

8.3.20

Sanctified

Set Apart for the Will and Purposes of God for Such a Time as This

Introduction:

The generic meaning of sanctification or to be sanctified is “the state of proper functioning.” I like that definition - it is a personal aspiration. But then I thought if I use that one, I might not ever be considered as sanctified. So, decided to dig deeper - thank God.

Since we are going to dig, our first task is to clearly define the meaning of the term - Sanctified.

And, from those biblical definitions and meanings we can then identify the biblical context that the Holy Spirit will use to reveal the biblical message of Sanctified to our minds and hearts.

Here are two definitions and word meanings for sanctified: one from the original Hebrew, the other from the original Greek.

[sanctified] 1 - The Hebrew word **qadesh** translates into the English word sanctified and means; to set apart or consecrated (denominative verb)

[sanctified] 2 - The Greek word **hagiazō** translates into the English word sanctified and means; make holy, treat as holy, set apart as holy, sanctify, hallow, purify (active verb)

...Set apart, purified, to become holy and purposeful

We won't be able to gain the right perspective on this process without the fundamental and foundational acknowledgment of the exclusive Holiness of God. Two quick examples of the weight of that reality. In a sanctified prayer, Hannah consecrates and gives her son Samuel for the will and purposes of God. Her first acknowledgement is of the Holiness of God.

1 Samuel 1:27-2:10

For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition that I made to him. 28 Therefore I have lent him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD." And he worshiped the LORD there. 2 And Hannah prayed and said, "My heart exults in the LORD; my horn is exalted in the LORD. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in your salvation. 2 "There is none holy like the LORD: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.

3 Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the LORD is a God of knowledge and by him actions are weighed. 4 The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble bind on strength. 5 Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn. 6 The LORD kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up. 7 The LORD makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts. 8 He raises up

the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and on them he has set the world.

9 "He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness, for not by might shall a man prevail. 10 The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; against them he will thunder in heaven. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed."

Isaiah the Prophet also presents us with a context in which only God is Holy.

Isaiah 6:3

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

In both Hannah's prayer and Isaiah's vision it is clear that God is separate, distinct, and He is truly the Other - from no one else's mother. Nothing will ever change the distinct honor and glory of a Righteous and Holy God. And, in that context, it is also true that no human nor anything can compare to the Holy and Sanctified nature of God.

There is only one God and there is no one like Him.

But as you and I will discover, the Bible clearly speaks in a different context about people, places, and things set apart for the such a time - holy and sanctified for the purposes and will of a Holy God.

People, places and things chosen - called - uniquely and intentionally set apart for historic and eternity altering moments. People sanctified or set-apart for the manifest use of a sovereign God, for certain times and in specific places; to influence, enact and fulfill His will on earth as it is in heaven (binding agreement). This is the context, definition and meaning we are going to explore in this series - Sanctified.

First, let's hear the words of Jesus, as he reveals to a curious crowd and His own followers the parameters of being called and set-apart for discipleship.

Mark 8:34-38

If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. 35 If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it. 36 And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? 37 Is anything worth more than your soul? 38 If anyone is ashamed of me and my message in these adulterous and sinful days, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

From the apostle Peter, (a man who actually heard Jesus speak the words deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Me), tell us that God directly calls people to be sanctified—holy as He (God) is holy. Again, the word holy from Peter's original Greek text is - **hagios**, meaning; one who is sanctified - set apart.

I Peter 1:13-17, 2:1-5, 8-9

So, prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in 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."

So, get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. 2 Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, 3 now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness. 4 You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God's temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor.

5 And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God.

8 And, He is the stone that makes people stumble, the rock that makes them fall. They stumble because they do not obey God's word, and so they meet the fate that was planned for them. 9 But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

The writer of Hebrew joins in to illuminate understanding and purpose for the call of sanctified from the will of God and the sacrifice of Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 10:10

For God's will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time.

And then the apostle Paul adds to in a letter to the Christians in Thessalonica...

Thessalonians 2:13-15

But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. 14 To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 15 So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.

The clarity we see in the "big message" of this biblical process is undeniable - we are called to be Sanctified. That is, to be set apart in holiness for the will and purposes of God for such as time as this.

This "big message" should not frighten or terrify us as leaders or as followers - but it does. Let me explain.

The calling of Sanctified itself insures us a path of access and purpose with God. This access and purpose came to us in and through the sacrifice Christ - that is not terrifying. What terrifies us is not God's part in the "big message" of sanctified - it's our part that scares us to death! This is not a narrative of fear that we should follow - there is no need to fear.

1 Peter 3:13-17

**Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?
14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be
blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, 15 but in your hearts
honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense
to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do
it with gentleness and respect, 16 having a good conscience, so that,
when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ
may be put to shame. 17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that
should be God's will, than for doing evil.**

It is right now that the bold and courageous message of Sanctified should ring out. Not simply in believing, but in purposefully obeying - not simply acknowledging, but

in passionate and righteous action. Listen one more time to the biblical path of calling and consecration - Sanctified.

Hebrews 2:8-11

Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. 9 But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

10 For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. 11 For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers.

In our present-day Christian culture, the idea of this uniquely polarizing call and purpose of Sanctified is alarming and terrifying. Since March 22nd, this has been painfully obvious. The Church of Jesus has not led we have followed - we have not been fearless we have been more fearful.

We are not "un-woke", we do get it.

An unknown viral pandemic fell on us almost overnight.

Startling, honest to goodness and certainly sobering. Careful responses from the Church were important. Not only for our safety but for the safety of many, many, whom we love and respect. But... after two-months two things became clear.

ONE: The virus was real, it was highly contagious and could be deadly for everyone older, sicker, or more vulnerable to viral infections. And that we should support and encourage those vulnerable to stay safely home.

TWO: The narrative of fear was going to be used to control and be used to necessitate the re-write of the American way of life and the constitutional rights that many of us have taken for granted while living in our great country.

As the implications and narrative engulfed the political, social and racial aspects of our culture we could see of the vulnerability of our humanity and our economy. The last but certainly not the least societal engine to be exposed connects with the message of Sanctified - The Church.

We would certainly and respectfully comply with the nationally mandated lock-down. But when it was lifted, and states began to open up our lost identity and our ability to decisively to lead was exposed. Not knowing any longer who we were we simply did not know what to do. Not wanting to do the wrong thing we did nothing.

Any polarizing public messaging or any advancement narrative of biblical truth; any thought of gathering and opening the Church had become terrifying. So much so that there was not many of us who would dare go there.

We could not bear to hear the hateful and negative social media responses. Selfish, killers, ignorant, idiots, foolish, and my personal favorite - if your church is open - you should go find a new one (lol).

Pastors and church leaders everywhere were terrified to end up digitally viral... shamed as "the" pastor or "the" church who had the COVID-OUTBREAK. And sadly, far too many of our churches and pastors were even more terrified to open the doors and preach to empty seats.

The message of Sanctified in a time such as this reminds us that we must go there – we have been called and chosen to go there. The biblical message of Sanctified will remind us of who we are as followers and true disciples of Jesus. It will remind us that we are chosen, called, and set apart for such a time as this.

Finally, the message of Sanctified will remind us that we are not afraid of evil or evil-doers - that in Christ we are God's holy remnant - **people of faith, courage, and calling.**

I promise to behave during this series - but I also promise to share with you the biblical and eternal truth that will make us (the Church) relevant in a time where Christianity and Christian worship are (in real time) viewed with irrelevance, disdain, condescension and contempt.

So, from time to time during this series I will speak openly and honestly about how things are - as well as to who and where those things are coming from.

For example: I am not seeking to be political, racial, or social. However, as the political, racial, and social realities before us are weaponized against biblical truth and the Christian community I will seek to hold those attacks of darkness up into the accountability of biblical truth in full recognition of God' Holy Word.

I am committed to a genuinely loving approach that I hope will always reflect the grace and mercy of our Father.

But I am equally committed to "ringing the bell" of biblical truth regarding the message and calling of Sanctified.

I'm going to ask two questions. And, I am not soliciting an external response because from my heart of love, I know many wonderful people whose risk factors to the COVID-19 virus are and can indeed be deadly. I whole heartedly support quarantine for anyone with "high risk" factors, I support wearing masks in public gatherings, I fully support the practice of "social distancing." I am not naive or resentful of any of these precautionary practices. I believe in the entire First Amendment - not just the parts that I like.

