

Sanctification: I'm Saved, Now What?

3/08/2020 Sunday AM

Introduction

- Last Sunday we discussed, **Salvation: Is it Simple or Complicated?**
- We were able to see that everyone is in need of salvation (Romans 3:23), and that in order to be saved you simply must confess with your mouth that “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, and you will be saved (Romans 10:9).
- Salvation is simple in that it is a gift that God gives us if we are willing to receive it. It is complicated because there is nothing we can do to earn it, all credit goes to God. All we do is surrender to his will.
- That leads us to our topic this morning, **Sanctification: I'm Saved, Now What?**
- Most people view salvation as a single moment or event that took place in their lives.
- **Salvation is not a moment or an event, it is a process.**
- It is true that there may have been a moment in your life where you met the requirements to be saved, and you were saved and sealed by the Holy Spirit in that moment.
- That is the moment you were saved; however, salvation as a whole is a process of God reconciling us back to himself. It is him bringing us from death to life.
- Once we are saved, then we are sanctified.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

³It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; ⁴that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, ⁵not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; ⁶and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. ⁷For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. ⁸Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit.

- **V.3** – We see clearly here that Paul says, “It is God’s will that you should be sanctified:”
- Sanctification is twofold, it is a status and also a process. At the moment of our salvation we are ‘set apart’ and given a status of holiness because of the sacrifice Christ made for us. (Hebrews 10:10)
- However, sanctification as Paul is speaking of in **v.3** is the process of us conforming our attitude and actions to be like Christ’s, and that is us striving ‘to be holy.’”
- **V.4** – We can see that Paul mentions at the end of **v.3** that they should “avoid sexual immorality” and then he says that they should “learn to control” their own bodies “in a way that is holy and honorable.”
- That is precisely what the process of Sanctification is all about, us learning how to be holy and honorable.
- **V.5** – Paul explains further here by saying, “not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God.”
- A saved, born-again Christian should strive to be “holy and honorable,” and not act like “the heathen.”
- **Vv. 6-7** – Paul is clear that God will punish people for their sinful acts, we have all been warned.
- He goes on to say in **v.7** that “For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.”
- Again, God’s will for us is to be sanctified and that means that we are to live “holy” lives which is the opposite of what the world models for us.
- **V.8** – To reject the instructions that Paul is giving in this passage is not to reject him as a man. It will mean you are rejecting God, because you will be going against God’s will, not man’s.

Philippians 2:12-13

¹²Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

- **V.12** – Here Paul tells the Philippians to “continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling.”

- Many people have misused this verse to teach people that they could lose their salvation if they did not “work” consistently in the way that they should.
 - That kind of teaching goes directly against everything that we know about Salvation.
 - So, if this verse is not teaching we have to work for our salvation, what does it mean?
 - “Work out” - The Greek verb rendered “work out” means “to continually work to bring something to completion or fruition.” We do this by actively pursuing obedience in the **process of sanctification**.
 - “Fear” - The Greek word translated “fear” in this context means “reverence” or “respect.”
 - Paul uses the same phrase in (2 Corinthians 7:15) where he refers to Titus as being encouraged by the Corinthians’ reception of him “with fear and trembling,” that is, with great humility and respect for his position as a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - Paul himself came to the Corinthian church in “weakness and fear, and with much trembling” (1 Corinthians 2:3), mindful of the great and awesome nature of the work in which he was engaged.
 - “Trembling” – Is the attitude Christians should have while they are pursuing sanctification, which is a healthy fear of offending God through disobedience, and an awe and respect for His majesty and holiness.
 - Simply, Paul is exhorting the Philippians people to pursue sanctification and to do this with reverence to God because it is his will for us.
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- When we are saved, that is the beginning, not the end.
 - So many people feel that once they are saved, they have arrived at their destination.
 - Salvation is the moment when we receive the gift of salvation and are justified through our faith in Jesus Christ. Then, we begin the process of cleaning up.
 - It is only with the help of the Holy Spirit that we can even begin the process of sanctification because we do not have the power within us to become holy.
 - It is also during this period of the salvation process that we begin to mature in our faith and that is called discipleship.
 - **So often the church focuses on how many people have gotten “saved,” but never looks at how many are actually growing and maturing in their faith through discipleship.**
 - Let’s be reminded of The Great Commission that Jesus left us with in **Matthew 28:19-20**, “¹⁹Therefore go and **make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
 - We should no doubt put efforts into evangelism as we attempt to reach people for Christ, however we must understand that our mission is to disciple those people so that they in turn will go out and do the same.
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- As we seen a couple of weeks ago, a person who is saved will undoubtedly bear good fruit showing that they are connected to the vine.
 - God has created each one of us to do good works, those good works are a product of us going through the process of sanctification. They in no way help us to attain salvation, because they can only come afterward.

Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”

- So, to answer the question at hand, **I’m Saved, Now What?** “Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling.”
- Put off the old self, and embrace the new!

