

***Sanctified in the Truth*** (JL-107)  
John 17:17,19 Sunday, November 26, 2006

John 17

**Conclude** what has been a four week examination of the **doctrine of sanctification**.

Beginning 3 weeks ago with the **definition** and **Biblical call** for **holiness in the life of the Christian**.

Then turning to look at the **means of sanctification** – the emphasis on HOW one is **sanctified** and HOW one is **not sanctified**.

Last week looking at the **importance of sanctification** in order that we might be **sent into the world** to *preach the gospel*.

Jhn 17:17-19

***Sanctify them in the truth: thy word is truth. As You have sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified in truth.***

Summarize direction

PRAY

We began three weeks ago by **defining Biblical sanctification** –

as the **practical outworking** of **regeneration** in the *faith* and *life* of the Christian –

also called **practical holiness** or **progressive sanctification**.

To summarize,

*First of all ... Sanctification is God's will ...*

The **command** of Hebrews 12:14 is

***Follow peace with all men, and holiness,***  
***without which no man shall see the Lord:***

1 Thess 4: 3

***For this is the will of God, your sanctification***

**This is no option for the **Christian**.**

Holiness is **required** of God!

We said that **sanctification** is at the same time three things:  
a **state**, an **action** and a **process**.

1. it is a *state* in that we are

**Sanctified** ...

This Is our **true standing** *before God*

*because of the person and work of Jesus Christ*

1 Cor 6:11

***And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are  
sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus,  
and by the Spirit of our God.***

**Aorist tense** ... It defines who you ARE *because of*  
*what has happened to you in Christ.*

You are **DECLARED righteous** and made *positionally holy* (STATE)

2. **Act (Definitively sanctified)**

**Sanctification** is

a *once for all* **action** – a **definite one time act** *of divine grace,*  
by which we are *constituted* as *holy*.

Hebr 10:10

***By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.***

Our **sanctification** was **attained** for us  
in the **work of Christ** on the cross

In the death of Christ, sin was **conquered** ...  
not *in theory* but in a **definitive act!**

Some teach that **sanctification** is *all positional*  
*that one can be **positionally sanctified***  
without a *corresponding holiness of life ...*

But Scripturally, *every time* that our **position** or **standing in Christ**,  
Is emphasized,  
it has **practical** and **real** implications *in the life.*

You are under the **enabling** grace of God.

This grace is a **transforming grace**  
Not a *licentious grace* but  
a *grace that teaches us deny ungodliness.*

### 3. **Process (progressively sanctified)**

**Progressive sanctification** is  
the *continuance, maintenance, and progression*  
of **definitive sanctification**

It is our **experience** of

***growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ***  
and *therefore **progressively** being conformed into the image of God*

There is a **progressive manifestation** of *God's converting grace*  
*in the life of **every true Christian***

Hbr 10:14

*For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.*

Here the **Perfect tense** is used which speaks of **a process** with its beginning taking place in the past, the results of which have continue to the present.

By the *offering of the cross*, in **that definitive act**, He has **perfected** or **finished** a *resultant process* ...

And that process is your **sanctification**.

**Progressive sanctification** is living such a life that is demanded by the Scripture and by the moral character of God.

Such **sanctification** largely occurs in the realm of our experience.

And because of this, it is **tainted by cultural background** and **personal preference**,  
And so is *liable* to **great error**.

It is because of not understanding positional, definitive and progressive sanctification,  
that *much of the church* has **strayed** into false teaching in this matter of **sanctification**.

We talked about the two broad categories

*Legalism or Antinomianism.*

Which either on the one hand,

**add laws** to the Scripture –  
and these become *evidence of sanctification* –  
that is one is **sanctified** as he *fulfills* a list of dos and donts.

*Christianity is not a system of works and laws,*

Christianity is **Jesus Christ** ... His **person**, His **work**,  
*redeeming the soul, transforming the life,*  
and the *implanting of a heart's desire* to please Him.