Congress will make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech; or of the press, or the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Now my questions...

Question One:

After four and a half months of a very real global battle with the COVID-19 Virus there continues to be state government mandates being used to shut-down nearly 70% of Christian worship gatherings nation-wide. Do you still think that extended shut-down mandates for Churches are for the sole reason of health and well-being? In spite of the fact that in many regions of our great country Bars, Beaches, Casinos, Resorts, Gyms, Indoor water parks, PPC's and law-breaking protests have been permitted (without visible restrictions) and even in some cases sanctioned as non-risk essentials.

Question Two:

Do you still believe that the biblical conviction and Christ-led call to be sanctified and set-apart for the will and purposes of God is more terrifying than the moments we are witnessing and experiencing today with our very own eyes?

Galatians 4:1-18

Have I now become your enemy because I am telling you the truth?

17 Those false teachers are so eager to win your favor, but their intentions are not good. They are trying to shut you off from me so that you will pay attention only to them. 18 If someone is eager to do good things for you, that's all right; but let them do it all the time, not just when I'm with you.

Final Concept

God's SOP is to sanctify (set apart) common people - like you and I, common places - like Reunion, and common things - like gathering, worship, and biblical preaching. Throughout history God has SANCTIFIED His Church and His people for His redemptive purposes. More directly, He has done this consistently in times of human suffering, such as pandemic-illness, drought and famine, war and conflict, natural disaster and devastation, and finally in times of faithlessness and fear. In His profound and sovereign wisdom, God chose not to call on or consecrate perfect heavenly things and beings to be the presence and messengers of hope and redemption in the world's greatest moments of darkness and brokenness. He chose us.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. 27 Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. 28 God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. 29 As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God. 30 God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin. 31 Therefore, as the Scriptures say, If you want to boast, boast only about the LORD.

Yes.

He chose us.

He Sanctified us.

We are on Holy ground.

He has set us apart on this ground, for His will and His purposes.

8.9.20

Sanctified - Part 2

Starting the Process

Biblical Text:

2 Kings 23, 24

Judges 13

John 15

Themes:

Purging the Household of Faith - Reclaiming Covenant with God.

Destroying and Rejecting all Man-Made and Profane Worship.

Calling and Process of Setting Apart: Consecrating/Re-consecrating for the Purposes, Will, and Worship of God Alone.

Profile Story #1:

Josiah and Hilkiah

2 Chronicles 34:1-7

Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. 2 And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, and walked in the ways of David his father; and he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. 3 For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet a boy, he began to seek the God of David his father, and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the Asherim, and

the carved and the metal images. 4 And they chopped down the altars of the Baals in his presence, and he cut down the incense altars that stood above them. And he broke in pieces the Asherim and the carved and the metal images, and he made dust of them and scattered it over the graves of those who had sacrificed to them. 5 He also burned the bones of the priests on their altars and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem. 6 And in the cities of Manasseh, Ephraim, and Simeon, and as far as Naphtali, in their ruins all around, 7 he broke down the altars and beat the Asherim and the images into powder and cut down all the incense altars throughout all the land of Israel. Then he returned to Jerusalem.

Profile Story #2:

Samson

Judges 13:2-5, 24-25,

There was a certain man of Zorah, of the tribe of the Danites, whose name was Manoah. And his wife was barren and had no children. 3 And the angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, "Behold, you are barren and have not borne children, but you shall conceive and bear a son. 4 Therefore be careful and drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, 5 for behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb, and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines."

And the woman bore a son and called his name Samson. And the young man grew, and the LORD blessed him. 25 And the Spirit of the LORD began to stir him in Mahaneh-dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.

Profile Story #3

The Vineyard

John 15:1-7

“I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn’t produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. 3 You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you 4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. 5 “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. 6 Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned.

Sanctified - The Event vs. Sanctification - The Process

Let’s talk a little bit about Sanctified as an event and Sanctification as a process. In each of the profile stories we heard of the process of Sanctification leading to a God-Purposed Sanctified event or moment. There is more here than just semantics - but not much.

