

Sanctify You Entirely

I Thess 5: 23-28

Sanctify You Entirely

- Throughout Scripture we see a recurring theme.....
 - It is a cry or command to “sanctification”
- The word “sanctify” comes from the Greek
 - “hagiazō” which means to separate or set apart
 - The usual connotation is used in reference to...
 - “be set apart from sin”
 - “be set apart for or to God”
- Israel is an example....
 - “The chosen people of God....set apart”

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- To be set apart is a major theme in this letter
 - Vs 23 & 24 are a shortened version of chptr 4: 3-8
 - It is also likened to chptr 3: 11-13
- Paul also reiterates this theme in another letter to the Romans
 - Rom 6: 12-19
- To further understand “sanctification” we need to understand there are three phases of it.
 - First....sanctification occurs when we are saved

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- Heb 10: 10....(The starting point)
 - KJV.... By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*.
 - NAS...By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.
 - Amplified...And in accordance with this will [of God] we [who believe in the message of salvation] have been sanctified [that is, set apart as holy for God and His purposes] through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed) once for all.
- From this verse we understand that “sanctification” begins at the new birth.....when anyone comes to Christ in faith

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- The end point of sanctification....(future)
 - 1 Jn 3: 2..... Beloved, we are now children of God, and what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when Christ appears, we will be like Him, for we will see Him as He is.
 - Phil 3: 21...Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.
- The in-between arena.....(present)
 - This is where you and I live today.....
 - Living our lives to become “conformed into the image of Christ” (Rom 8: 29)

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- We must ask the question, why is this so important in the Christian's life?
 - II Cor 5: 20...Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.
- Our lives are meant to be a living example of the Holy Spirit working in our lives
 - To cause others to want to come to Christ
 - Would our lives compel others to come to Him?

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- We must note in our text for today
 - “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you”
- First....there can be and will not be any change in your life or mine apart from the Holy Spirit
 - Titus 2: 10-15
- Question....
 - Does that describe my life?
 - Do I see myself as a walking, talking testimony of God’s grace?

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- The Christian life is not just showing up on Sunday
 - It is “entirely” sold out to Christ
 - Vs 23.....spirit, soul and body
- KJV....Vs 23... “may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- Zech 4: 6....”not by might nor by power but by My Spirit says the Lord”
- No human effort can sanctify you!!!!
- It is all of God showing you and me what needs to be added to our lives or subtracted from it!!!!

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- Today we will hear these words.....
 - “Let a man examine himself”
 - Will or do people see Christ in me?
 - Or will they see someone who talks a good game
 - But is one who “honors me with their lips but their hearts are far from Me”
- At the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ
 - Is He going to say to you “well done?”
 - “Or go away?”
- Sanctify you entirely???
- This is the will of God.....that you abstain from evil

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- Vs 24..."faithful is He who calls you, and He will also bring it to pass."
- Question.....
 - How many times has the Holy Spirit convicted us of something and we said, "No, Lord I can't do that?"
- Heb 12: 1..."let us also lay aside ever encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us."
- We only have one race to run.....
- Shouldn't we make the best of it????