

North Christian Church -

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7/19/16 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part 105

Being Sanctified

We have been predestined to suffer for His name's sake...and we've been predestined to be sanctified, once saved...and so we know that we suffer to be sanctified!

Sanctification

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

Sanctification is not possible in time without circumstances that cause us to lean on God.

Sanctification

Sanctification is the result of a faith being put into action. Testing, therefore, is designed by God as an opportunity to reveal your God-given abilities, by grace through faith. This goes for salvation and sanctification. You are a witness (e.g., Ac 10:34-43; 1Ti 6:12; Heb 12:1).

"Being" a witness

Throughout our lives, we can only hope we will be an example to others, an example of undying faith and trust in our Lord, regardless of the testing and suffering.

To God's Glory

Faith is the device that God equips believers with in order to bring glory to Himself. We receive both the faith AND the trials where it is tested, by grace!

To God's Glory

Without the trials, faith remains untested, unconsummated. Without the faith, trials are either self-induced and/or originating from one of our other enemies (1Co 10:13).

Poor Witnessing

Most people characterize testing as ANYTHING that causes them personal discomfort. This is grossly misrepresenting God's grace, for so much of man's

suffering is self-induced.

Col 3:23

Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men,

Poor Witnessing

It actually hurts the name of Christ, when someone can point to you and say you're lazy and a Christian at the same time. This is why, if God has given us the capability and the health, we should be a good example for Christ, working hard by faith.

Working Hard for Others

We mustn't THINK of our hard work as merely being able to "pay our own bills from month to month"; rather, we must THINK bigger-picture, understanding that we work for God, who intends to use such fruit to the benefit of others.

Act 20:35

"In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Jn 15:13

"Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."

Working Hard for Others

Choose whom you will serve, including in your daily work activities. Who will you end up being a witness for? Josh 24:14-24

Proven Character

One of the reasons there's a glut of wimpy men in this world is because they choose not to persevere (e.g., due to lack of faith). Their first response to tribulation is to point the finger at someone else! This contradicts scripture (1Co 16:13).

What Is Perseverance?

"By faith" means "by God", since He is the author/giver of faith. Therefore, ANYONE can persevere if they have true faith.

Ro 15:5a

Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement...

Prayer

Persistence in prayer (Ro 15:5ff) produces the fruit of fellowship in the soul of man. God desires that we persist in going to the throne of grace, in humility. The impetus for prayer fellowship is often a persistent need. Therefore, it's by grace design that He ordains trials for us.

Prayer

Trials PROVIDE an incentive and a need to go to God strong.

Heb 4:16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Grace Precedes Fruit

God will always afford a believer the appropriate grace to accomplish a

command. This means that every command in the Bible is placed upon man in the presence and sufficiency of grace (ala 2Co 12:9).

Grace Orientation

Paul understood that "power is perfected in weakness" to the degree that he persistently fulfilled his mission in the face of obscene adversity, even from those in his own flock.

1Th 3:5

For this reason, when I could endure it no longer, I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor would be in vain.

We are called to "stand firm" and that means to NOT BE MOVED when temptations come our way. 1Co 15:58, 16:13-14, Eph 6:10-17, 1Pe 5:12, 1 Pe 5:12