To start, let's acknowledge that both the event and the process are the result of the righteousness of God at work in us. And, let's also acknowledge here that God's intentions were not for us to be caught up in semantics and word-play - the idea is that we are being sanctified in the glorious process of sanctification by the redemptive work of the Holy Spirit.

They both represent our calling to the Holiness of God, and to the fulfillment of the righteousness of Christ in us. The Holy Spirit will do both (call and complete) when we surrender to the bidding and will of God.

Here is the final note-worthy point on this. In order to be Sanctified [set apart] we cannot avoid or choose to opt-out of the refining and defining process of Sanctification. We must surrender to the Process. That means, we have given ourselves over to being made into His image for the purposes of His will - in and for, a time such as this.

Enough on that.

The Sanctified Process

[The Holy Spirit a Kinetic Force]

Clearly the Holy Spirit is the kinetic force (purposeful-active-movement) of Sanctification. And clearly that is a process that leads us to those ever-important Sanctified moments and God-purposed events. How do we get there?

To His followers Jesus said that He would go to the Father, for the divine purpose of sending to us His ongoing and unending Presence. The Presence of God in Christ

Jesus would now move and become active in us through the person of the Holy Spirit - the Holy Spirit would reside in us as an advocate to the Father, and as Champion to our causes and cares as active believers and obedient disciples.

John 14:16-20

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. 17 He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.

Salvation came to all through incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection of Christ. Christ left and as promised the Holy Spirit arrived.

The presence of the Holy Spirit comforted the broken-hearted, empowered the weak and fearful, gave witness to the revelation of Christ as Messiah, revealed truth to the lost and searching, gave gifts for serving and edifying the church, and produced fruit in us as the evidence and authenticity of our character and faith in the Gospel of Christ Jesus.

For the Christ follower - Sanctification is that Process - But, understand this. **The target of the Holy Spirit is to fully engage us and lead us in our process towards being intentionally set-apart for those moments and events designed and designated solely for the Will and Purposes of God.** *(that we be sanctified (set-apart - made-holy) for the pleasure and purposes of God the Father in obedience to Christ)*

1 Thessalonians 4:2-4

For you remember what we taught you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. 3 God's will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all perverse sin. 4 Then each of you will control his own body and live in holiness and honor—5 not in lustful passion like the pagans who do not know God and his ways.

1 Peter 1:2

God the Father knew you and chose you long ago, and his Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed him and have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ. May God give you more and more grace and peace.

The Spirit that inspired the Word of God now uses it to sanctify. In John's gospel chapter 17, Jesus prayed an intense and prophetic prayer over His disciples, and those who would courageously go into the world make disciples - **"Sanctify them by the truth."**

In the same gospel John would also recall, *The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth.*

John 16:12-13

There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now. 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.

Our blessing from God the Father through the New Covenant in His Son Jesus, is the presence of the Sanctified work of the Holy Spirit. This is what the Holy Spirit wants to do in and through us - set us apart for such a time as this.

To be relevant, to be difference-makers, game-changers, hope-givers, faith-builders, truth-tellers, a voice of one - crying out as many! Not looking to someone else, from anywhere else, to say whatever else needs to be said.

Ezekiel 36:27

And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.

Galatians 3:14

Through Christ Jesus, God has blessed the Gentiles with the same blessing he promised to Abraham, so that we who are believers might receive the promised Holy Spirit through faith.

The Holy Spirit not only is the promised restoration of the presence of God in believers; but also calls and equips believers to obediently and sacrificially serve both the church and the world.

This brings us back to where we started today - starting the process.

As we said... The Fruit of the Spirit are the result of the reproduction and breeding of Sanctified character in believers and followers of Jesus.

Galatians 5:22–25

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. 25 Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

The Gifts of the Spirit are the means by which believers and followers of serve one another and edify and build up the Church.

Romans 12:4–8

Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, 5 so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. 6 In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So, if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. 7 If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. 8 If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

Though God sanctifies by grace, human beings are responsible to actively and righteously appropriate God's grace by living each day in *active faith*. Faith is "the" means of *sanctifying* grace - not cheapening it.

The Bible consistently is leading and instructing the seeker of truth into "the process" to be Sanctified. It goes on and on, so that we can go on and on in such a time as this.

