

A Sanctified Life

by Ron Foutz

Opening Song: Old Hymnal #463 O Day of Rest and Gladness
New Hymnal #383 O Day of Rest and Gladness

Scripture: **1 Thessalonians 5:23, 24**

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

24 Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

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**1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

Rejoice evermore.

**17** Pray without ceasing.

**18** In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

**19** Quench not the Spirit.

**20** Despise not prophesyings.

**21** Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

**22** Abstain from all appearance of evil.

**23** And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**24** Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

**2 Peter 3:12-14**

Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

**13** Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

**14** Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, **be diligent that ye may be found of him** in peace, without spot, and **blameless**.

- Webster's New World:

**Blameless:** *Synonyms* - faultless, not guilty, inculpable; innocent. **[Character of Jesus]**

**Jude 24, 25**

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you **faultless** before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

**25** To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for ever. Amen.

**Question:**

Faultless from what?

**Exodus 34:7**

Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty...

~ Sin

**Degrees of sin. Yet, ANY sin will separate.**

~ Transgression

~ Iniquity; presumptuous sin – **Hebrews 10:26; Matthew 7:21-23** These people know better.

**Psalm 19:13, 14**

Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

**14** Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

**1<sup>st</sup> temptation - intemperance**

- Our words are to be acceptable unto God

**2<sup>nd</sup> temptation - presumption**

**1 Peter 1:13-16**

Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

**14** As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

**15** But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of **conversation**;

**16** Because it is written, **Be ye holy**; for I am holy.

**character – Matt. 12:34** - O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

**2 Peter 3:10-12**

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

**11** Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in **all holy conversation and godliness**,

**12** **Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God**, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

### **The Sanctified Life, p. 13 describes this person**

Thus it is with the truly righteous man. He is unconscious of his goodness and piety. Religious principle has become the spring of his life and conduct, and it is just as natural for him to bear the fruits of the Spirit as for the fig tree to bear figs or for the rosebush to yield roses. His nature is so thoroughly imbued with love for God and his fellow men that he works the works of Christ with a willing heart.

All who come within the sphere of his influence perceive the beauty and fragrance of his Christian life, while he himself is unconscious of it, for it is in harmony with his habits and inclinations. He prays for divine light, and loves to walk in that light. It is his meat and drink to do the will of his heavenly Father. His life is hid with Christ in God; yet he does not boast of this, nor seem conscious of it. God smiles upon the humble and lowly ones who follow closely in the footsteps of the Master. Angels are attracted to them, and love to linger about their path.

### **1 Thessalonians 5:23, 24**

And the very **God of peace sanctify you wholly**; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**24** Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

### **John 17:18-21**

As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

**19** And **for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.**

**20** Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

**21** That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

### **The Sanctified Life, p.7 BULLETIN**

The sanctification set forth in the Sacred Scriptures has to do with the entire being--spirit, soul, and body. Here is the true idea of entire consecration. Paul prays that the church at Thessalonica may enjoy this great blessing. "The very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thess. 5:23).

There is in the religious world a theory of sanctification which is false in itself and dangerous in its influence. In many cases those who profess sanctification do not possess the genuine article. Their sanctification consists in talk and will worship. Those who are really seeking to perfect Christian character will never indulge the thought that they are sinless. Their lives may be irreproachable, they may be living representatives of the truth which they have accepted; but the more they discipline their minds to dwell upon the character of Christ, and the nearer they approach to His divine image, the more clearly will they discern its spotless perfection, and the more deeply will they feel their own defects.

~ **Example of being close to Jesus (seeing His character) reveals our defects.**

## Self-Righteousness Condemned by Inspiration

### **The Sanctified Life, p.8**

When persons claim that they are sanctified, they give sufficient evidence that they are far from being holy. They fail to see their own weakness and destitution. They look upon themselves as reflecting the image of Christ, because they have no true knowledge of Him. The greater the distance between them and their Saviour, the more righteous they appear in their own eyes.

#### **Matthew 16:11, 12**

How is it that ye do not understand that I spake it not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees?

**12** Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

- Leaven = unbiblical doctrine

Leaven = sin

therefore... false doctrine is sin. How important is Bible study?

#### **Question:**

What is an example of character of the Pharisees?

#### **Mark 8:11, 12** *Denying Jesus after clear evidence of His Divinity has been presented*

And the Pharisees came forth, and began to question with him, seeking of him a sign from heaven, tempting him.

**12** And he sighed deeply in his spirit, and saith, Why doth this generation seek after a sign? verily I say unto you, There shall no sign be given unto this generation.

#### **Question:**

Have the Pharisees ever had opportunity to have faith in Jesus' miracles?

#### **John 11:47-50**

Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles.

**48** If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation.

**49** And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all,

**50** Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not.

#### **Verse 57**

Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a commandment, that, if any man knew where he were, he should show it, that they might take him.

### **The Sanctified Life, p.9**

Christ showed that He did not regard with approval that kind of piety so prevalent among the Pharisees. His teachings upon the mount show that deeds of benevolence assume a noble form and acts of religious worship shed a most precious fragrance when performed in an unpretending manner, in penitence and humility. **The pure motive sanctifies the act.**

[Doing the right thing for the wrong reason doesn't count as righteousness. Salvation by works]

*continuing with the quote...*

True sanctification is an entire conformity to the will of God. Rebellious thoughts and feelings are overcome, and the voice of Jesus awakens a new life, which pervades the entire being. Those who are truly sanctified will not set up their own opinion as a standard of right and wrong. They are not bigoted or self-righteousness; but they are jealous of self, ever fearing lest, a promise being left them, they should come short of complying with the conditions upon which the promises are based.

