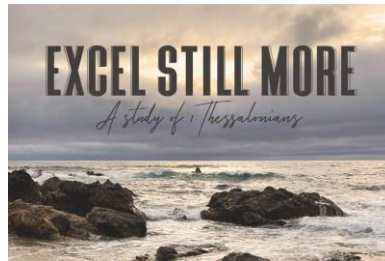


DISCIPLE'S QUEST

If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine.

John 8:31



April 21, 2024

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Sanctification

Main Idea:

Beyond their justification, it is God's will that disciples of Jesus be increasingly transformed into His likeness. Throughout the New Testament, and including 1 Thessalonians, this process is often called sanctification. Although our sanctification as believers is God's work, and He Himself will ultimately sanctify us through and through, here and now we are called to strive to grow in holiness through obeying the Word in the Spirit's power.

Outline:

- 1) As believers, although required by our Lord to strive to grow in personal holiness, we are also dependent on Him to accomplish it for us.

4 ways we're to fuel and hasten our sanctification here and now:

- By cooperating with the Holy Spirit
- By loving, studying, and obeying God's Word
- By devoting ourselves to prayer
- By spending as much time as possible in harmonious community with the people of God

- 2) As believers we can rest assured that God Himself will complete our sanctification through and through in due course.

Questions for further contemplation and application after the message:

#1 What is the biblical doctrine of justification?

#2 What is the biblical doctrine of sanctification?

#3 How can a believer fuel his growth in sanctification here and now?

Where does the believer's hunger for God's Word and the ability to obey it come from?

#4 How can a believer hinder his growth in sanctification?

#5 Can we really know as believers that we'll one day be sanctified through and through?

How can we know?

Does the contemplation of this blessed future reality bring you joy?

When will our sanctification be complete as believers in Jesus?

Select helpful resources:

Hiebert, D. Edmund. *1st & 2nd Thessalonians*. BMH Books: Winona Lake, IN, 1996.

MacArthur, John F. *1st & 2nd Thessalonians The MacArthur New Testament Commentary*. Chicago: Moody Bible Institute, 2002.

Thomas, Robert L., Ralph Earle, and D. Edmund Hiebert. *The Expositor's Bible Commentary. 1st & 2nd Thessalonians, 1st & 2nd Timothy, Titus*. Zondervan: Grand Rapids, 1996.