Sanctified—Word, Prayer, the Church, Destiny and Providence. It is all there. And the Holy Spirit intends to lead us to it for the purposes of God's will to be done in those Sanctified moments and events that change lives and outcomes for the Kingdom of God.

Personal Application: Verbalizing the Process

Christ...

MY CHILD, the more you let go of self, the more you will be able to enter into Me. As the obsession of earthly and exterior things is released brings inner peace, so the abandoning of self-unites you to God. With that peace you can trust Me to teach you what it is to surrender perfectly to My will, without resistance or complaint. Follow Me. I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Without the Way, there is no going. Without the Truth, there is no knowing. Without the Life, there is no living. I am the Way which you must follow, the Truth which you must believe, the Life for which you must hope. I am the inviolable Way, the infallible Truth, the unending Life. I am the Way that is straight, the supreme Truth, the Life that is true, the blessed, the uncreated Life. If you abide in My Way you shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free, and you shall attain life everlasting.

If you wish to enter into life, keep My commandments. If you will know the truth, believe in Me. If you will be perfect, sell all. If you will be My disciple, deny yourself.

If you will possess the blessed life, despise this present life. If you will be exalted in heaven, humble yourself on earth. If you wish to reign with Me, carry the Cross with Me. For only the servants of the Cross find the life of blessedness and of true light.

The Disciple...

Lord Jesus, because Your way is narrow and despised by the world, grant that I may despise the world and imitate You. For the servant is not greater than his Lord, nor the disciple above the Master. Let Your servant be trained in Your life, for there is my salvation and true holiness. Whatever else I read or hear does not fully refresh or delight me.

Christ...

My child, now that you know these things and have read them all, happy will you be if you do them. He who has My commandments and keeps them, is the one that loves Me. And I will love him and will show Myself to him and will bring it about that he will sit down with Me in My Father's Kingdom.

The Disciple...

Lord Jesus, as You have said, so be it, and what You have promised, let it be my lot to win. I have received the cross, from Your hand I have received it. I will carry it, carry it even unto death as You have laid it upon me. Truly, the life of a good religious man is a cross, but it leads to paradise. We have begun—we may not go back, nor may we leave off.

Take courage, brethren, let us go forward together and Jesus will be with us. For Jesus' sake we have taken this cross. For Jesus' sake let us persevere with it. He will

be our help as He is also our leader and guide. Behold, our King goes before us and will fight for us. Let us follow like men. Let no man fear any terrors. Let us be prepared to meet death valiantly in battle. Let us not suffer our glory to be blemished by fleeing from the Cross.

8.16.20

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1 Peter 1:2

God the Father knew you and chose you long ago, and his Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed him and have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ. May God give you more and more grace and peace.

The Spirit that inspired the Word of God now uses it to sanctify. In John's gospel chapter 17, Jesus prayed over His disciples, and those who would courageously go into the world make disciples - *"Sanctify them by the truth."*

In the same gospel John would also recall, The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth.

John 16:12-13

There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now.

13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.

Our blessing from God the Father through the New Covenant in His Son Jesus, is the presence of the Sanctified work of the Holy Spirit. This is what the Holy Spirit wants to do in and through us - set us apart for such a time as this.

To make us relevant, difference-makers, game-changers, hope-givers, faith-builders, truth-tellers, a voice of one - crying out as many! Not looking to someone else, from anywhere else, to say whatever else needs to be said.

Ezekiel 36:27

And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.

Galatians 3:14

Through Christ Jesus, God has blessed the Gentiles with the same blessing he promised to Abraham, so that we who are believers might receive the promised Holy Spirit through faith.

The Holy Spirit not only is the promised restoration of the presence of God in believers; but also calls and equips believers to obediently and sacrificially serve both the church and the world.

This brings us back to where we started today - starting the process.

As we said... The Fruit of the Spirit are the result of the reproduction and breeding of Sanctified character in believers and followers of Jesus.

Galatians 5:22–25

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. 25 Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

The Gifts of the Spirit are the means by which believers and followers of serve one another and edify and build up the Church.

Romans 12:4–8

Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, 5 so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. 6 In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. 7 If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. 8 If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

Though God sanctifies by grace, human beings are responsible to actively and righteously appropriate God's grace by active faith. Faith is "the" means of sanctifying (not cheapening) grace.

