

Building Lives That Matter/Last "Ongoing Maintenance"

INTRODUCTION:

*** Sanctification = Separation from the world to God; the continual process toward holiness.

BIBLE READING:

Romans 1:16-17 (NLT)

For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. ¹⁷ This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life."

PRAY

I. We Are Sanctified the Moment We Become A Christian

Hebrews 10:8-14 (NLT)

First, Christ said, "You did not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings or burnt offerings or other offerings for sin, nor were you pleased with them" (though they are required by the law of Moses). ⁹ Then he said, "Look, I have come to do your will." He cancels the first covenant in order to put the second into effect. ¹⁰ For God's will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time.

¹¹ Under the old covenant, the priest stands and ministers before the altar day after day, offering the same sacrifices again and again, which can never take away sins. ¹² But our High Priest offered himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time. Then he sat down in the place of honor at God's right hand. ¹³ There he waits until his enemies are humbled and made a footstool under his feet. ¹⁴ For by that one offering he forever made perfect those who are being made holy.

- Jesus' sacrifice makes us perfect [holy] in God's sight

- If you have accepted the sacrifice of Jesus Christ = you are holy

II. Sanctification Is Ongoing

Philippians 2:12-13 (NLT)

Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. ¹³ For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

- It is essential that we “work hard to show the results of our salvation” (KJV “with fear & trembling”)
- The process of sanctification [toward holiness] is a life-long quest.
 - Our effort is required!
 - God honors our efforts then by “giving us the desire & power to do what pleases Him.”

Philippians 1:6 (NLT)

And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

- Sanctification is never complete this side of heaven.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 (NLT)

Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. ²⁴ God will make this happen, for he who calls you is faithful.

- God makes us holy [sanctifies us] but our faithfulness is required.
- We must never give up the attempt to conform to the likeness of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:13-16 (NLT)

So think clearly and exercise self-control. Look forward to the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world. ¹⁴ So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then. ¹⁵ But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. ¹⁶ For the Scriptures say, "You must be holy because I am holy."

- “Holiness” is an expectation for ALL followers of Christ.

III. Final Sanctification

1 John 3:1-3 (NLT)

See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know him. ² Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. ³ And all who have this eager expectation will keep themselves pure, just as he is pure.

- When Jesus returns we “will be like Him”
- Then we will be totally & completely sanctified.

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 (NLT)

But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! ⁵² It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. ⁵³ For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.

- We will be “transformed” into eternal perfected beings when life on this earth ends & we go to Heaven.
- For that reason death should not be feared, but anticipated & looked forward to by Believers.
- We should not mourn the death of a follower of Jesus Christ, but rejoice at their promotion from this imperfect & corruptible life to one of holy completion.

CONCLUSION:

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 (NIV)

It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; ⁴ **that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable,** ⁵ not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; ⁶ and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. ⁷ **For God did not call us to be**

impure, but to live a holy life. ⁸ Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit.

*** How are you doing with Holiness?

- Have you allowed God to do His part?
- Are you doing your part?
- Is your heart [desires] in this life or the one to come?

RESPONSE: