

North Christian Church -

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7/10/16 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part 102

Sanctification

To be made holy, to be set apart for God's purposes, to be consecrated in time unto God's will.

Celebrating the Wrong Kind of Wealth

As James pointed out in Jas 2:1-9, to some, it doesn't matter HOW a person acquires wealth, but rather THAT they possess it. The focus is completely perverted - self-sanctifiers celebrating "greater" self-sanctifiers.

Heart Disease

It's a pretty sick heart condition when one stands opposed to the Great Commission in favor of gathering unto oneself. A sick heart is a deceived heart. The problem with deception is that, by definition, you don't know when you're in it. (Mt 6:23)

Jas 4:13-14

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

Freedom

Drop you what thought you knew about being successful as a person, or mature, or even pious (for most are far from Jas 1:27). Much of your suffering will dissipate once you realize it is self-inflicted as the result of buying a lie.

On Faith:

Sometimes God will give faith to the reluctant. In other words, our flesh may not WANT more of Christ's heart on something because it knows that we become responsible to God on that subject (Lk 12:48 - to whom much is given, much is required).

Friendly Reminder

Never take a lesson or two out of context. Never react so viscerally to a lesson

such that you are completely unnerved or thrown off. Sanctification takes time. Knee-jerk reactions are often the cause for further angst, which isn't the Spirit's intention. Conviction is necessary; however, religious fear isn't.

Balance Statement

Wealth isn't the issue, it's what we THINK about said wealth. E.G., God may rightly ask one person to store up finances in order to someday support a mission of His, and that is totally righteous, but only for the person who has a godly heart concerning finances.

Balance Statement

Not every believer is called to "sell everything" at once since some things used by God for His glory cost more than others (implies some save to be used later). If everyone's broke, He wouldn't be able to use us the way He desires.

Balance Statement

God's trying to get us to the "Kingdom of Heaven", which is a reality available to every believer right now! AFTER we are "there", then He can direct our earnings AND our expenditures to accomplish His will. Context is key!

Perspective

Perspective is key. You'll never find it if you don't first have context (e.g., Lk 12:16-21 - Parable of the rich man's barns).

Balance Statement

Please do not make the grave mistake of assuming that everyone who "stores up treasures" is doing so "for himself" and therefore disqualifying themselves as being "rich toward God". A person may be both "rich" by world standards and "rich" by God's. Wealth is a heart issue through and through.

Balance Statement

In some cultures, asceticism is highly esteemed, even if the motivation is altogether wrong. This, too, is ungodly. This may be less common in America, for example, but it's no less evil than esteeming the rich for being rich. Esteem ought never be derived from ANY world scale of values!

Jn 8:32

and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

The Gospel Perspective

There's no greater "doing" than to win a soul! A 75 year existence on earth, even if every moment is spent suffering, is well worth an exchange for a single soul being granted eternal life.

Unmotivated "Evangelism"

Do you think it's possible that those who remain unmotivated lack faith to "go out" (ala Mt 28:18-20) because the actual content of their message is wrong, or minimally incomplete? God won't motivate a person to spread a false Gospel.

A lack of faith never works!

(e.g., Ac 19:13-16, Mt 17:15-20; Lk 16:31)

MacArthur on Lk 16:31

This speaks powerfully to the singular sufficiency of Scripture to overcome unbelief. The Gospel itself is the power of God unto salvation (Ro 1:16). Since unbelief is at heart a moral, rather than an intellectual, problem, no amount of evidences will ever turn unbelief to faith.

MacArthur on Lk 16:31

...But the revealed Word of God has inherent power to do so (Jn 6:63; Heb 4:12; Jas 1:18; 1Pe 1:23).

"Knowing" is not "living"!

(eg. Jas 2:19)

Arrogant people lack faith in God.

God Demands Our Humility

Arrogance cannot deliver you, only God can, leaving you with a single option - humility. A saved/delivered person is an obedient one. An obedient person enjoys God's peace in time, a disobedient one doesn't.

Sanctification

Living the spiritual life, in Christ, in the new creature, is more like avoiding being dragged off of the victor's stand than trying to climb up.

Your Experiential Sanctification

God looks forward to sanctifying YOU! He's going to put YOU in unique situations where only YOU can bring glory to Him!

Ecc 3:1

There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven -

A Time For Everything

Sometimes a teacher must use fleshly arguments in order to contend with opposing, fleshly thinking, since in order to "pluck" a person from ungodliness, the teacher must "reach into the fire". As much as it may be distasteful to the teacher and offensive to the student, he realizes that he must do that thing to deliver (Gal 4:19) his disciple. (e.g., 2Co 11)

A Time For Everything

There comes a time that a person must completely bind themselves to the Lord; and in doing so, in humility, they are binding themselves to the authority in their lives.

Authority-Orientation

To the truly authority-oriented, it doesn't matter which role they are playing, they honor the Lord's delegation of authority and His divinely ordained chain-of-command, regardless of their personal feelings on the subject.

A Time For Everything

You have to make the distinction between your desires and your abilities. You may desire something with all your heart (speaking as a man), but until God gives you appropriate measure of it, it isn't yours. At best it's a shadow, but most likely a counterfeit. (ref. Heb 12:14-17)

Salvation Perspectives

God's Perspective

- Salvation from sin

Man's Perspective ("tenses")

- Positional (from penalty of sin)
- Experiential (from power of sin)
- Ultimate (from presence of sin)

Sanctification Perspectives

God's Perspective

- Sanctified (set apart for Him)

Man's Perspective ("phases")

- Positional (imputed R+ / judicially)
- Experiential (imparted R+ / daily)
- Ultimate (completed R+ / eternally)

Sanctification Perspective

There's just some forms of wisdom that cannot be attained without our stepping out into the fray, by faith!