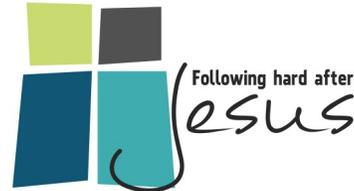


The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Sermon Series: It Is Finished
Title: Yes We Can!
Speaker: Matt Ewert
Text: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8
Date: April 2, 2017



Discussion

Read the following passages. Given the context in which the word “sanctification” is used, what do you learn about it’s meaning and how it can be applied?

- Exodus 13:2 (note that in this passage in the Septuagint, the word “consecrate,” “set apart,” “dedicate,” is the Greek word which denotes sanctification)
- John 17:19
- Acts 26:18
- Romans 15:16
- 1 Corinthians 1:2
- 1 Peter 3:15 (note that in this passage the word “honor,” “revere,” “worship,” is the Greek word which denotes sanctification)

Sanctification has an “already” and a “not yet” aspect to it. Some passages of scripture talk about sanctification as already true of believers in Christ by the finished work of Jesus (1 Corinthians 6:11). Other passages talk about sanctification as a process at work in us by the Spirit of God, a process in which we participate (1 Thessalonians 4:1-7).

“The sanctified life...is the life so fully surrendered to fellowship with Christ day by day that inner spirit and outward expression are ruled by His spirit.”

—Franklin Harris Rall

How does the idea of belonging to God and being in right relationship with Him connect with the idea of transformation in life and character? What is the interplay between the two?

How have you witnessed progressive sanctification in your life? What is true of you as a person today that was not when you first made Jesus Lord of your life?

In what areas of your own life are you aware of a need for the process of sanctification to continue?

Pray for one another about these things, thanking God for the areas in which progressive sanctification has already demonstrated change in your life, and asking for that sanctification to be increasingly evident in areas which you are aware of the need for further transformation.