That is **biblical sanctification**.

*Or on the other hand,*

*Antinomianism* - a complete **setting aside** of the **law of God** –  
that is **denying** that the law of God has **any value**  
*in the life* of the **NT Christian**

Is just as *errant, false* and *destructive* a **heresy**.  
Though *shrouded in Biblical language*,  
it **departs** from an **objective standard** of the **Word of God**  
and makes **sanctification**  
*entirely* a matter of *feeling* and *pragmatic principles*.

*In the first century, **Jude** and **Peter** dealt with *Antinomian heresy*.*

Jude warned in v. 4 of his epistle:

***For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before  
of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning  
the grace of our God into lasciviousness ...***

**God's law**, that is **His Word**, is the *ONLY* revealed **standard of holiness**.

And we **WILL NOT submit ourselves**  
to the *dos and donts* of *Pharisaicism*  
on the one hand

or to the *lisentiousness* of *antinomianism*  
on the other hand.

The Antinomian camp will argue ...

Romans 10:4

*For Christ is the end of the law unto righteousness to everyone who believes.*

Or Gal 3:24-25

*Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.*

Is not the *law a mere shadow* – the *substance of which is Christ*?

All of this is true ... however,

Rom 10:4 – **does not teach** us that the law has been **abrogated**.  
But rather that it is **not** the **basis** of our **justification**

There is **no salvation** by **law works** ...  
For *Christ is the END of the law* – unto righteousness.

We are **justified** by *faith alone*, in *Christ alone*  
NOT by **law-keeping** ...

All of *our righteousness* is the imputed righteousness of **Christ**.  
There is not *one iota* of **merit** we can gain by **what we do**.

We cannot *twist God's arm* by our **works**,  
or our **praying**, **Bible reading** or **fasting** ...

God cannot be **approached** based upon **anything** we **do**.

We are **free from the law** as a **standard** *by which we are judged*,

however the **law remains** our **standard** for **holiness**  
and **determining God's will** and **what pleases Him!**

Realize what the Scripture teaches when it **speaks** of the law and grace.

Christ has **not freed us** *from the law*,  
but *from* **the curse of the law** –  
that is *from the law* as a **sentence of**  
**condemnation** and **damnation**.

*Having become a curse for us* (Gal 3:13)

The **unbeliever** will be **judged** *eternally* **BY the law**  
as a **damning sentence** upon his soul.

But we are **free from the law** as a *basis* of our **standing before God**  
And as a basis for our **ultimate judgment**.

Also, we are **not under** a **principle of law** ...

That is ...

The *law* makes its **demands** – but is **powerless to enable**.

But **grace enables**.

**There is no such thing** as *antinomian grace*.

*Antinomianism* is the great **perverter** of **grace**.

1 Thess 4:7-8 warns the *Antinomian* ...

***For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in***  
***sanctification***. ***Consequently, he who rejects this is not***  
***rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.***

We said how these **heresies** are **Satan's attack** on the most  
**foundational cornerstone** of *the faith* ... *Sola Scriptura* –  
*Scripture alone!*

That **the Word of God** is *infallible, inerrant, complete, final* ...  
*absolutely authoritative* ... and  
**Totally sufficient** for **all your needs!**

**Scripture** has been *given to the church* – it was *delivered*  
*to the church* as a **body of teaching** –

And *these things*, have been  
passed down from *generation to generation* ...

*entrusted to faithful men to teach*

Men have **lost their lives** over this Word ...

Yet today, there is a **contempt** for *doctrine*, for *teaching* –  
and an **emphasis** to the contrary

It is quite popular today to say that

*it doesn't matter what one believes about **sanctification** –  
as long as the method makes you happy and seems to make you  
more holy.*

*Leave people alone ...*

*if the Old order Amish man wants to believe that his works draw him  
closer to God, let him alone.*

*They're not hurting anyone, what does it matter.*

*If there's a brother who believes he can **lose his salvation**,  
and that belief keeps him on the strait and narrow with God –  
its ok, at least that belief is keeping him from evil and sin.*

Such ideas are **utterly anti-Biblical**.