The Bible consistently is leading and instructing the seeker of truth in "the process" to be Sanctified. It goes on and on so that we can go on and on in such a time as this.

Sanctified—Word, Prayer, the Church, and Providence. It is all there.

And the Holy Spirit intends to lead us to there for the purposes of God's will to done in those Sanctified moments and events that change lives and outcomes for the Kingdom of God.

Personal Application: (on screen for communion)

Christ

MY CHILD, the more you let go of self, the more you will be able to enter into Me. As the obsession of earthly and exterior things is released brings inner peace, so the abandoning of self-unites you to God. With that peace you can trust Me to teach you what it is to surrender perfectly to My will, without resistance or complaint. Follow Me. I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Without the Way, there is no going. Without the Truth, there is no knowing. Without the Life, there is no living. I am the Way which you must follow, the Truth which you must believe, the Life for which you must hope. I am the inviolable Way, the infallible Truth, the unending Life. I am the Way that is straight, the supreme Truth, the Life that is true, the blessed, the uncreated Life. If you abide in My Way you shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free, and you shall attain life everlasting.

If you wish to enter into life, keep My commandments. If you will know the truth, believe in Me. If you will be perfect, sell all. If you will be My disciple, deny yourself. If you will possess the blessed life, despise this present life. If you will be exalted in heaven, humble yourself on earth. If you wish to reign with Me, carry the Cross with Me. For only the servants of the Cross find the life of blessedness and of true light.

The Disciple

Lord Jesus, because Your way is narrow and despised by the world, grant that I may despise the world and imitate You. For the servant is not greater than his Lord, nor the disciple above the Master. Let Your servant be trained in Your life, for there is

my salvation and true holiness. Whatever else I read or hear does not fully refresh or delight me.

Christ

My child, now that you know these things and have read them all, happy will you be if you do them. He who has My commandments and keeps them, is the one that loves Me. And I will love him and will show Myself to him, and will bring it about that he will sit down with Me in My Father's Kingdom.

The Disciple

Lord Jesus, as You have said, so be it, and what You have promised, let it be my lot to win. I have received the cross, from Your hand I have received it. I will carry it, carry it even unto death as You have laid it upon me. Truly, the life of a good religious man is a cross, but it leads to paradise. We have begun—we may not go back, nor may we leave off.

Take courage, brethren, let us go forward together and Jesus will be with us. For Jesus' sake we have taken this cross. For Jesus' sake let us persevere with it. He will be our help as He is also our leader and guide. Behold, our King goes before us and will fight for us. Let us follow like men. Let no man fear any terrors. Let us be prepared to meet death valiantly in battle. Let us not suffer our glory to be blemished by fleeing from the Cross.

8.23.20

Sanctified

Elevating Your Game

Psalm 15:1-5

Who may worship in your sanctuary, LORD? Who may enter your presence on your holy hill? 2 Those who lead blameless lives and do what is right, speaking the truth from sincere hearts. 3 Those who refuse to gossip or harm their neighbors or speak evil of their friends. 4 Those who despise flagrant sinners, and honor the faithful followers of the LORD, and keep their promises even when it hurts. 5 Those who lend money without charging interest, and who cannot be bribed to lie about the innocent. Such people will stand firm forever.

Psalm 24:1-5

The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, 2 for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. 3 Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place? 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. 5 He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

From these two Psalms of David, the context of Sanctified is expanded and yet narrowed. Yes, it is a paradox because both statements are true, yet they seem to contradict one another.

The context is expanded in the sense that the potential and purpose for those who are Sanctified is bigger than possibly imagined.

The context is narrowed in the sense that criteria and character for those are Sanctified is smaller than possibly anticipated.

From both passages the original Hebrew language illuminates the expanded yet narrowed Sanctified paradox. That illumination intensifies the intrigue of the Holy Spirit's captivating pull into the elevated presence of God almighty.

There are key words from Psalm 15 and 24; they provide the feel and depth of David's revelation of Sanctified.

worship

Who may *worship* in Your sanctuary?