### **Substituting Feeling for Reason**

#### **Jeremiah 17:9**

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

#### **The Sanctified Life, p.9, 10**

Many who **profess** sanctification are entirely ignorant of the work of grace upon the heart. When proved and tested, they are found to be like the self-righteous Pharisee. **They will bear no contradiction.** They lay aside reason and judgment, and **depend wholly upon their feelings**, basing their claims to sanctification upon emotions which they have at some time experienced. They are stubborn and perverse in urging their tenacious claims of holiness, giving many words, but bearing no precious fruit as proof.

#### **Matthew 7:14-20**

Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

**15** Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

**16** Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

**17** Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

**18** A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

**19** Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

**20** Wherefore **by their fruits ye shall know them.**

## **Faith, Not Feelings**

**Hebrews 11:1** *faith is an exercising of the mind – reason and judgment*

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

**Romans 5:1, 2**

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

**2** By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

**2 Corinthians 5:7**

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

**Galatians 3:11**

The just shall live by faith.

### **Question:**

Can we see our feelings? (Usually - our countenance)

### **The Sanctified Life, p.10, 11**

Bible sanctification does not consist in strong emotion. Here is where many are led into error. They make feelings their criterion. When they feel elated or happy, they claim that they are sanctified. Happy feelings or the absence of joy is no evidence that a person is or is not sanctified. There is no such thing as instantaneous sanctification. True sanctification is a daily work, continuing as long as life shall last. Those who are battling with daily temptations, overcoming their own sinful tendencies, and seeking for holiness of heart and life, make no boastful claims of holiness. They are hungering and thirsting for righteousness. Sin appears to them exceedingly sinful.

There are those claiming sanctification who make a profession of the truth, like their brethren, and it may be difficult to make a distinction between them; but the difference exists, nevertheless. The testimony of those claiming such an exalted experience will cause the sweet Spirit of Christ to withdraw from a meeting, and will leave a chilling influence upon those present, while if they were truly living without sin, their very presence would bring holy angels into the assembly, and their words would indeed be "like apples of gold in pictures of silver" (Prov. 25:11).

### **Great Controversy, p. 602**

When the testing time shall come, those who have made God's word their rule of life will be revealed. In summer there is no noticeable difference between evergreens and other trees; but when the blasts of winter come, the evergreens remain unchanged, while other trees are stripped of their foliage. So the falsehearted professor may not now be distinguished from the real Christian, but the time is just upon us when the difference will be apparent. Let opposition arise, let bigotry and intolerance again bear sway, let persecution be kindled, and the halfhearted and hypocritical will waver and yield the faith; but the true Christian will stand firm as a rock, his faith stronger, his hope brighter, than in days of prosperity.

## The Testing Time

### **2 Timothy 3:12**

Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

### **Matthew 5:10–12**

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**11** Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

**12** Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

### **~ Compare with Isaiah 53:7-10**

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

**8** He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

**9** And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

**10** Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

### **The Sanctified Life, p.11**

While those who are self-confident, and trust in their own perfection of character, lose their false robe of righteousness when subjected to the storms of trial, the truly righteous, who sincerely love and fear God, wear the robe of Christ's righteousness in prosperity and adversity alike.

**Self-denial, self-sacrifice, benevolence, kindness, love, patience, fortitude,** and **Christian trust** [Jer. 17:5, 7] are the daily fruits borne by those who are truly connected with God. Their acts may not be published to the world, but they themselves are daily wrestling with evil, and gaining precious victories over temptation and wrong. Solemn vows are renewed, and kept through the strength gained by earnest prayer and constant watching thereunto.

### **Prophets and Kings, p.188**

The time is not far distant when the **test will come to every soul**. The observance of the false sabbath will be urged upon us. The contest will be between the commandments of God and the commandments of men. Those who have yielded step by step to worldly demands and conformed to worldly customs will then yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death. At that time the gold will be separated from the dross. True godliness will be clearly distinguished from the appearance and tinsel of it. **Many a star that we have admired for its brilliance will then go out in darkness.** Those who have assumed the ornaments of the sanctuary, but are not clothed with Christ's righteousness, will then appear in the shame of their own nakedness.

## **The Sanctified Life, p.12**

The testing time will come to all, when the hopes of many who have for years thought themselves secure, will be seen to be without foundation. When in new positions, under varied circumstances, some who have seemed to be pillars in the house of God reveal only **rotten timber beneath the paint and varnish** [whited sepulchers]. But the humble in heart, who have daily felt the importance of riveting their souls to the eternal Rock, will stand unmoved amid the tempests of trial, because they trusted not to themselves. "The foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his" (2 Tim. 2:19).

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Ephesians 4:21-32

If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

27 Neither give place to the devil.

28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

1 Thessalonians 5:23, 24

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

24 Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

Afternoon Meeting – *From Among the Laodiceans*

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Closing Song: Old Hymnal #93 I Sing the Mighty Power

**New Hymnal #88 I Sing the Mighty Power of God**