

SANCTIFICATION

WOW



THE HOLY BROTHERS & SISTERS OF JESUS

SANCTIFICATION: THE WONDERFUL, ASTONISHING, EXCELLENT, SPLENDID, MARVELOUS, AMAZING PROMISE OF HOLINESS FOR ALL WHO BELIEVE.

THEREFORE, HOLY BROTHERS, YOU WHO SHARE IN A HEAVENLY CALLING, CONSIDER
JESUS, THE APOSTLE AND HIGH PRIEST OF OUR CONFESSION.

(HEBREWS 3:1 ESV)

1. The holy brothers and sisters of Jesus see Jesus and experience the victory that Jesus won when he tasted death on our account, 2:9.

- (Hebrews 2:9 LSB) **But we do see Him** who was made for a little while lower than the angels—**Jesus**, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, **so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.**

- (1 Corinthians 15:56–57 LSB) Now the sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; 57 **but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!**

a. The holy brothers and sisters of Jesus see Jesus for who he is and what he has done in our behalf.

b. We see that Christ tasted death that we might live.

c. Everyone means every person God foreknew and predestined for glory.

- (Romans 8:29–30 LSB) **Because those whom He foreknew**, He also **predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son**, so that He would be the firstborn **among many brothers**; 30 and those whom He **predestined**, He also **called**; and those whom He **called**, He also **justified**; and those whom He **justified**, He also **glorified**.

d. Christ tasted death means Christ died for our sins.

- (1 Corinthians 15:3 LSB) For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, **that Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures.

e. Christ tasted death so that God could make dead people alive by forgiving our sins and canceling the record of our debt.

- (Colossians 2:13–14 ESV) And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses**, 14 **by canceling the record of debt that stood against us** with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

EXCURSUS: A TIMELY WORD ON UNDERSTANDING OUR GREAT SALVATION AND SANCTIFICATION ...

I. God sets the bar for life now and forever because only God is God.

- (Isaiah 46:9 LSB) Remember the former things long past, **For I am God, and there is no**

other; I am God, and there is no one like Me.

a. God acts in accordance with God being God.

- (Isaiah 46:10 LSB) **Declaring the end from the beginning**, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, “My counsel will be established, **And I will accomplish all My good pleasure.**”

b. God speaks in accordance with God being God.

- (Psalm 31:5 LSB) Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have ransomed me, **O Yahweh, God of truth.**
- (John 14:6 LSB) Jesus said to him, “**I am the way, and the truth**, and the life. No one comes to the Father but through Me.

God sets the bar for reality—what is true now and forever. God speaks truth to us in the Bible. He breathed out words and had prophets write them down so we could know what is real and right and true.

- (2 Timothy 3:16 ESV) **All Scripture is breathed out by God** and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.

When God speaks, he speaks truth because he is truth. When God creates, what he creates is glorious because he is the God of glory. When he saves, he saves completely and forever because he is infinite and eternal and he finishes what he starts.

With these things in mind then we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard in the words that God has breathed out to us, so we do not drift away from what is right and true.

- (Hebrews 2:1 LSB) For this reason **we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard**, lest we drift away.

II. Specifically in our study today we must pay close attention to what God says about our sanctification.

Sanctification may at first glance seem to be merely another dull, religious teaching when in reality it is the wonderful, astonishing, excellent, splendid, marvelous, amazing promise of God to make holy all who believe.

a. The act of God’s sanctification in our lives is so powerful and so effective that Christ is honored to call us his brothers.

- (Hebrews 2:11 LSB) For both He [*God the Father*] who sanctifies and those who

are being sanctified are all of One; **for which reason He [God the Son] is not ashamed to call them brothers.**

b. To sanctify means to make holy.

Sanctify ... ἁγιάζω [hagiazo] ... to make holy; consecrate things to God; dedicate people to God; to purify; to cleanse externally; to purify by expiation; to free from the guilt of sin; to purify internally by renewing of the soul. To sanctify means to make as dedicated to God; either in becoming more distinct, devoted, or morally pure.

The word for sanctify is the same word—ἅγιος [*hagios*—that is translated 233 times in the New Testament as holy.

Holy means other ... different ... We are to be other and different. God calls us and transforms us to be other than this world. We learn what that otherness is and how to live that way only as we bow before the Spirit and submit to the teaching of the Bible.

c. God sanctifies people—makes them holy—and calls us to be holy as he is holy.

