

# “Sanctification”



**Prepared by: Pastor Bob Adkins**

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## 1. Introduction:

- a. **Main Text: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 (NKJV)** <sup>1</sup> Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God; <sup>2</sup> for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus. <sup>3</sup> For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup> that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, <sup>5</sup> not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; <sup>6</sup> that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord *is* the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. <sup>7</sup> For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. <sup>8</sup> Therefore he who rejects *this* does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.
- b. Definition:
- i. Hayford's Bible Handbook: "the work of God's grace by which the believer is separated from sin and becomes dedicated to God's righteousness. Accomplished by the Word of God (John 17:7) and the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:34), sanctification results in holiness, or purification from the guilt and power of sin. Sanctification is *instantaneous* before God through Christ (1 Cor. 1:3) and *progressive* before man through obedience to the Holy Spirit and the Word (1 Thess. 4:1-8). Sanctification as separation from the world and setting apart for God's service is a concept found throughout the Bible... <sup>1</sup> "
  - ii. From A Biblical Theology of the New Testament: "... Paul's view of sanctification. This aspect of salvation is often regarded as the phase that extends between the beginning (justification) and the end (glorification) of the process of salvation. It could be called the "extended middle" experience of Christian life and practice since both justification and glorification can be viewed as experiences accomplished by God's declaration and therefore realized immediately. Sanctification, however, usually describes the experience of being set apart by God to belong to Him and be used by Him. Paul summarized sanctification's goal in his letter to the Thessalonians... <sup>2</sup> "
  - iii. From Baker encyclopedia of the Bible: "Term meaning being made holy, or purified, it is used broadly of the whole Christian experience, though most theologians prefer to use it in a restricted sense to distinguish it from related terms, such as regeneration, justification, and glorification <sup>3</sup> "

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<sup>1</sup>Hayford, J. W., & Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1995). *Hayford's Bible handbook*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

<sup>2</sup>Zuck, R. B. (1994; Published in electronic form by Logos Research Systems, 1996). *A Biblical Theology of the New Testament* (electronic ed.) (279). Chicago: Moody Press.

<sup>3</sup>Elwell, W. A., & Beitzel, B. J. (1988). *Baker encyclopedia of the Bible*. Map on lining papers. (1898). Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Book House.

## 2. Body:

- a. Instantaneous before God through Christ at conversion (Redemption).
  - i. Christ is the center of all. It is only by his atoning sacrifice before and upon Calvary that makes us Holy before God. It is what makes us justified before the Father “just as if we have never sinned” (Justification)
  - ii. **Ephesians 1:3-10 (NKJV)**<sup>3</sup> Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,<sup>4</sup> just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,<sup>5</sup> having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,<sup>6</sup> to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved.<sup>7</sup> In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace<sup>8</sup> which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,<sup>9</sup> having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,<sup>10</sup> that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth--in Him.
  - iii. **Ephesians 5:25-27 (NKJV)**<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,<sup>26</sup> that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,<sup>27</sup> that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.
  - iv. **Titus 2:11-14 (NKJV)**<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,<sup>12</sup> teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,<sup>13</sup> looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,<sup>14</sup> who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works.
- b. Sanctification as God’s work and His desire:
  - i. God the Father:
    1. **Jude 1:1 (NKJV)** Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ:
  - ii. God the Son (Jesus Christ):

1. **Hebrews 2:9-11 (NKJV)** <sup>9</sup> But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone. <sup>10</sup> For it was fitting for Him, for whom *are* all things and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. <sup>11</sup> For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified *are* all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,

iii. God the Holy Spirit:

1. **2 Thessalonians 2:13 (NKJV)** But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,
2. **1 Peter 1:2 (NKJV)** elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

iv. God's desire for us is to be clean.

1. **1 Thessalonians 4:7 (NKJV)** For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.

c. Our responsibility in sanctification.

- i. **1 Peter 1:13-19 (NKJV)** <sup>13</sup> Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; <sup>14</sup> as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, *as* in your ignorance; <sup>15</sup> but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct, <sup>16</sup> because it is written, "*Be holy, for I am holy.*" <sup>17</sup> And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay *here* in fear; <sup>18</sup> knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.
- ii. **Matthew 5:48 (NKJV)** Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.
- iii. **Romans 6:19 (NKJV)** I speak in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members *as* slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness *leading to more* lawlessness, so now present your members *as* slaves of righteousness for holiness.
- iv. **Romans 6:19 (NKJV)** I speak in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members *as* slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness

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### 3. Conclusion:

- a. At redemption we gain instant sanctification as Christ blood covers us and we then can stand justified before the Father and approach the throne as Christ blood covers our sin. This is an act of grace. Without it we would be nothing. Through it we gain all.
- b. Sanctification continues throughout our Christian life as the Holy Spirit brings us to deeper and deeper truths. God has part in this continual sanctification through the word that is revealed to us by the spirit.
- c. We have a responsibility to continue to “work out our own salvation” by being obedient to God’s ways and His commands. Jesus stated in **John 14:15 (NKJV)** “If you love Me, keep My commandments.”
- d. **Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV)** <sup>1</sup>I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup>And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.