

North Christian Church -

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7/12/16 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part 103

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.

On That Day

Seeing that we will all be meeting our Lord face to face in a few days, what can you say about how you've been living? "For Him", honestly? or "for self"?

Freedom

Drop what you 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.

Jas 1:27

Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

God is sanctifying us

He's taking us to love, and freedom; and as weak as we are, He can complete this good work in His humble followers.

CONTEXT IS KEY!

Your life has context. Nobody's life is exactly the same (e.g., regarding finances).

Your Gift(s) and the Great Commission

There's no cookie-cutter method, but God in His creativity uses us each uniquely, so long as we are humble. 1Co 12

Your Gift(s) and the Great Commission

Within the scope of spiritual gifts, the Lord will use the willingly humble. But humility is aggressive. If we are truly humble, we will eagerly obey His commands, and so we "go out", knowing He has our back and will guide us.

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.

"the truth will make you free"

The Truth is not merely "knowledge" - the Truth is ALL that the Word says, including the commands to obey, to go evangelize, etc. The Truth includes the promises of blessings when we "do", not merely "hear" (Jas 1:22).

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.

If you are lacking faith, don't be shy to ask your Dad for more!

Faith is a key to living a life of freedom, and living in the victory as a child of God.

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!

Heb 11:7

By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

Matt 6:34

So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.