

1 Thessalonians 5:23, 24

Our Sure Sanctification

Proposition: *God alone fully and finally saves his saints.*

I. The Grounds of Sanctification (v. 23a)

- a. Sanctification is Not of Ourselves.
 - i. We have no *peace* of ourselves. (Ro. 7:21-23)
 1. When we labor, we are internally *conflicted with the law of sin*.
 2. When we sin, we are internally *accused with the Law of God*.
 - ii. We have no *perfection* of ourselves. (1 Ch. 29:15; Lk. 17:10)
 1. Our selves and best works *easily fall apart*. (Is. 26:12)
 2. Our selves and best works *are alloyed with sin*. (Is. 64:6)
- b. Sanctification is of the God of Peace.
 - i. Christ alone *is our peace*. (Ep. 2:14)
 1. Christ on the cross *saved us from penalty of God's Law*.
 2. Christ on the throne *will save us from the reign of sin*.
 - ii. Christ alone *perfects us*. (Ps. 138:9; Ph. 1:6)
 1. Christ's work *endures forever*.
 2. Christ's work *is pure in holiness*.
- c. Conclusion: *We depend on God for our full and final sanctification.*

II. The Promise of Sanctification (vv. 23b, 24)

- a. The *What* of Sanctification:
 - i. We will receive a *complete and blameless soul*. (Ezk. 37:22-24)
 1. Sin and its temptations *will be uprooted forever*.
 2. Glorious Christlikeness *will be established forever*.
 - ii. We will receive an *entire and faultless body*. (Jb. 19:25-27; 1 Co. 15:53)
 1. Our frail, mortal bodies *will be raised into solid immortality*.
 2. Our constant pain and fatigue *will transfigure into everlasting pleasure and vigor*.
- b. The *When* of Sanctification:
 - i. Not in this life, but *at the end*. (1 Co. 1:7-9)
 1. God preserves us despite our *ongoing struggle with sin*.
 2. God preserves us because of *the certainty of his coming*.
 - ii. At the *coming of our Lord Jesus Christ*. (2 Thess. 1:7, 10)
 1. Christ *revealed from heaven* will conquer our enemies without.
 2. Christ *revealed in his saints* will conquer our enemies within.
- c. The *Why* of Sanctification:
 - i. God himself has *called us to peace*. (Hb. 7:25)
 1. God calls us to *peace with himself* in Christ. (Ro. 5:1)

2. God calls us to *peace in our hearts* through Christ. (Co. 3:15)
- ii. God is *faithful to his promise*. (Hb. 6:17-20)
 1. God is faithful to *his promises to Christ*. (Ps. 16:10; Jn. 22:2)
 2. God is faithful to *his promises to us*. (Ps. 34:14; La. 3:31)
- d. Conclusion: *God has promised our full and final sanctification.*

III. Concluding Applications

- a. First, remember that you depend on God to sanctify you.
 - i. Your best works *cannot give the peace of conscience* that only God himself gives. Your furthest progress in faith *cannot bring you over the finish line of perfection*.
 - ii. Therefore, since our strength is so easily spent and our consciences so easily bruised, *let us render up our hearts and bodies to God* daily as we depend on God alone to finish the work he began:
 1. by keeping ourselves in the Word and meditative prayer;
 2. by watching eagerly for his glorious coming; and
 3. by laboring not to appease conscience, but to be like Christ.
- b. Second, rest assured that God is faithful to sanctify you.
 - i. Your worst sins *cannot annul God's promise* to sanctify you completely, body and soul. Your slow progress in faith *does not change Christ's intention to sanctify you completely*.
 - ii. Therefore, since we have such a strong and faithful God who endeavors all for our good and his glory, *let's praise and thank him* day by day for his faithfulness to all whom he calls:
 1. for keeping us until he returns;
 2. for the promise of his glorious appearing *from heaven, in us*; and
 3. for the hope of full and final sanctification in Christ.