

Topic: Sanctification

Text: I Thess. 5:23; Lev. 20:7, Ps 24:3, 4; John 17: 19,21-23; Heb. 12: 14.

Memory Verse: 2 Cor. 7: 1

Introduction:

A sanctification is an act of making or declaring something holy by making it free from sin or causing it to be morally and legally right or acceptable. It is all about following Christ for its emphasis on Christian teaching. It has its origin in Exodus 29:43. As Christians, we realize shortly after we have been saved that there is a new inner battle being waged within us - a battle between our old sin-lead nature and new Spirit-lead nature. Paul in Galatians best describes this inner struggle in Galatians 5: 17: "For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another so that you do not do the things that you wish."

Sin must be wholly removed from our lives and hearts if we are to receive the inheritance of the saints. Sanctification is necessary as a qualification to enter heaven. Jesus clearly taught in all the messages he gave to the churches in Rev. 2&3 that unless they overcome their sins and bad habits. They will not enter into heaven. Also, Paul's letter to the Thessalonians gives us an excellent insight into the need for entire Sanctification among believers. The Thessalonians were model Christians as we are today and were very boastful of their faith and labors yet they lacked inward cleansing and holiness. I Thess. 5: 23.

1. What is Sanctification? Lev. 20:7, Ex.28:41; Isaiah. 52: 11; Eph. 5:25-27,

2 Tim. 2:21; 2 Chron. 29: 6-18. To make sacred or holy, to set apart for holy use, to consecrate or dedicate by appropriate rites, to hallow, to make free from sin, to cleanse from moral corruption and pollution, and to purify. Sanctification is a continuing process

2. The condition of the human heart. Gen.6:5; Jer. 17:9; mark 7:21-23. The human heart is unclean and full of evil imagination, thought, and wickedness. It is from the heart that sin takes off before it is acted out.

3. Is Sanctification possible today for the believers? I Peter 1: .15-16;

I Thess.4:3, Matt 5:48; Rom. 6:6-7, 10; 2 Cor. 5: 17; Rom. 6:20; I John 3:9; I Peter 2:9, Rom. I: 7. Many statements in the scripture concerning the believers' life indicate that perfection and holiness are expected and it is possible in this present world.

4. With what does one get sanctified?

- (a) The word of God. John 17; 17; Eph. 5:26
- (b) The Blood of Jesus; Heb. 13; 12; I john 1:7
- (c) God is the Sanctifier. I Thess 5:23
- (d) Faith. Acts 26: 18; 15:9
- (e) The Holy Spirit. Rom. 15: 16; 2 Thess. 2: 13

5. The evidence of a Sanctified Life (perfect love) I Cor. 13:4-13;

Deut. 30:6; Matt. 23:37; John 13:34-35, I John 3: 16,4: 17-21.

- (i) He/she lives a life of total obedience to the word of God.
- (ii) He/she will be very careful the way he or she does things.
- (iii) He /She will be very faithful and regular in Bible reading and other Christian obligation.

In conclusion: We are called unto Holiness. (I Thess 4:7). There is no doubt about the call. It is the Bible, and the reason is that it is the nature and character of God. Because God is Holy, His people must be Holy outwardly and inwardly because without Holiness no man shall see the Lord.

(Heb. 12: 14). Sanctification is not about trying to be sinless in order to earn the favor of God. Rather, sanctification is for our own benefit. God commands us to pursue sanctification so that through it we may be blessed; but can be described as an inward spiritual process whereby God brings about holiness and change in the life of a Christian by means of the Holy Spirit.