

Called to Holiness

1 Thessalonians 5:23–24 Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

Intro: There is a lot of misunderstanding about the return of Christ. This confusion may be because men emphasize the wrong thing. We see this often in the Bible, even coming from the disciples. We see the same misunderstanding in the Thessalonian church. So, Paul’s teaching on this subject is of great value to us. The Bible’s emphasis on the return of Christ for the Christian is about our meeting our Lord as pictured in Ephesians 5, “Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.”

_____ is the chief aim of the Christian life. The leading factor that should consume our thinking when we think about the return of Christ. Biblically, it is the goal, the aim, the point of all our living.

Between Two Prayers

1 Thessalonians 3:11–13 Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, ¹² and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, ¹³ **so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.**

Establish- strengthen, to cause someone to become stronger in the sense of more firm and unchanging in attitude or belief—‘to strengthen, to make more firm.’¹

¹ Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). [*Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains*](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 677). New York: United Bible Societies.

Blameless in Holiness- think about what that means, he did not say blameless and holy, but blameless **in** holiness.

Blameless- innocent, without guilt, cannot be convicted of the accusation.

Holiness- the state resulting from being dedicated to the service of God².

2 Cor. 7:1 Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

hágios [holy], *hagiázō* [to make holy, sanctify], *hagiasmós* [sanctification], *hagiótēs* [sanctification], *hagiōsynē* [sanctification], **1 Th. 3:13**³

hagiōsynē In 2 Cor. 7:1 and 1 Th. 3:13 the divinely effected condition is to find completion in moral dedication in the form of purity.⁴

We have already looked at the text regarding how we are to increase in our love for one another, but now we will pick up and see that Paul says even our growing in love is for a purpose.

Don't miss this! Our growing in love is ultimately for the purpose of living a holy life.

Real love _____ and gets others out of sin.

The most harmful lie in the church today is turning the grace of God into sensuality. In other words, we have been told that _____ is the chief end. That the love of God accepts all.

² Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 537). New York: United Bible Societies.

³ Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). [Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, Abridged in One Volume](#) (p. 14). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.

⁴ Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). [Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, Abridged in One Volume](#) (p. 18). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.

The bible categorically disproves this from Genesis to Revelation. The most severe judgement in the Bible is for those who know to do right and don't live a holy life.

They have the appearance of godliness but lack the power of it. What is that power. The power to _____ the sinner.

Love is the key motivation in living a holy life. We love God with all our being and our neighbor as ourselves. Love is to keep us from sin. Real love is never an _____ to sin!

God's ultimate purpose in salvation is that He will make us holy.

Our number one concern when we think about the return of Christ is not worrying about what is going on in the world, _____!

Far above anything else we should be concerned about how we are living so we can meet Christ blameless in holiness.

Christ will end this thing when it is time, He will clean this world up and destroy His enemies with the Word.

The main issue in the redemptive story is _____.

He died so that we can be holy. He expects to find His bride holy. He is working to make us holy. We should all be extremely focused on letting God sanctify us and prepare us for the day we meet the Lord.

Have you ever considered that in the biblical narrative your sanctification is far more important than what is going on in _____?

In one respect, the decision of what you look at today is more important than what the _____ is doing. You will be with God forever, but God will destroy all the wicked and remove their memory from existence.

You will meet the Lord Jesus Christ who died for you, the wicked will not, nations will not, Presidents will not, you will!

The return of Christ is pictured as a man who has been engaged to a bride and he is going off to prepare a place for them to live. When the time is right, he will come back for his bride. The expectation is that she will be spotless and blameless for him when he comes for her.

Love is jealous! Love is exclusive, that is why friends of the world are called adulterers! Love demands holiness and holiness demands love.

There is coming a day when we shall see Jesus _____.

_____! Come what may, our focus should be on being pleasing to the one who died to save us.

The return of the Lord is about being able to meet Him with our hearts blameless in holiness!

It is beyond _____ that the church knows so little about holiness because holiness is literally the goal.

For the rest of your life, with all of your life, make it your aim to meet your redeemer blameless in holiness.

What does this call to holiness change about our daily lives?

Do you have a question?