

North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

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1/3/16 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part
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Donald Grey Barnhouse

"If you will turn to the God of force and power in nature and acknowledge fully your creature subservience to Him, you will find Him immediately as the God of grace coming to you to meet your every need."

Romans 1

- v1-17: the glory of salvation and spiritual life
- v18-32: the tragedy of unbelief and spiritual death

God's Sovereignty

God's creatures are accountable to Him. That is a universal fact, whether or not His creatures agree (confess) with Him or not! (Ps 1; Jas 4:12; cp 2Sa 24:12)

Ps 1:1 [Amplified]

Blessed [fortunate, prosperous, and favored by God] is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked [following their advice and example], nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit [down to rest] in the seat of scoffers (ridiculers).

Ps 1:2 [Amplified]

But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law [His precepts and teachings] he [habitually] meditates day and night.

Ps 1:3 [Amplified]

And he will be like a tree firmly planted [and fed] by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season; its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers [and comes to maturity].

Ps 1:4 [Amplified]

The wicked [those who live in disobedience to God's law] are not so, but they are like the chaff [worthless and without substance] which the wind blows away.

Ps 1:5 [Amplified]

Therefore the wicked will not stand [unpunished] in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

Ps 1:6 [Amplified]

For the Lord knows and fully approves the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall perish. How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

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Jas 4:12 [Amplified]

There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy [the one God who has the absolute power of life and death]; but who are you to [hypocritically or self-righteously] pass judgment on your neighbor?

2Sa 24:14 [Message]

David told Gad, "They're all terrible! But I'd rather be punished by God, whose mercy is great, than fall into human hands."

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God's Sovereignty

We are accountable to God in every way, beginning with our allegiance, and including baseline things like morality.

God's Sovereignty

Not only does the Lord claim sovereignty, it is His RIGHT to claim it, given Who He is (e.g.: Creator).

Conclusion

If your life is His life, then it's His life to sanctify, not yours!

"power"

from dunamis - means ability to perform; for the believer, power to achieve by applying the Lord's inherent abilities; is needed in every scene of life to really grow in sanctification and prepare for heaven (glorification), used 120 times in the NT; where we get the English word "dynamite"

2Ti 3:7

always learning and never able [dunamai - same root as in Ro 1:16 = "God-given power"] to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Sanctification

Depends WHOLLY upon the dynamic [dunamai] power of the Lord God to deliver us! Any viewpoint or attempt to refute this is folly.

Self-Sanctification Is Folly

It is much more stupid for man to propose he win a battle of wills with God than a cockroach proposing he can win an arm-wrestling contest with a man.

Victory In Jesus!

We run the race freely, knowing that victory is ours. If we lose sight of our victory in Jesus, we "cramp up", suffer personal injury, missing out on living the Gospel

reality.

The Righteous Live By Faith

Faith in God's promises are only undermined by the temptation to doubt them. Such is Satan's desire, to sow doubt. The fact remains that you are already a crowned victor in Christ!

Living the Gospel Reality

Ask yourself: Where is the explosive power to live by faith found?...in the Gospel (Ro 1:16)! Sanctification, then, is much more about living in a reality than merely doing things. One precedes the other.

Sanctification

Sanctification is a fundamental facet of the Gospel. We don't just live in the past, simply pointing to our positional sanctification, we live in the now, obeying such that He can sanctify us experientially. (Php 2:12-13)

"work out your salvation"

Paul is speaking to believers; refers to your deliverance, your sanctification; obedience is being amplified here (the HS's ministry implied, of course)

Sowing Doubt

If you've lost sight of the Gospel, you've lost sight of the victory! Satan's strategy is to distract all humans from the Gospel, "captivating" them (ala 2Ti 3:6), instilling a bondage in them that shouldn't exist.

Religion's Quest

Satan promotes religion in his world in order to frustrate God's plan for His children, which is to bring glory to Himself by sanctifying them.

Gal 3:3 [Amplified]

Are you so foolish and senseless? Having begun [your new life by faith] with the Spirit, are you now being perfected and reaching spiritual maturity by the flesh [that is, by your own works and efforts to keep the Law]?

ONLY God Can Sanctify Man

If you lose sight of the Gospel, you will doubt this basic truth and adopt a form of self-sanctification eventually.

Literal Translation of Ro 1:17

- "A righteousness from God is being revealed..."
- Refers to a judicial (forensic) reality where God imputes "a righteousness" to a believer (ala Php 3:9); does not refer to God's righteousness, specifically

"is revealed"

refers to the unveiling of the fruit of the righteousness given to believers from God at salvation; God sanctifies "from faith to faith", for it is BY faith that a man shall live as a Christian!