

North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

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4/7/16 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part
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Personifying Faith

If faith were a person, who/what would it be if it was forced to abide in things seen and not the unseen? Would it be "happy", knowing that its greatest contribution to the world was being missed out on?

Faith Takes Us Everywhere

You don't need to understand every last aspect of the inner workings of a vehicle in order to have the faith necessary for it to take you from point A to B. Isn't that the same thing as faith (by grace through faith ~= "vehicle") and sanctification (~= "destination")? Indeed!

"sanctified by faith" (Ac 26:18)

Reveals the nature of our sanctification; at salvation it is "by grace through faith" (Eph 2:8-9), which sets the pattern for sanctification ("from faith (positional) to faith (experiential)" - Ro 1:17).

Walking by Faith

If you have faith, will you do anything other than walk by it? In other words, if God gives us faith, and if that faith were 100% pure in us (I speak as a man), isn't that faith the means of our perseverance? If it were totally pure, would we ever be motivated to do anything other than God's will? (2Co 5:7; Ro 8:1-9; Gal 5:16-17)

Eph 4:11-12

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

Go For It!

Evangelize as if there were no tomorrow! Live in the imminent return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (1Th 5:1-11), because it is imminent! Evangelize as if someone else's life depends upon it, because it does! And remember Jesus' words, "...and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

"let us be sober"

Paul is encouraging believers to "be" who God desires for each of us to be, experientially, which is not intoxicated with the lusts of the flesh and the desires

of the world.

Are you equipped for self or for others?

We're All Evangelists

Some of you would rather endure hardship than do the work of an evangelist.

This BEGS the question: What IS "labor for Christ"??? Is it simply showing you can "take a punch", like Rocky Balboa and keep standing???...or is there more to it?

The Right Perspective

Sanctification is being who God has made you to be. To be full of faith, full of hope, and full of love is the greatest thing we could hope our lives become. And if we are full of those things, He will use us for mighty good works along the way, as part of our sanctification (e.g., evangelism).

Heb 11:1 [Amplified]

Now faith is the assurance (title deed, confirmation) of things hoped for (divinely guaranteed), and the evidence of things not seen [the conviction of their reality-faith comprehends as fact what cannot be experienced by the physical senses].

What Sanctification Isn't

We aren't meant to conquer darkness, Christ already did that for us. That's why we ought not spend all our time wrestling with something that's already dead to us! (Ro 6:10-14)

Sanctification

No matter how fast you run backwards, you'll never escape darkness until you simply turn around and face the Light.