- (1 Peter 1:15–16 NIV) But **just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;** 16 for it is written: **“Be holy, because I am holy.”**

So what does it mean to be holy—other, different—in everyday life?

We aren't different because we go to church. We are different because we go to church and worship God. We aren't different because we read the Bible. We are different because when we read the Bible the Spirit transforms our lives. We aren't holy because we are religious. The most deeply religious leaders of Jesus's time had no idea what it meant to be holy, even when confronting the holy Son of God.

- (Matthew 12:23–24 LSB) And all the crowds were astounded, and were saying, “Can this man [*Jesus*] really be the Son of David?” 24 **But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, “This man does not cast out demons except by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons.”**

—END EXCURSUS—

2. The holy brothers and sisters will be sanctified—made holy—and brought to glory, 2:10-13.

a. As holy brothers and sisters of Jesus we will be brought as sons and daughters to glory.

- (Hebrews 2:10 LSB) For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, **in bringing many sons to glory,** to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.

3. Sanctification is not an option but the foreordained plan of God to make holy those who are his.

- (1 Peter 1:1–2 LSB) Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as exiles, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, **who are chosen 2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit,** to the obedience of Jesus Christ and the sprinkling of His blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

a. By the Father and through Christ we are sanctified and become the brothers of Christ.

- (Hebrews 2:10–13 NLT) **God,** for whom and through whom everything was made, **chose to bring many children into glory.** And it was only right that he should make Jesus, through his suffering, a perfect leader, fit to bring them into their salvation. 11 **So now Jesus and the ones he makes holy have the same Father. That is why Jesus is not ashamed to call them his brothers and sisters.** 12 For he said to God, “I will proclaim your name to my **brothers and sisters.** I will praise you among your assembled people.” 13 He also said, “I will put my trust in him,” that is, “I and the children God has given me.”

b. We are sanctified by the truth.

- (John 17:17 LSB) **Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth.**

c. We are sanctified entirely—God will do it.

- (1 Thessalonians 5:23–24 LSB) Now may the God of peace Himself **sanctify you entirely,** and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 **Faithful is He who calls you, who also will do it.**

d. We are sanctified that we may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- (2 Thessalonians 2:13–14 LSB) But we should always give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord,

because God has chosen you as the first fruits for **salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth**. 14 It was for this He called you **through our gospel, that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ**.

e. We are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

- (Hebrews 10:10 LSB) By this will we have been **sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all**.

f. Through sanctification God has perfected us forever.

- (Hebrews 10:14 LSB) **For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified**.

g. God will finish what he started.

- (Philippians 1:6 LSB) For I am confident of this very thing, that **He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus**.

h. The decision for the Spirit to make us holy was made in eternity past when he chose us.

- (1 Peter 1:2 NLT) **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.
- (Ephesians 1:4–5 LSB) **Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him in love**, 5 by **predestining us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ** to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will.

i. Christ will present us to himself in all our glory.

- (Ephesians 5:25–27 LSB) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, 26 **so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word**, 27 **that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she would be holy and blameless**.

j. Note the contrast: Where we were, where we are and where we will be.

- (Colossians 1:21–23a LSB) **And although**

you were formerly alienated and enemies in mind and in evil deeds, 22 **but now** He reconciled you in the body of His flesh through death, **in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach—** 23 **if indeed you continue in the faith firmly grounded and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel**, which you have heard.

k. Increasing our love for one another strengthens our hearts to be blameless in holiness.

- (1 Thessalonians 3:12–13 LSB) **And may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another**, and for all people, just as we also do for you, 13 **so that He may strengthen your hearts blameless in holiness**, before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

l. Grumbling and disputing undermine our pursuit of holiness.

- (Philippians 2:14–16 LSB) **Do all things without grumbling or disputing**, 15 **so that you will be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation**, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 **holding fast the word of life**, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to boast because I did not run in vain nor labor in vain.

m. God will make us stand in the presence of his glory blameless with great joy.

- (Jude 24 LSB) Now to Him **who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy**.

n. The painful discipline of God the Father is for our benefit that we might share his holiness.

- (Hebrews 12:10–11 ESV) For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, **that we may share his holiness**. 11 **For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it**.