For **ONLY SCRIPTURE** and

*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable  
for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in  
righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly  
furnished unto all good works. (2 Tim 3:16-17)*

Christianity is based on DOCTRINE ...

and **doctrine** is the *basis* of experience –  
**not the other way around!**

And **Wrong** damns ... **Truth** saves ... **Truth** sets free!



Paul warned Timothy ...

*If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to sound words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling ... (1 Tim 6:3-4)*

**Spiritual growth** is dependent upon **sound doctrine**.

Your friends in the church have **NO HOPE** of *growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ*, where **sound doctrine** is shunned.

**Worse than this**, I *fear* that many in the church will **NOT MAKE IT TO GLORY** because they are still relying on themselves to *complete the work* that they agree **Christ began in them**.

Which is why I gave the charge last time, to tell people IN THE CHURCH of the **doctrines** which God has revealed to you from Scripture!

Salvation must be **all of God** and **all of Grace** – or there is **no salvation** and **no sanctification**

*Sanctify them*, Jesus prays, **IN the truth**.

If you **care** about the **sanctification** of your **friends IN THE CHURCH**, you will not shy away from **discussing sound doctrine** with them ...

For *yours* and *their*, **ONLY HOPE** of **arriving safely in glory** lies in the fact that the **whole of our salvation** (that is *justification, sanctification, glorification*) is **GOD'S WORK** and **HIS ALONE!**

I therefore KNOW that *if I am a child of God,*  
that **God will complete the work that He started in me** –  
and that I will never face God and **stand in his glorious presence**  
unless I am faultless and blameless ...  
and this does not depend on man who will and runs,  
but **on God who has mercy!**

And we will continue to **proclaim this** from this pulpit until you **all** get it!

*Realize that if **God's will is your sanctification,***  
that **Satan will do everything in his power**  
to keep you from understanding your sanctification.

He is the *father of lies* ... and the *inventor* of every  
**false doctrine** concerning **sanctification.**

It is the devil that has our **Pentecostal friends**  
running up to altars to *have men lay their hands on them*  
while they wait for **some experience** to **sanctify them.**

It is the devil that encourages one to think of his **sanctification**  
as a **need for some experience of POWER.**

It is the devil that **invented** the **legalistic methods**  
of the "**Holiness**" churches and  
**Mennonite** and  
**Seventh Day Adventist** *sects*

All of these are *his* **poisonous concoctions**  
to **keep us** from the **one** means of **true** sanctification.

It is the devil who would have us seek to  
**continue in the flesh,**  
that work which *the Spirit has begun.*

People are *sitting around waiting* for **POWER** to come,  
in some *supposed* **second experience of grace**

Why is it that you don't find Paul praying for this,

rather **he prays in Eph 1:17-21**

*that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,  
may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the  
knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being  
enlightened; that you may know*

*what is the hope of His calling,  
what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the  
saints, and*

*what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who  
believe,*

The **POWER** to *live the Christian life* is **already there!**

What we *really need to KNOW* is the **truth** about ourselves in Christ!

We need to know that **we are children of God**

We need to constantly be reminded of the **grace and gospel of God**

That **our sins are forgiven**

That we have been **reconciled to God** by the **blood of Christ**

We need the *eyes of our understanding to be opened* to our  
**position in Christ,**

that we are *seated in heavenly places in Christ.*

We need to understand the **doctrines** of

His **providence, His sovereignty**

That He has *our very hairs numbered,*

That we are *His peculiar possession*

That He **died** of **OUR sin, specifically!**

And we need to *KNOW* about the **blessed hope** that awaits us.

That is the teaching of the New Testament.

That is what Jesus **prayed for** His church in John 17:17

*Sanctify them **IN the truth***

That is that we would be **sanctified** as we are **immersed**  
in an **environment of truth** –  
*hearing and believing.*

The Greek word *en* – most often translated as “**in**” is **important**.

