

LESSON -23
SALVATION - Related Experiences
PART 2
(Sanctification)

References : 1 Peter. 1:13-25

: 1Thess. 4 :3-8

Memory verse : 2 Thess. 2:14

Objective: To realise that those who are saved by faith must be sanctified and they must keep themselves pure and prepare for the glorification occurring at the second coming of Christ.

Introduction: We are called by God to salvation and led through its experiences with a supreme goal "He called you by our gospel for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thess. 2:14). Once we are converted, we are heading for the eternal glory. Sanctification is an essential factor to reach that glorious point. Let us study about the Biblical teaching on sanctification.

SANCTIFICATION:

The word 'sanctification' is used in scripture in the sense of "separation consecration for a divine purpose". In the Bible we can find similar expression in many places. With the view of separating the seventh day sabbath from other six days the expression "Keep it holy" is used (Exo. 20:8). Regarding the separation of Priests (Ex. 29:1) and the first born for God (Numb. 3:13) the word 'hallow' or 'Consecrate' is used. Jesus Christ has said about Himself whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world". (Jn. 10:36). "And for their sakes I sanctify myself that they also may be sanctified by the truth". (Jn. 17:19) Jesus

Christ separated himself and was separated by the Father so that He might separate us humans to be worthy of God. What is required of those who are saved is that they may be sanctified by the truth or that they may be completely separated for God.

ITS IMPORTANCE:

Since God is holy and His name is holy too, all God's children are commanded by God to be holy (Lev. 19:2, 1 Pet 1:16, Psa. 111:10, Lev. 11:44, 20:26, 1 Jn. 3:3, Colo 1:22 Eph. 5:26, 2 pet 3:12, jude 24. "For this is the will of God, you sanctification God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness (1 Thess. 4:3-7) God has chosen us in Jesus Christ to be holy and blameless (Eph. 1:4)

GOD'S PLAN FOR HUMAN SANCTIFICATION:

God sanctified and sent His only begotten Son to this world to sanctify mankind who were defiled by sin (Jn. 10:36, Jn. 3:16). Jesus Christ gave himself for the Church the Bride that He might sanctify and cleanse her that He might present her to Himself a glorious Church, not having spot of wrinkle (Eph. 5:26, 27 Heb. 10:10). The Holy Spirit cleanses us daily from unclean things (2 Thess. 2:13, 1 Pet. 1:2 Rom 15:15). So we are sanctified by the blood of Jesus, the Word of God and the Holy Spirit.

THE PART OF THE BELIEVERS:

The Triune God has redeemed us by his grace and sanctified or separated us. We therefore, ought also to live as separated people for the Lord even as our Lord separated Himself for us (Jn. 17:16-19). Do not love the world or the things in the world (1 Jn. 2:15) Let the world know that we love the Lord and are set apart for Him.

SET APART FROM WHAT?

1. Form the Worldly Pleasures:

In the presence of God, there is fulness of joy. Therefore, a believer must be separated from the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life and all the worldly enjoyments. Moses chose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures or sin for a season. He esteemed the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt (Heb. 11:24-26).

The believers must keep away from dance, drama cineme (film pictures) gambling etc..

2. From the Unbelievers:

Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers (2 Cori. 6:14) We must love the unbelievers from a spiritually sincere heart and pray for their salvation. But have no communion or constant fellowship with them (Psa. 1:1.2). Especially, the believers must not be married with unbelievers under any circumstances (Deut. 7; 1-3, 1 Cor. 7:39)

3. From Heresies and Corrupt Practices;

We have a code of living, practice and worship. It is based on the teachings of the apostles. Apart from the apostolic doctrines set forth in the Bible, no other teachings should be held by the believers. We should be separated from all heresies and evil practices. Even in the apostolic times, the Church was warned against heretics (false teachers Gala. 1:6-9, Rom. 16:17,18 Titus. 3:10, 11 Acts. 20:29-30, 2 Pet. 2:1-3, Jude 4, 1 Jn 5:20, 1 Jn 4:1-2). In the 4th century by the Christianisation of Roman emperors, many evil practices and anti-scriptural teaching crept into Christianity. But the true believers have nothing to do with them and must guard themselves against all such heresies. Though there are many false doctrines and practices to be discussed, let us study a few of them.

