

Sanctification

“Behold, I am come to do thy will. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By which will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all” Hebrews 10:9-10. The Hebrew author teaches that the reason Christ came to earth was to accomplish the will of the Father. Jesus stated, “My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to accomplish his work” John 4:34. Notice the power of this will: God’s will, and Jesus’ mission, was to sanctify us though the offering he gave upon the cross.

The word ‘sanctified’ means “to make holy, to set apart”, or “to consecrate”, according to Strong’s Greek Dictionary. The words ‘sanctified’ and ‘sanctification’ are verb forms of the word ‘saint’. These words are used many times throughout our Bibles. For example, the word “saint” is used 88 times in the American Standard Bible, “sanctification” 52 times, and “sanctify” 60 times. Because of this fact it is easy to see God holds the idea of sanctification as extremely important. After all, it was Christ’s mission on earth to sanctify all those who are willing to come to him and receive the blessing of his sacrifice.

Perhaps you have heard someone state at one time, “I am no saint”. According to the Bible, if you are a Christian, you are a saint! Paul stated, regarding those who had become Christians, “And such were some of you: but ye were washed, but ye were sanctified, but ye were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God” 1 Corinthians 6:11. After being obedient to the saving Gospel people are sanctified, or made saints. “Beloved, while I was giving all diligence to write unto you of our common salvation, I was constrained to write unto you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints” Jude 1:3.

When Paul wrote his letters to the churches, many times he addressed them as the saints that are in Christ. For example, Paul wrote to the church at Rome: “To all that are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” Romans 1:7. Likewise, “Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, even them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints,

with all that call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, their Lord and ours” 1 Corinthians 1:2. We are “called to be saints” by calling upon the name of God, Romans 10:13, Acts 22:16. Sanctification is an action God does to us by our obedient faith.

Sainthood is not a man or church granted privilege reserved for a select few people to attain long after they have died. Sainthood belongs to all those who come to Christ for forgiveness. Once we are washed God sanctifies. Praise God for this glorious gift.

Humility

The most humble and meek person to ever live was also King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The most loving and gentle man to ever live also had power omnipotent and authority of both Heaven and Earth. Jesus, the meek and gentle, had the perfect balance, meekness with vast authority, gentleness with unlimited power and might. Jesus is our great example. As his brethren we must be like him in all things. This includes humbling ourselves, and uplifting others.

This world demands that we be prideful, arrogant, self-centered, and at times trample on others in order to get what we want. Our society is especially self-centered these days. Everything must be done my way for me! God, however, wants his children to act differently. Peter stated, “Likewise, ye younger, be subject unto the elder. Yea, all of you gird yourselves with humility, to serve one another: for God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble” 1 Peter 5:5. Our Father wants us to respect our elders, be humble, and serve. God pours out his grace on those who are humble. We must always remember the words of James, “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall exalt you” James 4:10.

Jesus, our great example, was a very humble man. John records, “Ye call me, Teacher, and, Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, have washed your feet, ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye also should do as I have done to you” John 13:13-15. Jesus taught his Apostles, men that would have great authority, to be humble in their service. It seems that so many in the religious world long to have the preeminence

among the church, to be recognized by all, respected by everyone, and be hailed as “reverend” or “father”. Christ chose to be humble, to serve, not to be served. Jesus stated, “If any man would be first, he shall be last of all, and servant of all” Mark 9:35. If any seeks to be first, to be served, God says that he will be last, and servant of all.

As Christians we have the responsibility to serve, be humble, and remember that in all things Christ is preeminent. We must be humble enough to accept God on his terms, not demand that God accept our terms. Looking into the Bible, we see exactly what God’s will is for us. The prophet said, “O Jehovah, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps” Jeremiah 10:23. Remember to do all things by Christ’s authority, submit to his will, and he will exalt you in due time.

The Church As a Team

The story is told of a horse-pull in Canada. One horse pulled 9,000 pounds, another 8,000. Together you would expect them to pull 18,000 pounds. Not so! When teamed together, they pulled 30,000 pounds. The principle is called synergism. By definition, the simultaneous action of separate agents working together has a greater total effect than the sum of their individual efforts. More can be done in a team effort than can be accomplished solo. In order for the principle of synergism to work like it should, there has to be teamwork. Everything we do takes teamwork and trust. Every person in the local church is valuable and needed. The church is a team, and together we can build for the Lord.

RAGER ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

SUNDAY MORNING	BIBLE STUDY	9:30 A.M.
	WORSHIP	10:30 A.M.
SUNDAY EVENING	WORSHIP	6:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY	BIBLE STUDY	7:30 P.M.
Preachers:	Robin W. Haley	614-751-1082
	James Grayson	614-409-0941

07/12/2009

Weekly Budget: \$1360.00

Weekly Item Needed: Please see James or Austin
Wednesday’s Wisdom:

Obey the blessed commands of Jesus, brought by Zach Haley

Please remember Robin and Cheryl Haley in your prayers while they are traveling in Ukraine. Pray for their efforts in preaching the Gospel and for the salvation of many souls.

Today is the Pot Luck dinner. Please stay and eat with us today.

Following the Pot Luck the Rager Road Business meeting will be held. Men, please stay and attend.