It is used here ...

In the same way a Christian is describes as being **IN CHRIST**

That is he is in a *different sphere* ...

No longer **IN the World**, but now **IN Christ** ...

**IN the truth** ...

The word *en* suggests **more** than a *mere* **agency** or **means**,  
but *rather describes* the **sphere** that Christ’s disciples are **IN**.

He is *sanctified* **IN the truth**

*he aletheia* **THE TRUTH** ... the definite article is used!  
**THE TRUTH** is a concrete, specific saving reality.

As in John 14:6, Jesus teaches,  
**“I am the way, THE TRUTH, and the life”**

Christ is **THE TRUTH**  
And our being **IN CHRIST**,  
we are therefore **IN THE TRUTH**.

Christ is **THE LOGOS** – **THE WORD** ...  
*The living Word* ... and all that He is -  
**is conveyed in written form**  
in the **Scripture**.

We cannot *therefore separate*  
**Christ from His Word**  
or **His Word from the truth**,  
or **truth from Christ**.

So *IN Christ*, the disciple is **separated unto God** –  
*separated from the world*,  
brought **into Christ**,  
brought **into THE truth**,  
and it is **this Truth** working in us *by the Spirit*  
that produces our sanctification.

1 Cor 1:2 says we are *sanctified* *IN Christ Jesus*

**What a wonderful fact!**

**What a treasure!**

Now this may sound a bit mysterious,  
and there are things in this that are  
**outside the border of our understanding** –  
and ...

We have to be careful when we *talk about such things*,  
because **mystics** speak in similar terms.

They will speak of being *IN CHRIST* –  
having a “*Christ-consciousness*”

The difference is that *their position in Christ* is mystical –  
with **no foundation** on revealed truth.

While it is true, that our **sanctification** an *invisible work of God*,  
and the details can be *difficult to grasp* ...  
it is by no means mystical

**Sanctification** – is definitive *in the life of the Christian*.  
Its *results* are observable  
(just as a child grows *physically*,  
the growth of a Christian should be **evident**)

And as I have repeated time and again,  
**sanctification** does not come by osmosis ...  
it comes by **being disciplined** *in the Word of God!*

I repeat this *because the devil* will send all sorts of **deception**  
to make **sanctification** appear *easy* or *formulaistic* ...

**Sanctification** is very different for the *mystic* –  
His answer to everything is “*surrender*”  
“*Let go and let God.*”

Others offer quick prescriptions for **sanctification** ...  
Memorize Romans 6,7 & 8 ...

*If it were only that easy!*

If I thought for a moment that I could  
**get rid of the remnants of indwelling sin**  
by memorizing Romans 6,7, & 8 ...  
I'd be a **fool** to spend **any time preaching** *anything else*,  
but reading these chapters every time we met.

(I'm not saying you shouldn't memorize Rom 6,7,8 -  
it could be an **excellent practice** to  
help you meditate on the Word –  
but its **not a technique** –  
much teaching on **sanctification** comes down to  
*techniques* ...  
*pray this prayer,*  
*tear down this specific stronghold*  
*say 10 “Hail Marys” ... Holy Water*

Also,

**Sanctification** doesn't come by your **making vows** and **promises**  
that you cannot keep.

That's why “*Promise Keepers*” has **faded out** ...  
Hundreds of thousands of Christians were **coerced** into making  
**7 promises** ...  
Let me tell you if that really worked,  
*Promise Keepers* wouldn't have faded out ...  
the problem is man is a **Promise-breaker** – **not** a *Promise-keeper*.

*Young people, ... your **moral and sexual purity**,  
will **NOT** come by the means of **vows and promises** ...*

The Scripture asks the question ...  
***How can a young man, keep his way pure?***  
The answer being,  
***By keeping it according to Thy Word!***

Not by signing a covenant ...  
Not by wearing some promise bracelet  
Not by vowing to not sin  
Not by writing your sin on a piece of paper and burning it ...

