

# North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

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6/28/16 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part  
98

## **Read Your Bibles!!!**

Read for context. Observe the people. Accept clearly stated theology as "gold refined by fire" (Rev 3:18) and keep away from hyper-doctrinalization. Pray for faith, for God "gives grace to the humble" (Jas 4:6).

## **Perspective**

God Is Light (1Jo 1:5). God is Unity (One - Jas 2:19). We often learn about God by beginning with His attributes and then pointing back to "Him". However, in the end, what He wants us to realize is that these attributes are the results of the eternal God being who He is, intrinsically Light. We do not "construct" God out of a list of attributes (ala existentialism) any more than the human eye can construct white light out of a rainbow.

## **The Wonder of God**

God is never merciful outside of being perfectly just and righteous...for He is like white light...always full of every facet of Himself.

## **Light and Synchronicity**

Mercy is one facet of God's Light. If we apply the "prism" of systematic theology, we might "see" mercy as a particular "wavelength/color" of light, which is fine for study purposes, but we ought never divorce it from the Unity of the Light, Himself, or His other, infinite attributes.

## **The Wonder of God**

God is supernatural; BEYOND the natural. Keep that open mind, for the rest of your earthly lives; that you will never have Him totally figured out or summarized.

## **Making Room For Darkness**

If we put God in a box, we have made those areas in our lives where God has been "boxed out" areas of darkness. It is then that we begin wrestling with darkness out of perceived human necessity. Contrarily, if we have the fullness of Light, we do not wrestle with darkness.

## **1Pe 5:7**

*casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.*

## **"Knowing" is not "living" (eg. Jas 2:19)**

### **Knowing is not LIVING**

Knowledge is just the beginning. It's building a toolbox full of tools that are meant to be used to build things, fix things, and help others, both believers and unbelievers. But that means LIVING by faith.

### **Knowing is not LIVING**

Living is what makes faith come alive. In fact, without living in what you believe, a person's faith is not appropriated, or consummated. Until you LIVE in what you say you believe, you won't really understand what you say you know. You won't fully "get it", and you won't be set free.

### **Knowing is not LIVING**

They are far apart. One can be lifeless, the other dynamic and powerful, and life-changing.

### **"Seeing It All As Truth" In the Light**

Throwing all our anxieties on Him "works" because by faith we say, "Well, we've given it over to Him, and He'll take it from here!" If we wrestle with it with our own flesh (because we are arrogant), we don't have the promises of deliverance; rather, we have darkness to strive against (something we cannot overcome on our own).

### **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.

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True religion is wrought with obedience because God's love has become the sanctification of its possessor.

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### **1 Cor 9:16**

*For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel.*

### **Josh 1:9**

*"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."*

### **Matt 28:20b**

*"I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*