

Sanctification Part 2

“What is it and how do I get some of it?”

II Thessalonians 2:13-17

“I am being sanctified by the grace of God; My life has been set apart to live for His glory”

Introduction: Last Sunday morning we began this series on sanctification by looking at the responsibility and the benefit that comes with being set apart for the great work of the Lord.

A. This morning I would like to very much continue to look at the sanctification of the Lord.

1. I have subtitled this morning’s message “What is it and how do I get some of it?”

- First let me say that sanctification is not something that you’re going to find in a self help book or on www.sanctification.com. It does not come with anything that man has to offer.
- Second let me define it a little: Sanctification is not an idea, or a concept it is an action: It is the action of God that sets apart an individual for the call of God on their life.

= it is very difficult to illustrate such an amazing mystery of God in man’s very finite vocabulary.

B. I once was a pastor of a church where many of the members were poor, they were good people they certainly loved the Lord but many had very little in regards to wealth.

1. We were walking in the church one day and a little girl who knew no better saw a lady walking in the church and look at up at her mother and father and said That lady wears that same dress to church every week.
 - What a teaching moment for those parents: It was explained that was best that she had.
 - Every Sunday she would return home and carefully hang up this dress.
 - It was always kept clean and pressed it always looked nice.
- I was reminded of that lady and her dress this week as I thought on the sanctification of God.
 - Like that dress we are set apart for a purpose and kept clean and sometimes even pressed so that we can continue to fulfill the purpose to which we have been set apart.

Transition: In our text this morning Paul is writing to encourage the church.

- A. In the proceeding verses Paul writes of the coming of apostasy and the lawlessness and of antichrist and even how the power of Satan raises with all kinds of signs and false wonders.
 1. Church that all sounds too familiar: Even today we are experiencing apostasy and lawlessness and we see the wickedness of Satan all around us.
- Now come to verse 13 with me: But we should always give God thanks to the Lord for you. Who are the you?

I. **Who are the Sanctified** verse 13

A. Paul describes the sanctified with 3 words brethren, beloved, chosen.

- **The brethren** we are not alone in our sanctification, the believer has been set apart not only to serve the Lord as individuals but God has call the sanctified to unity He has sanctified the church.

➤ The sanctified, are people called together for the purpose of God!

- To ^(A)the church of God which is at ^(B)Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints ^(C)by calling, with all who in every place ^(D)call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours:

I Corinthians 1:2

B. The brethren speaks not only of the local church but to all of God's church.

1. The brethren have been set apart for the glory of the Lord!

- **The beloved**, the sanctified of God are God's beloved those in which he finds joy, God's love toward man is for His glory!

- Sing with me "Jesus Loves Me"

➤ The sanctified are the loved of God!

- **The chosen**, this word literally means to lift up like hands, to select.

- This means that the sanctified are those that God has called and set apart.
 - Man cannot decide one day that he will be good or that he will be part of the family of God!
 - God is the author and finisher of our faith and He lifts us up to himself for His holy purpose!

Transition: The who of the sanctification are the brethren, the beloved and the chosen.

A. The how of sanctification can be found again in verse 13 READ

II. How of Sanctification verse 13

A. Sanctification happens by the Spirit and Faith.

1. Listen sanctification begins at regeneration Paul writes in Titus 3:5

➤ He saved us, ^(B)not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but ^(C)according to His mercy, by the ^(D)washing of regeneration and ^(E)renewing by the Holy Spirit,

- Once we have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit of God we fall out of love with sin and now we cannot continue to sin as a habit or pattern of life with the Holy Spirit giving direction to what we do and what we say!
 - Sanctification does not happen by the deeds which we have done but by the Holy Spirit of God working in our lives.

B. I believe that it is safe to say that we cannot do any “regenerating” of ourselves we cannot even participate other than to receive it.

1. It is clear from the text that faith plays a role in our sanctification but it is also clear that faith cannot come with the quickening of the Holy Spirit.

C. Jesus was with his disciples when word came that Lazarus was sick and dying.

1. By the time Jesus arrived on the scene it was too late Lazarus had died.

➤ The scripture even says that she cried over the death of His friend.

= Jesus ask him where they laid him, told them to move the stone, and then He prayed to the Father.

■ Jesus then said these words “Lazarus, come forth”

➤ Now let’s stop the story for a moment.

➤ What do you think was going on inside the cave?

- Lazarus laying there contemplating: Should I come alive again?
 - Jesus is calling me to live again but am I really ready for such a drastic change?

- Can really live the life of a man who was dead and now is alive again.

= No, Lazarus was made alive again by the power of God and the same is true of regeneration of man spiritually.

- God through His Holy Spirit quickens makes alive so that man can have faith to believe in Christ for the sanctifying of his soul.

Transition: Who is sanctified?: The brethren, The beloved, and the chosen.

- How does sanctification happen? It happens through the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit resulting in faith and trust in God.
- But why, to what purpose does God bring all this to pass?

III. The Why of Sanctification verse 14 – 15 **READ**

- A. There is our answer the purpose of God calling us, saving us, setting us apart for His glory is: That you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - 1. Sound too simple. I am sorry it really is that simple; The purpose of God saving us and setting us apart is so that we can know His glory.
- B. And here is what it looks like: Stand firm and hold to the traditions
 - 1. These traditions are the ordinances of God.

= The instruction is for those that have been regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Spirit of God should continue in obedience to the holiness of God!

Closing: Let's take this away from the scriptures this morning.

1. What is sanctification: It is God's action on His beloved by His Holy Spirit to set the believer apart for the holy purpose of His Glory.

2. How do we experience more of it: We do have an active role in living in the sanctification of God Romans 8:13 for ^(A)if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are ^(B)putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

■ As believers we have the power to live holy lives set apart lives for the Kingdom of God.

➤ Let me encourage every believer this morning that you have the faith and that God has set you apart and will give you the strength to be obedient to His word.

■ Will you acknowledge that and live out a commitment to His Glory?