If our will is going to be persuaded – it **must** be by Truth –  
**THAT** is how God works!

I find no New Testament teaching suggesting that there is the  
**slightest justification** for *ever* calling on people to **make promises**  
and **vows** to be sanctified –  
its **wrong** in *evangelism*, and its **wrong** in *sanctification*.

*So what then is sanctification?  
How is it stimulated in the life of a Christian?*

New Testament sanctification is a matter of **KNOWING CHRIST**

Being **rightly related to God**  
Becoming **entirely devoted to Him**  
*Separated from the world, yes,*  
but more than that,  
**separated unto God**  
**Sharing His life.**

The **goal** is not even that we be holy men,  
or to **attain holiness**,  
but rather to live in fellowship with God!

And *so many* do not know this!  
They're playing games with holiness ...

Thinking that they can **complete** a *finished work* ...  
Or **waiting around** for some *mystical second blessing*

**Sanctification** is completely the work of God,  
in fact *it is a work* that **Christ completed at the cross,**  
and is only working itself out in our daily life ...

**His work** ... works in and through us.

And God's invisible and mysterious work in sanctification  
will **only happen**  
by the *completely non-mysterious discipline*  
of *hearing, reading, studying and meditating*  
on **the Word of God!**

It's not "*Easy does it*" or "*Let go and let God*"  
Or "*just surrender*"

We must realize that **sanctification is something**  
that **will not happen in us** without a struggle and a **fight.**

The Bible teaches us that there is a **remnant of sin**  
remaining in that **body of death,**  
which we will carry with us

And *as long as we live* ...

*the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.* (Gal 5:17)

We will ever be in a battle *whereby*  
*the Spirit wages war against the flesh,*  
and our **only offensive weapon**

is *the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.*



We are **sanctified** as we are **IN THE TRUTH**.

*You see why its important to be in this Word?*

***Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! (Rom 11)***

We have an **ocean of truth** in this Word ...

*Why are we so content with drops of water?*

**Don't neglect this discipline of taking in the Scripture,**  
my brothers and sisters ...

1 Thess 2:13-14

***And for this cause we also constantly thank God that when you received from us the word of God, you received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually performs its work in you who believe.***

The work of **sanctification** *in the life* ...

***without which no man shall see God***

is done **IN the Word of God** ...

it cannot be done *apart from* the **Word of God**.

The **word of God** is the *God-ordained means* for your **sanctification**, and to the **extent** that you **practice the spiritual discipline** of **Scripture hearing, reading, study and meditation**, we will experience **sanctifying grace**.

*As we do, we will find our minds transformed,*

so that we **no longer *live, act, walk, talk, think* like the world**, but

**Scripture** will *govern* the way we act, talk, walk, think and live.

**The Word of God** is the **tool** that the **Holy Spirit** uses to make us **more like Christ** ... to have **grow in holiness**.

It happens as we **Know Christ IN His Word**

That is why it was David's **treasure**  
in that it ***is more valuable than gold, yea than much fine gold***

And it is his **pleasure** –  
In that it is ***sweeter also than honey of the honey comb***.

I left you last time with some exhortations ...  
that you should **read the Word**

in such a way so as to come to a **deeper knowledge**  
of the **greatness** and **holiness** of God ...  
and the **magnitude of my sin**, which in turn **magnifies His grace**.

<p><b>Read your Bible, <u>with an eye toward your sanctification</u>.</b></p>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------

I want to give you an example of **such a meditation** from Psalm 119  
(turn there ... various verses)

I want to show **HOW** we are *sanctified in the truth*,

And to *encourage you to be sanctified in truth*  
we will *mine* some of the *gems found in Psalm 119* –

a psalm of **176 verses** –  
*almost all of which* are a **prayer** for the **Word of God**  
to **function in its role**  
to do its **sanctifying work**  
*in the life of the Psalmist*.

