



Mighty in the Word

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (I Cor. 1.18).

Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)

The Wise Still Seek Him

*of the
Lord
Jesus Christ*

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God of Peace Sanctify You Wholly



Only the God of peace can sanctify His people wholly.

And the very **God of peace** sanctify you wholly; and *[I pray God]* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (1Th 5:23).

Let us look at the Greek meaning of peace. Peace is a state of national tranquility. As I reflect upon this, I realize that only when there is national tranquility, when the work of the enemy is ended, is brought to naught, can there be peace, a peace that passes all understanding.

Paul writes of that peace, "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Ph 4.7).

In the Greek, I Thessalonians 5.23, is written "the very God," which is The God of peace, Himself, Who in His own power can do what we cannot even begin to think of doing. The Lord God can keep us from all evil and give us a life in Him, can sanctify you – for holiness is the necessary condition of Peace (Phi 4.6-9).

The sanctified life is when our hearts and minds are kept in the Lord Jesus Christ, when we are set apart from the enemy to do the bidding of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Greek goes on to say that this peace is an exemption from the rage and havoc of war. It is security, safety, prosperity and felicity that can come from none other than Jesus Christ. But, there is more for the one whose life is hidden in the Lord God Almighty. It is the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort that is.

Sometimes the word perfection enters into the conversation of sanctification. There seems to be an understanding of the two words over lapping. I recall at one of my ordinations being asked by a Bishop, Are you going on to perfection? If not where are you going?

We are reminded of the forth telling of the Savior of the world to come in Isaiah Nine:

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, **The Prince of Peace** (Isa 9.6).

We cannot be sanctified wholly if we do not know the God of Peace as is given us in Romans. Sanctification is about the person being wholly committed to the Lord Jesus Christ at all times – not when convenient.

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Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

The Israelites were to be separated from other nations; they were to be consecrated to the Lord God Almighty in Christ Jesus. The Lord God is a jealous God and makes it clear, "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me." This same commandment is to all people who declare there is but one God, and He alone is to be worshipped.

This which was given to Israel is given to those who were first called Christians at Antioch. I use the word *Christian* carefully as today it is considered to be Western Ideology. So, as I write, we define Christians in the Biblical understanding, those who have repented of their sins and asked Jesus Christ to be their Lord and Savior, and are living for Him and worship Him, and Him alone.

Sanctification is the setting apart a people unto the holiness of the Lord God, separated from others that are not Christians nor have a desire to become a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. Sanctification is to be consecrated to the one and only true God. Our work is to be about the Lord Jesus Christ and Him alone. God's atoning work is to sanctify a holy nation, a people who are prepared by the Lord with His atoning blood shed for us on the Cross of Calvary.

Come and worship, Royal Priesthood.
Come and praise Him, Holy Nation.
Worship Jesus, our Redeemer.
He is precious, King of Glory.

Author Unknown (1 P 2.9)

Sanctification is going on with the Lord, it is walking in His ways; it is to be set apart by the Lord, to be consecrated, to be holy, fully dedicated to the Lord God, to serve Him and Him alone in our daily walk. There is striving in our lives as we walk on with the Lord. It is contending with the adversary – as we do daily in our walk with the Lord; however, we must not be deterred from our walk with the Lord. We must keep our eyes upon Jesus as the words to the hymn come to us, "Turn your eyes upon Jesus."

Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able (Lk 13:24).

It is being cleansed and made whole by the Master, set apart for service unto the Master. It is being consecrated, devoted, to keep oneself apart from the world's ways, the way of the enemy, Satan – in whatever form he works to break us.

Be ye perfect as I am perfect, says the Lord.

Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. (Mat 5:48)
And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *[is]* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. (Rom 12:2)
Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. (Phi 3:15)
But let patience have *[her]* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. (Jam 1:4)

Be ye holy for I the Lord your God am holy. Hear the Word of the Lord to you as He calls you to sanctification.

Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I *[am]* the LORD your God. (Lev 20:7)
But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; (1Pe 1:15)

Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. (1Pe 1:16)

Years ago, I did a work on walking in wholeness and holiness, this is with wholeness of heart, of life, and also holiness of heart, of life, living the Truth of the Lord God Almighty according to His Holy Word, the Holy Bible –and being faithful unto this calling. It is a moment by moment life – not just when convenient or when you want something from the Lord. There is no relationship with the Lord God outside of a totally committed heart and life lived for the Lord according to His Word.

John 17:17 makes it clear that we are sanctified through the Truth, that the Word of the Lord is Truth. There is no other guide, no other way, to be sanctified but through the Lord God, Himself, for in Jesus Christ we have the Truth.

As an aside, let me hasten to say that those standing behind the pulpit must know it is not a job; it is not a job to make people feel good and like you. We are sanctified through the Truth of the Lord God, and it is according to the Truth of God that those called to preach are to be set apart; it is from the Truth that the Word must be preached.

It is time that we understand, that we know that the Lord God blesses no word but His own. There is no Truth but His. Mixing lies and truth is a lie! Do not listen to the enemy, to Satan. Half truths do not exist – nor does the Lord God Almighty bless any word but His Truth. Know that a word that is not The Word of the Lord, the Truth of God in Christ Jesus, can never lead people to the Lord, to salvation.

First Thessalonians makes it clear that sanctification is of the whole person – not just a part. We are sanctified by the Spirit of God through the Word. When we read the Word, we see the power invested in the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, in their lives and the work to which they were called. This power comes from a surrendered heart and life desiring to be completely surrendered to the Lord for His glory.

When one surrenders their life to Jesus Christ, the person does not begin walking with maturity. It is a walk of growing in the Lord, seeking the Lord that they might learn of Him and His ways, willing to be taught that they may daily grow in their walk in the Lord, grow in grace, grow in the ways of the Lord Jesus Christ. The following passage makes it clear that our lives are to be preserved blameless, that we are to walk with the Lord in His holiness – until His coming.

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *[I pray God]* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (I Th 5:23).

We have a long way to go when we look at sanctification, being called to a life of holiness as that includes our actions, our hearts, our thoughts, our daily walk, with the Lord.

Oh, how the Lord Jesus Christ loved us with His life, giving of His life on Calvary for our sins, that our sins might be washed away with His blood shed on the Cross of Calvary. And – He continues loving us, asking us to walk with Him all the way, to take up our cross and follow Him. There is a song of which I cannot recall the name, but some of the words are, "Take up thy cross and follow Me, I heard my Master say," and then the words to another song, "It's not an easy road . . ."