified.

"Wherefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered without the gate." (Hebrews 13:12)