Now, I've **emphasized** how the **Law is powerless** –  
that is *in and of itself* –  
but the **Spirit of God does use the law**.

The Law is the **instrument** that the *Holy Spirit uses* to  
**convict us of sin** and  
**quicken us to duty.**

I pray that this exercise will **instruct you** in *HOW*  
*the Word of God* does just that ...  
may God be pleased to **sanctify us** *IN THE TRUTH* ...

verse 1

*How blessed are those whose way is **blameless**,  
Who walk in the **law of the LORD.***

The word **blameless** here in Hebrew is *tamiym* – the **end** or **completion**  
(which is the Hebrew equivalent of *teleios*)  
**Completeness.**  
It conveys the same idea as **holiness.**

So Psalm 119 opens by saying

***Happy** are those who are **complete (HOLY)** in their way.  
Whose walk (**lifestyle**) is **conforming to God's Law.***

The **blessedness of our life** ... that is our **HAPPINESS** ...  
Is dependent upon our **Holiness.**

For **any Christian** to be **HAPPY**, he must be **HOLY** ...

And that is **not** possible if one **refuses to live by the Bible.**

verse 2 continues ... to tell us that our **happiness**  
is dependent upon our *keeping the Word of God* ...

*How **blessed** are those who **observe His testimonies**,  
Who seek Him with their **whole heart.***

Notice that the **place** we are to **seek God** is **in His Word.**  
We **cannot** *encounter God* apart from the Scriptures

Further, our *seeking Him in the Word*,  
must be with our *whole heart*

There can be **no place** for *divided loyalties* or *double-mindedness*  
when it comes to **God's law**.

Too many Christians want to *pick and choose*  
what they will **obey** and  
what they don't like and **will reject** ...

Again one **cannot** be *complete* and *happy living this way*.

We cannot *merely obey God* in **SOME** things.  
**We must be completely sold out!**

There can be **no place** for *double-mindedness* or *unbelief*

Look at verse 4:

*You have ordained Your precepts,  
That we should keep them diligently.*

We must **give ourselves** to the *pursuit of holiness IN the Truth* –  
it is not enough to put forth some *feeble effort*.

*Diligence* suggests a **careful study**.

We are to **love** and **delight** in the Scriptures,  
*more and more, until we become as the Bereans, and *search daily*.*  
and *diligently*

We see how the law produces practical holiness in verse 9

*How can a young man keep his way pure?  
By keeping it according to Your word.*

In order to **avoid** a way of life that will bring **dishonor** and **disaster** and **ruin**,  
one must *guard his life* according to the **direction of Scripture**.

This verse is directed to **young men**.

There is **NOTHING better** that we can do for young people  
than to **teach them** how to read, study and apply the Scripture.

No amount of lectures on abstinence can **replace this**.

*It is a shame* that there are *so many*  
Programs, activities, mission trips, entertainment and concerts  
*out there* for **Christian youth** ...  
and it all comes with good intentions ...

but there is **little effort** to study the Scriptures with them.

Again **sanctification** is *through truth* – and **God's Word is truth**.

**Either we believe it or not!**

**The Word of God** is the **ONLY** protection  
you have to guard your *purity*.

But this is *not only* for **young people** ... look at verse 11 –  
which **applies to all of us**:

*Your word I have treasured in my heart,  
That I may not sin against You.*

Here **the Word of God** is seen as portable truth –  
that is a truth we can carry with us – in our hearts –  
that will **keep us from sin**.

When I read this, I am reminded how **Jesus was tempted to sin**  
*in the wilderness*, at **each point**, He quoted the Word of God.

Likewise, we **must** become *thoroughly familiar* with the **Scriptures**.

It is when we **don't** have the Scripture **in our heart**,  
we become **confused** about **what action to take**.

It is **natural** for us as we **make daily decisions**  
to **look to our human reasoning ...**

but the *first course* of **action must** be to turn to the **Scripture**  
where we will **find wisdom**

We should **be aware** of **EVERYTHING** that the Scripture **addresses**.

