



## *SALT and LIGHT*

BY: Chris Harper

Our speech, actions and thoughts should be marked by our love of Christ. King Jesus undertook everything that is required of our souls; on the cross He bore our sin, paying our fine, and through His resurrection we are now justified in Him before God. The work of Christ is enough,

Christ is not just our righteousness but He is our sanctification (1 Cor. 1:30). The Bible teaches, "I sanctify myself for them, so they may also be sanctified by the truth." (John 17:19). In Christ we are justified...by Christ we are sanctified. This sanctification is the inward

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it is complete; for Christ died our death and imputed to us His righteousness. Knowing this, trusting this, the believer cannot help but live his life under the Kingship of Jesus. And under this Kingship, under the authority of Christ, the believer begins his new life of being made "like Christ" through sanctification.

The life of Christ, the death of Christ and the resurrection of Christ took place so that those who believe in Christ could not only be delivered from their sins, but also be delivered from the dominion of sin;

working of Christ by the Holy Spirit that allows us to live a holy life.

Sanctification by Christ is what separates us from our natural love of sin and love for the world, and it fuels our new life and nature, a nature that desires to be made like Christ and love God and His law.

Christ works a masterful picture of this in the fifteenth chapter of the gospel of John:

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vineyard

## *Upcoming events*



### Tuesday 10/14

HS Volleyball Senior Night vs. Silver Creek, 6 p.m.

### Saturday, 10/18

CC Regionals at Crawford Co.

### Monday 10/20

MS Boys and Girls Basketball Tryouts @ CAI, 6-8 p.m.

### Tuesday 10/21

MS Boys and Girls Basketball Tryouts @ CAI, 6-8 p.m.

### Thursday 10/23

HS Volleyball Sectionals @ New Washington, 7:30 p.m.

keeper.<sup>2</sup> Every branch in Me that does not produce fruit He removes, and He prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit.<sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.<sup>4</sup> Remain in Me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in Me.

<sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without Me.<sup>6</sup> If anyone does not remain in Me, he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers. They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned." – John 15: 1-6

Christ makes it rather clear that the branches that produces no fruit are not living, but dead upon the vine (vs. 5). JC Ryle said, "the union with Christ the produces no effect on the heart and life is a mere formal union, which is

worthless before God." We see this in the life of Judas Iscariot, whom very close, even connected to the vine (Christ), Judas had no fruit, no true life, and Judas could only muster a prescribed faith in Jesus that was no greater than the faith of the devil himself. In short, "where there is no sanctification of life, there is no real faith in Christ."

Friend, I must ask, are you led and moved by the Spirit of God? The spirit, biblically, is likened to that of the wind. Like the wind, which we cannot see with our bodily eyes, we cannot see the Spirit. But we know the wind to be real. We can see that the wind effects waves, trees and rivers, and, like the wind, the Spirit effects the character of the believer. We know the wind is there because the sails are full and the vessel moves... we know the Spirit is there because we are filling up on "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance," and that fruit overtakes our actions

allowing us to "walk according to His ways." - (Gal 5:22-25)

Friend, are you marked by holy living? Not by works, so that you may be sanctified, but because you are sanctified you work for the things of God. Do you see yourself marked by His love, His joy and His peace; do you suffer with Him as you fight sin and temptation, remaining faithful, meek, good and gentle? Friend the inward battle manifests itself in outward growth. Sanctification is the seal that God uses to stamp those who are in Christ. Do you have that seal?

"As many as are actually "led by the Spirit of God, they," and only they, "are the sons of God." (Rom 8:14) – JC Ryle

Be well,

C. Harper, AD