Hebrew; *polachn sogē* (floo-chan soo-gech) - to bow or prostrate in admiration, reverence or honor.

presence

Who may enter Your *presence* on Your Holy Hill? (Sanctified for worship).

Hebrew; *skn* (*shu-kan*) - to settle, made ready to dwell or reside.

ascend

Who shall *ascend* to the hill of the Lord?

Hebrew; *ala* (*a-lah*) or *he'elah romem* (*hee-ay-lock row-mem*)- one who is elevated, is lifted, or rises up.

holy place

And who shall stand in his *holy place*?

Hebrew; *mkom (mah-kom) qadosh (ka-dosh)* - a sanctuary, sacred, and set apart.

pure

He who has clean hands and a *pure* heart.

Hebrew; *bar (bah) or baro (ba-ho)* - made clean, emptied out, one who is sanctified.

We can finish our morning together allowing God's Sanctified word of truth to be revealed in us by the power of the Holy Spirit.

David asks questions he had the answers to:

Who worships (*polachn soge*) in your sanctuary?

Who enters your presence (*skn*)?

Who is elevated (*he-elah-romem*) to the hill of the Lord?

Who stands in the place of holiness (*mkom-qadosh*)?

David knew the answer because he had lived it. He had lived and experienced the whole process of Sanctification.

*Who worships, who ascends, who stands, who enters the presence and Holy Place of the Lord? **Baro**; clean hands and pure heart.*

Those who are Sanctified and called His Name.

Those who have surrendered and those who have overcome.

Those who have made covenant and walked in it, determined to live a Sanctified and separated life for God.

Those willing to live a life marked by humility and suffering, a life of distinction and service. Those who will battle courageously against darkness when there is only a candle in the wind.

Those who are willing to go the distance only to find out the destination is still a little further down the road.

Those who will not walk in the counsel of the ungodly, or stand with the ways of man, or sit on the same seat with mockers.

Those who know that a life worth living is a life worth giving.

Those who are assured their life is a life worth living with Christ but not worth living apart from Him.

Those who are Sanctified by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Those who are in Christ Jesus.

My encouragement for us today is simply this:

Do not fear this - Do not recite the I'm Not, or ask the Am I - Do not over analyze - Do not run from this Sanctified moment...

Sanctified is a life that is deep and wide.

Psalm 139:7–12

Where can I go from your Spirit, or where can I flee from your presence?

8 If I ascend to heaven, there you are, and if I make my bed in Sheol,

look! There you are. 9 If I lift up the wings of the dawn, and I alight on

the far side of the sea, 10 even there your hand would lead me, and

your right hand would hold me fast. 11 And if I should say, “Surely

darkness will cover me, and the light around me will be as night,”

12 even the darkness is not too dark for you, and the night shines as the

day—the darkness and the light are alike for you.

Sanctified is a life with meaning.

2 Corinthians 3:16–18

But when one turns to the Lord, the veil (of understanding) is removed.

17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is

freedom. 18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the

Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of

glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal

of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God,

what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Sanctified is a life of purpose.

Ephesians 1:3-10

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

Sanctified is a life of potential and possibility.

Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, 16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that

surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.
20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Sanctified is a life of dwelling in God's presence.

Psalm 91:9-16

Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place— the Most High, who is my refuge—10 no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent. 11 For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. 12 On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone. 13 You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot. 14 "Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. 15 When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. 16 With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation."

(close)

So, we move with the Holy Spirit who leads us by the righteousness and sacrifice of Christ into the presence of God. This where God wants us - His presence. We can only enter that Holy Place of God's presence in Christ. Jesus made a place of Sanctification for us in the Presence of God. This the place where God has wanted

us all along - sanctified and in his presence. Set aside for His purposes and will for such a time as this. Don't run now...

Hebrews 6:17-20

So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, 18 so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. 19 We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, 20 where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever.

8.30.20

Sanctified - Clean Hands Pure Heart

We have learned the Holy Spirit calls us and draws us into the presence of God as His Sanctified people. Yet, King David wrote, "only those with clean hands and pure heart can enter." We want to follow the Holy Spirit's call to be set apart for the will and purpose of God. We want to be drawn in by the Spirit to God's Sanctified presence. But we think, "my hands are not clean, and my heart is not pure."

How do we account for our condition?