We should **be so familiar** *with the Word*  
that if someone says *the Bible says ...*,  
and it **doesn't** **we recognize it right away**.

Or if faced with a **decision** or **course of action** –  
that **we would be aware**  
*whether* there is **something in the Bible**  
that *directly* **addresses** or **can be applied** to your situation.  
Otherwise we will be *susceptible* to **wrong suggestions** –  
we will not be able to *evaluate* what we see and hear –  
**everything** will “*sound good*” to us –  
*even* if it **violates** *the Word of God*.

That is why verse 24 says:

*Your testimonies also are my delight;  
They are my counselors.*

*The Scripture* is where we must **go first** for **counsel**,  
and **all counsel** we receive is *weighed* **against** the **Scripture**.

We have seen that **the Scripture** will *keep us from sin*

and it will also *keep sin from us*  
as verse 29 reads:

*Remove the false way from us*

That word *false* is *lying* ...

The **devil**, the *father of lies*,

we are told he can *transform Himself into an angel of light* ...  
so it can *appear* as though **he is telling the truth**,  
if we do not *adequately* **know the standard** – *the Law of God*  
we are *easy prey* to his **lying ways**.

verse 32:

*I shall run the way of Your commandments,  
For You will enlarge my heart.*

What is being expressed here by *the Psalmist* is the **idea** that **he realizes**  
his own inability ...

The *smallness* of his own heart to **keep the word**,  
so he **calls upon God** to *enlarge his heart* ...  
to *open his understanding* ... to *increase his faith* ...

**he is honest** and **anxious** to have his *heart enlarged* –  
that he might *all the more* **run the way of God's Word**.

Maybe today you think yourself inadequate to understand  
**the Word of God** ... well we all are –  
*apart from the Holy Spirit* ...  
ask Him to **enlarge your heart**  
so that you will **understand the Scriptures**.

In verses 36, we see how *the Word of God* is **opposed**  
to the **lusts of the flesh** – *dishonest gain* and *vain imaginations*.

Psalms 119:36-38

*Incline my heart to Your testimonies  
And not to dishonest gain.  
Turn away my eyes from looking at vanity,  
And revive me in Your ways.  
Establish Your word to Your servant,  
As that which produces reverence for You.*

The Psalmist realizes that *one cannot serve two masters, God and money.*

Further he realizes that he **cannot waste his time** looking at *vain things*.

Think of how much **time** we **waste** watching television,  
reading magazines, surfing the internet ...  
not even talking about explicitly bad things here ...  
but merely **vain (pointless) things**.

Think of all of the time we spend **pursuing material earthly gain** ...

This is because *the world squeezes our minds into their pattern of thinking*.

We must realize, as the Psalmist does, and as  
Paul instructs in Romans 12:2,  
that *our mind* must be **renewed** by Scripture.

The Psalmist **realizes** that *this mindset*  
is accomplished by **bowing his heart to the Word of God**.

And when *the Word* is **established** in a person,  
it produces (vs. 38) **reverence for God ...the fear of the Lord**.

So when we *fear man instead of fearing God*,  
let it be our prayer ...

*Establish Your word to Your servant,  
As that which produces reverence for You.*



verse 45 says:

*And I will walk at liberty,  
For I seek Your precepts.*

*Initially this seems incompatible ...*

we do **not** consider **freedom** as consistent with **precepts**.

**Precepts** seem **rigid**, the opposite of freedom.

**This is a non-Christian view.**

In John 6, Jesus taught ...

that *the one who is set free,*

is the same *one who abides in the Word*

{Work illustration - boundaries}

Are you beginning to see

role of the law has in *progressively sanctifying us*.

It keeps us pure,

it keeps us from sin,

from the false way,

it keeps us from dishonest gain, and vanity,

in it we can walk at liberty.

