



SALT and LIGHT: Sanctification

BY: Chris Harper

It is biblically accurate, and eternally imperative to understand that in the Great Day of Judgment evidence of our faith, or lack thereof, will be on full display before God. "Another book was opened, which is the book of life, and the dead were

James meant in his teaching that "faith without work is dead (James 2:17)." More than a lesson, James issues a warning and men should take heed, it is definitive truth that works cannot justify, but anyone who claims works are of no

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judged according to their works by what was written in the books. The sea gave up its dead, and Death and Hades gave up their dead; all were judged according to their works (Rev 20:12-13)." I am no prophet and only by the Word of God do I live and speak, but know this, if anything is certain about the future, it is certain that man will die and be judged, and during that judgment men's "works" and "doings" will be examined (2 Cor. 5:10; John 5:29). This was what

importance is ignorant, very ignorant indeed. As R.C. Sproul commented, "James understood that anyone can profess to have faith, but true faith is demonstrated as authentic by its consequent works."

In other words, true faith is demonstrated by authentic Christian living. Justified by God, made righteous in Christ, the new creation now desires to live a sanctified life. "Sanctification, again, is a

Upcoming events



Tuesday, 10/28

Volleyball Regional Championships at CAI, 7 p.m.

Saturday, 11/1

Cross Country State Championship in Terre Haute, 1:30 p.m. (Congrats Skylar Stidam)

Saturday 11/1

Volleyball Semi-State @ Loogootee, 12:30 p.m.

thing which will be found absolutely necessary as a witness to our character in the great Day of Judgment.”
– J.C Ryle

Standing before the great white throne of judgment, God and His books open before you, a profession will do you no good; God will simply demand evidence and evidence alone of your faith. Arraigned before the bar of God, the questions will not be “how we talked and what we professed, but how we lived and what we did.” Sanctification need be our mark, the mark of God’s grace and mercy, His love, having some sanctifying effect on our lives.

Has God’s good provision changed you? Covered up by God’s amazing grace, has His love and compassion put to death the old you and made way for the new you to reign with Christ (Romans 8:17)? Our only evidence of grace, in and about our lives, is the evidence of a sanctified life in Christ.

In this be of good courage you who profess Christ; for Christ has prayed for you, “They are not of this world

as I am not of this world. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth (John 17:16-17).” Sanctification is not “imputed.” Nowhere in scripture does Christ pray that we may be justified. Christ has no need to pray this, for we are justified once through Him. When Christ conquered death His claims were vindicated. He proved Himself to be the Messiah, His claims were true. On the cross He bore our sins, “He that knew no sin became sin” consuming God’s righteous wrath, paying our debt. God just in all His ways, punishes sin laying that very punishment upon His Son. The effect of such love? “So that we may inherit the righteousness of God...” God, swift in carrying out justice, instantly doles out His mercy by imputing to us the righteousness of Christ. Instantaneously we are forgiven and made righteous, made well, with right standing before God. This status, our new state, can never be changed or altered. The moment we are born again, co-heirs with Christ, we can never be more pardoned, we will never be less righteous... But, as Christ publically

prayed, more sanctified we can certainly be. As New Creations in Christ we now experience, and know, God’s graces on real, larger, deeper levels. Growing in the “graces of God (2 Pet 3:18)” we now strive to live as “ambassadors for God,” a “royal priesthood,” “set apart” for the good works of the Lord. And the more we grow in these graces, the closer we walk with God, as we are sanctified in this life, without doubt, we will love Him more, we will know more, do more, feel more, repent more and believe more.

So, I ask again, has God’s good provision changed you? By growth and degree, does God’s grace change you? Is there outward evidence of your inward transformation? Do not come to the bar of God without some measure, some evidence of the grace He freely gave you. If you do, I venture, it would be better if you had not been born.

Be well,

C. Harper, AD