

A Message To The Saint And The Sinner

Pastor Anthony J. Shetley, Sunday, May 18, 2025

We have come together today as we do every week all because of one man, one purpose – Jesus, in whom we believe – the Son of God, the Christ who was to come, the savior of all mankind.

Paul exclaimed, “I sought to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.” The crucifixion of Jesus Christ, the event at the center of history.

Jesus said, “You must be born again, or you will never see or enter the Kingdom of God.” This new birth is the receiving of spiritual life from God Himself. There is no way you nor I can live a holy life without the Holy Spirit and without holiness no man shall see the Lord.

No man could receive the life of the Spirit without atonement for sin. Jesus said that it was expedient and necessary for Him to go – to suffer and be crucified and to leave this earth – to go back to the Father, because this was what was necessary before God could send the Power of His Spirit to set the soul of man free from the bondage and death of sin.

This is the Gospel, *“and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.”* (1 Corinthians 2:4–5, NASB)

We began by faith Jesus Christ, and we must continue all the way by faith in Jesus Christ. If we abandon following Him to return to doing it ourselves through the power of the flesh, we will fall from the grace of God.

“Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?” (Galatians 3:3, NASB95)

“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.” (Galatians 5:16–18, NASB95)

“For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,” (Romans 8:5–6, NASB95)

We need the Holy Spirit from God! O Lord send the power just now!!!

A Message To The Saint And The Sinner: (1 Peter 4:12–19, NASB)

- The “fiery trial” literally – the burning
 - Fire purifies
 - It is for our testing
 - The removing of dross (refining gold / smelting) Gold refining is crucial because when gold is extracted from the ground, it often contains other metals and impurities like zinc, copper, silver, and iron. These impurities can negatively affect the quality and value of the gold.
- “Don’t be surprised” following Christ and trials are a sure thing not a strange thing.

- If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because *“the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.”* You stand out because the darkness can see the presence of God within you, and darkness hates the light!

Cast all your cares and anxieties and fears upon the Lord because He cares for you – you must stay soberminded to avoid being devoured by Satan who stalks you like a hungry lion!!!!

- Without clinging to Jesus with everything you’ve got, you won’t make it.
 - For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved, what will become of the godless man and the sinner?
- We must trust and yield all to God!
 - *“So, if you are suffering in a manner that pleases God, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for he will never fail you.”* (1 Peter 4:19, NLT)