*You see why you need the Word of God?*

How we must (as vss. 59-60 exhort us)

*considered our ways*

*And turn our feet to His testimonies.*

*hasten and not delay*

*To keep His commandments.*

If God has convicted you *today* of your need to **read His Word**,

*to not delay* in setting up a **regular** reading schedule ...

**begin today!**

*You've gotta do it ...  
No one is going to **turn your feet** for you.*

Psalms 119:92

Promises us **strength to stand** *in affliction*

*If Your law had not been my delight,  
Then I would have perished in my affliction.*

*Affliction may strip us of **everything**,  
but the Scripture remains **our delight***

*If we have **nothing else**, we *always* have ***the Word of God*** -  
*settled, fixed, certain ... and that is enough to delight in.**

Those who ***treasure*** and ***delight*** in ***the Word*** –  
who *meditate upon it day and night ...*  
*are those* who can **handle** the trials of *life*.

Our stability in the midst of **trials**  
Is *only a product* of the **Word in us**.

We have a **responsibility** in this matter.

Look at verse 101

*I have **restrained my feet** from every evil way,  
That I may keep Your word.*

It is a **DISCIPLINE**

*we must **restrain our feet** from the evil way*

*Anything ... that keeps you from the Word must be combated!*

May God give us the **grace** to *restrain our feet*  
from the computer, from entertainment, from the television,  
from **anything** that might keep us from that Word.

Concluding our brief tour through Psalm 119,

Psalms 119:133 again shows the **disparity** between the **Word** and **sin** ...

*Establish my footsteps in Your word,  
And do not let any iniquity have dominion over me.*

When our feet are firmly established in the Word,  
*iniquity will not have dominion ... sin will no longer reign.*

As you become *firmly established in the Word,*  
you will find it easier to believe Romans 6 –  
that *sin is no longer your master*

You'll believe that that *you are a partaker of the divine nature*  
That you have been *born-again*  
And are *a new creature*  
That you are *no longer a natural man, but a new man.*

That *if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin*

**Your whole position has changed**

From a *hater of God and His law* to a *lover of God and His law.*

You will find your **desire** is to **be holy** – to **live a sanctified life**

You will believe that it is *no longer you who live, but Christ lives in you*

That *His law is no longer grievous to you*  
It does not go against the grain of the new man  
You will *delight in it, in your inner man*

Why? Because ...

*Christ is in you, living His life through you.*

Also this truth of Christ dwelling in me  
promotes my sanctification  
by giving me a whole new view of sin.

Sin will become no longer so much **what I do or fail to do**,  
but that which **separates me from this intimate union**  
I have with Christ.

And finally, the awesome promise of holiness IN the Truth...

Psalms 119:165

***Those who love Your law have great peace,***  
***And nothing causes them to stumble.***

There is **no need to stumble and fall** if one is IN the Truth.

**Sin creeps** in when we are unprotected – *during down time* –  
in **moments of vanity and wasted times** ...  
not when we are **engrossed in the Word of God**.

Eph 4:27 “*Neither give place to the devil*”

We all struggle with **things of the mind** ...  
a lack of peace in **one area or another** ... temptations ...

But when you are **consumed** with the **Word of God** –  
it gives **no place for the devil**.

When you are **in the Word of God** ...  
it crowds out the **devil’s opportunities**.

You get **consumed**, and that **is** the way it should be –  
and the more it is, the **less likely we will stumble**.

What you believe will be either conformed to the Word of God ...  
Or by the *standards of the world*.

If you are *loose* in this discipline –  
if you neglect doctrine,  
you will inevitably become *loose* in life and your behavior.

**Your doctrine and your life are indissolubly linked!**

*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable,  
Let others say what they may about you, but you stand upon THE truth –  
*immovable ...*  
*always abounding in the work of the Lord,  
knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.**

May God be pleased to exalt the Lord in our lives  
by the **realization of this Word**

May God so bless this truth and bring **glory to Himself**

Amen.