How do we atone for our transgressions?

How do we get to the place where He is?

We can explore the biblical process of Sanctified which will certainly help our understanding. However, it the Holy Spirit who reveals to us the one thing needed. We need Jesus. We need go no further than Christ Jesus Himself. He is our atonement, He alone, and no one else is our clean hands and pure heart.

What does that look like biblically?

We are going to look at four key passages that will provide us with a good foundation for understanding how and why Christ Jesus our Redeemer makes us

ready to be brought into the Sanctified and Holy Presence of God. All of us desire to be there (reluctant, frightened, ignorant, or not). But none of us can get there on our own. Here is the biblical path to the Sanctified presence of God.

One: Hebrews 6:17-20

God's character is depicted as unchangeable and His word as His bond; His promises are forever guaranteed, and it is impossible for God to lie. The author assures those whom have turned their back on sin to follow Christ, have God's guaranteed word their hope is not in vain. This assurance gives confidence to those who follow, that Christ will lead them into God's sanctified presence - behind the veil and into the Most Holy Place.

Hebrews 6:17-20

So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, 18 so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. 19 We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, 20 where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever.

Two: Colossians 1:19-23

The apostle Paul in writing to the Colossae church, addresses Christians who came from a place of alienation from God being reconciled to Him through Christ. Paul explains the ultimate reality and essence of the relationship and purpose of God the Father, and God the Son - Jesus Christ. God purposed His fullness to dwell and to be fully present in Christ. This qualifies Christ as all the salvation needed to come into the Sanctified presence of God. We are reconciled (Grk; apokatallaso: restoring harmony to relationship) to God in Christ. The death and sacrifice of the incarnate Christ (refuting Gnosticism's spiritual and nonmaterial reality) brought all things created into sanctified (set-apart) and righteous (Holy) relationship with God the Father. In and through Christ, and not ourselves, we are made clean, pure, blameless and ready for the Sanctified presence of God. if you are at a crossroad on this here is all the evidence you need to keep moving forward and deeper still, in Christ.

Colossians 1:19–23

For in him (Christ) all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. 21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel.

Three: Hebrews 9:24-28

The author of Hebrews gives us a full and detailed description of how Christ leads into His Sanctified and Holy Presence. First is the understanding that Christ does not enter a temple built by man. His purpose is of course through His physical sacrifice to spiritually mediate for us and to present us clean and pure into God's Presence. As our High Priest Christ came to earth and gave His blood once and for all - for all who believe, to atone for all our sin. We are all going to die in this world. For those who have believed in Christ, having all sin atoned for in Christ, now will live forever in the Presence of God Almighty. We are familiar with the term atoned through the Jewish observance Yom Kippur (Hebrew; kippur - ka-phar; to atone for). Christ atones for us - returns for us, take us and presents us - ready for Him.

Hebrews 9:24-28

For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. 25 Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, 26 for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. 27 And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, 28 so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Four: Hebrews 10:14-22

In the ultimate sacrifice of Christ, there was both tragedy and triumph. Tragedy in the suffering and sorrowful death of our loving Savior - Triumph in defeat of our sin and disobedience. Our sin not overlooked by God, but rather atoned for in His Son. This sacrifice was a paradox that produced a work of perfection and a sanctified presentation; all of creation presented to the Creator of all. As our High Priest, Christ worked on our behalf to establish three essential things.

Hebrews 10:14-22

14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. 15 Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, 16 This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; 17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. 18 Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin. 19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; 21 And having an high priest over the house of God; 22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

First - Christ gave us the confidence and assurance to come to the place where God is. A New and Everlasting Covenant guaranteed by the shed blood of Jesus - God's promise to bring us to Himself as His one true people. The reality is this. Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises.

Second - Christ established a new entrance into the Most Holy Place. The new and living way! No longer were forgiveness, righteousness, and access into the Sanctified Presence of God through death only; but now through the Resurrected Life of Jesus all had new life, and a way to God. Christ our new High Priest tore the veil of the Most Holy Place making possible for us to enter the new and living way.

Third - Christ replaced our heart of stone with a heart of flesh, exchanged our heart of deceit for a heart of truth. This "true heart" continually brings us back near the Sanctified Presence of God.