

North Christian Church -

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7/26/16 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part 108

Reader on 7/23/16 Blog

The peace I have found through obedience is overwhelming. Truly, this last sentence has been on my mind for a while. I am happy- not always in my emotions, but even when hurting, I am content- I am discovering His joy and it's truly amazing!!!

Obedience to His ways

If we humble ourselves to accept the ways of God, we can experience these wonderful realities as part of our sanctification, being set apart from the world, and set free from it.

1 Peter 1:1-2 NIV

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To God's elect, strangers in the world,... who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

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.

Aggressive Humility

A person who persistently knocks is a person who is granted grace...with the caveat that they are "knocking" with the right motivation, of course (ala Jas 4:3).

Aggressive Humility

Our part is to RECEIVE His grace, and humility will receive it aggressively. Our free will, and moreover our heart, is always involved.

"strive"

from agonizesthe - literally, "agonize." The word is taken from the Grecian games. In their races, and wrestlings, and various athletic exercises, they "stroved or agonized," or put forth all their powers to gain the victory. - Barnes

"Strive to enter..."

It's a BIG decision, even to be "agonized" over. It's not some casual acknowledgment, or accepting Jesus "just in case", along with all the other things you hold on to in the world.

"Strive to enter..."

The Lord doesn't accept half-heartedness. That's not true faith. By faith, a person makes the big decision to accept Jesus as both their Lord and Savior. And faith means to TRUST in Him, and that doesn't truly happen without denying your other options, like sin and self.

Giving the Gospel

It's letting people know, "the Lord wants your heart. This is a big decision, just so you know. He wants you to turn away from your own options and turn to Him alone as your Savior."

True Salvation

It is between each person and God, and it is a matter of the heart surrendering to Jesus as Lord and Savior. Anything less than that is a rejection of His grace offering.

Mt 16:25

"For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it [ref. "counting the cost"]; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

This "counting the cost" is not to say that YOU have to perform any of the good work of salvation in yourself...but you absolutely must understand that to follow Jesus, you must be willing to give up your life.

True Salvation

Jesus was saying, and still is, that "I am the Savior...and I'm a real person...and I'm asking you to follow Me...and you cannot serve two gods!...so you must give up the one for the other...that's the 'cost' here."

Lk 13:24 [Wuest Expanded]

"...be endeavoring with a strenuous zeal to enter through the narrow door..."

J. Vernon McGee

[Jesus] made it abundantly clear that it would cost to follow Him. That we in our sophisticated and soft affluency think otherwise is heresy!...He is saying to this man, "Make sure you are saved."

Mt 16:25

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Rev 3:20

'Behold, I [Jesus Christ] stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.'

Trench on Rev 3:20

Every man is lord of the house of his own heart; it is his fortress; he must open the gates of it. He has the mournful prerogative and privilege of refusing to open. But if he refuses, he is blindly at strife with his own blessedness, a miserable conqueror.

Experiential Sanctification

His perspective, His Gospel, is what BECOMES our sanctification!!!

Experiential Sanctification

Only when we LIVE in the gospel, and in the grace the Lord gives, only then do we learn and experience true sanctification, not just an academic version of it.

Practical Sanctification

The very foundation of our spiritual life is progressively grounded in love (ala Eph 3:17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love).