a) Salvation by Works:

Opposed to the Biblical concept of salvation, many people attempt to attain salvation through their works and other practices that their leaders teach. Bible clearly teaches us that salvation can not be attained through rituals like baptism (infant baptism, adult baptism, sprinkling baptism, etc), confession to priests, Eucharist (holy mass)etc, or through works (Rom. 3:17, 3.20, Gala. 2: 16). **The only way to salvation is faith in Jesus Christ.**

b) Denying the Deity of Christ:

Jesus Christ is God revealed in the flesh (Jn. 1:1-4, 1:14). He is the True God and Eternal life (Jn. 5:20). Those who deny this fact (Arius, Russel, Jehovah Witnesses and so on) are deceivers (2Jn 7). The believers must not have any contact with them (2Jn. 10).

c) Prayers Offered to the Dead Saints:

Praying for and to the dead, image worship, celebration of

festivals, Invocation to dead saints, lust for ornaments etc. are heresies and bad practices which are against the true biblical teaching. The believer must be separated from all such things.

d) From Sin and Sinful Circumstances:

With repentance and justification, a new man is born inside a person. As the result, a wonderful change occurs in him. Nevertheless, the old natural man in him, like a defeated foe, will be at war with the inner new man. "For the flesh lusts against the spirit, and the spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another" (Ga. 5:17). In this struggle, the spiritual man must grow strong and overcome. Only then can a man lead a victorious sanctified life. This needs three essential things.

- a) Put to death the deeds of the body by the spirit (Rom. 8:13) Those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires". (Gala. 5:24) Paul the apostle says, "I have been crucified with Christ (Gala. 2:20) Pride is the root of all sins. He who is proud lives only for himself. He doesn't live for God or for others but always looks for his own luxuries and fulfilment of his lusts. The change of a self centered life is the beginning of sanctification. The baptism after faith is an expression of having been dead and buried with Christ and resurrected to begin a new life. Even after this, we must count ourselves dead to sin and alive to righteousness daily. Present yourselves to God, and your members as instrument of righteousness to God". (Rom. 6: 1- 13).
- b) Look unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith and consider him (Heb. 12: 1-3). We have no strength within us to win the battle against sin. So, being aware of our weakness, we must look to Jesus Christ who is powerful to strengthen us. We must also meditate on Christ who has died for us on the cross. When we wait upon Him, we shall be renewed and strengthened for a victorious life. Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ " (1 Cori. 15:57)
- c) Submit ourselves to God's discipline (Heb. 12: 4, 11) Discipline is greatly important for the growth of the new inner spiritual man after deadening the old man. God chastens (disciplines) us for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness (Heb. 12:10) For example; sicknesses are sometimes God's discipline for our life. For they destroy our fleshly desires and draw us nearer to

God. Many - a - time, opposition and persecutions from other people revive us spiritually. Our victory rests with patience and endurance of faith. We glory in tribulations knowing that tribulation produces perseverance, and perseverance character, and character, hope (Rom 5:3). Let us endure joyfully the disciplines and sufferings that God allows in our life and grow in holiness there by.

The separation or sanctification from sin is an important subject. We have abundant admonitions about it in the Gospels and Epistles. All unrighteousness is sin. We must live the separate from all of them. We must keep ourselves from all the works of the flesh such as, adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, heresies, envy, murder, drunkenness, revelries (Gala. 5: 19-21) coveteousness (greed), filthiness, foolish talking, coarse jesting (Eph. 5; 3-5) malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth, lies (Colo. 3:9-9) deciet, hypocrisy, all evil speaking (1 Pet. 2:1) Let us rid ourselves of all these evils and live in holiness as obedient children of God who is holy.

EXERCISE -23

Answer the following questions.

1. what is the meaning of sanctification?
2. What is required of those who are saved?
3. Why has God commanded His children to be holy?
4. How are we sanctified?
5. From what all things must a believer separate himself?
6. What is the only way to salvation?
7. Who are the deceivers?
8. Which are the three essential things needed for a man to lead a victorious life?
9. What is the root of all sins?
10. What is the first step to santification?
11. Why does God chasten us?
12. What are the works of the flesh?