

Home Group Helps

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Living in the Light of His Return: A Benediction for Sanctification

²³ 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, and He also will bring it to pass.

I. Sanctification's Source (v.23a) – ²³ Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely;

II. Sanctification's Purpose (v.23b) – and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

III. Sanctification's Guarantee (v.24) – ²⁴ Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.

1. Launching Question(s):

- What changes have you seen in your life since becoming a Christian?

2. Observation Question(s):

- Sanctify (*hagiazō*) means, “to set apart,” “to separate” from sin to holiness, “whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness” (WCFSC#35).
- **Heb. 10:10, 14** states, “By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. . . ¹⁴ For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.”
- According to Heb. 10:10, 14, all true believers are sanctified the moment they are converted. This refers to our past or positional sanctification.
- What might this past/positional sanctification (at conversion) look like?
- Paul states in his letter to the Philippians, “*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*” (Phil. 1:6).
- Here, Paul is describing our present sanctification (living the Christian life).
- What might present sanctification look like on a daily basis?

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- In v. 23a, Paul gives credit to God for your sanctification.
- In his letter to the Philippians, Paul also implies that your sanctification is something that you strive to accomplish, “work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure” (Phil. 2:12-13).
- How do these two truths work together to accomplish sanctification?
- What might our future sanctification (in heaven) look like?

4. Reflection Question(s):

- Ponder that term “without blame” in v. 23. When the Lord returns, He will find no blame in true believers.
- How should that truth change our lives? Our attitudes? Our priorities? Our emotions?

5. Application Question(s):

- How might applying these truths help you to have more joy in the coming week?

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