

North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

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3/13/16 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part
60

2Th 3:13

But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good.

"Big-Picture" Salvation

God saves sinners. He saved YOU! He saves us every single day of our lives (from our enemies, from the influences of spiritual death, sin, and evil). Salvation is an activity, not merely a split moment in time. Salvation is a plan that we witness in time.

"the eternal purpose"

refers to the Church's supreme purpose of glorifying God; we members have been predestined to partake in that activity

"Your purpose predestined"

Predestination always carries with it the purpose of God; His will is intrinsically represented in every fact, every blessing, every grace gift (even suffering and discipline).

Gal 6:9-10 [Amplified]

Let us not grow weary or become discouraged in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap, if we do not give in. So then, while we [as individual believers] have the opportunity, let us do good to all people [not only being helpful, but also doing that which promotes their spiritual well-being], and especially [be a blessing] to those of the household of faith (born-again believers).

Practical Sanctification

Sanctification is "diligence to enter [His] rest" (Heb 4:11)... "For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his [own personal] works" (Heb 4:10). Restlessness is the antithesis of sanctification.

First Things First

If experiential sanctification is a practical issue, how does one "get practical" about it, once they understand the theology? First, it's God's job to change (sanctify) us, so we mustn't "force" the issue. Man's primary job is to remain humble, receiving what He gives us (e.g., knowledge, wisdom, perspective, etc.).

First Things First

Arrogance will try to hijack the simplicity in sanctification by inserting itself as a "practical doer" of sanctification. That's the basis of perverted religion.

First Things First

A believer must first accept the basic fact that God intends to change them, their person, their essence, their very sense of being. A humble person waits for it; an arrogant one rushes it.

Wisdom

To be experientially sanctified doesn't simply mean that you understand more...it's that you ARE more...because (as a result) of your mind being "transformed" (Ro 1:12). There's a real result in view, not just a new understanding regarding way of "doing business", so to speak.

Distinctions

Love is not a thought, it's an emotion. Same goes with humility, spirituality, pain, etc. Assuming 'we are what we think' (in the strictest sense) is intellectual arrogance, which is void of heart.

Distinctions

Arrogance will argue that if you understand something academically, then you have experience with it. However, that's one of the great lies that Jesus blasted the religious Jews for many times in scripture! (eg: Mt 21:23-45)

Distinctions

Jesus piqued the hearts of the religious people, but they "reasoned" with their minds and arrived at "We do not know". Had their hearts been truly changed (if they were believers), they would've understood Jesus.

Distinctions

Simply saying that you understand God's will isn't enough. One's heart must be changed, which is something God will only do for the humble.

"feel remorse"

from *metamelomai* - from [meta = "change after being with" + melo = "care, be concerned with") - properly, to experience a change of concern after a change of emotion and usually implying to regret, i.e. falling into emotional remorse afterwards

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Distinctions

Only a "heartless" person could've ever killed Jesus, for if the religious Jews had hearts for Christ (had they been truly saved), they wouldn't have sought to

murder Him...they would've loved Him. Scripture reveals their hearts far from God's, even though they were "educated" in His Law (they were heartless intellectuals).

Distinctions

God is after "us"...which, although "us" includes our minds (where our thoughts are), "us" is much bigger, including our hearts, our spirits, and our souls.

"BE transformed BY the renewing of your mind"

Look closely at what scripture is stating. YOU are literally transformed. The cause is the renewing of your mind, but the mind is not the final objective, YOU are (your person, your heart).

Looking Forward

Are we going to be little puppets in Heaven or completely changed, worshipping Him as individuals, with our own individually changed hearts???

"I am"

from eimi - means to be, exist (sum); existence (i.e. without explicit limits); properly, convey straight-forward being; there's no surrogate implied

Understanding "I am"

The difference between the sanctified believer and the unsanctified one is that the prior attributes all good things about them, including their personal, spiritual maturation to God's grace; whereas the latter takes credit for those things. (cp 1Co 15:10, Jn 8:58)

Understanding "I am"

The Bible doesn't say we ARE His image, it says we are made new IN His image (Gen 1:27; 2Co 3:18), implying that while righteousness becomes us as we are sanctified, we never lose our individuality.

Living the Spiritual Life

It's not about doing 'this or that', specifically, as a part of some homemade plan, it's about being "filled" (pleroo means to be fulfilled). The "control" aspect of being filled is a blessed surrender, not a disgruntled, adolescent submission.

Living the Spiritual Life

Living the spiritual life is an attitude, not a regiment. It's being "in Christ", in the moment, not just knowing it (although that precedes being). We sense His presence in everything.