

Big Words in the Bible (Part 3): Sanctification

Sermon by Andy Sochor

Text: Romans 6:16-22

In this series, we are looking at some big words in the Bible. All of them are “big” in terms of importance; but for some of them, we may be unsure of what they mean. In this third lesson, we will be looking at the word *sanctification*. Jesus’ death on the cross enabled us to be God’s special people.

The Meaning of the Word

- Greek – hagioσmos
- Refers to a consecration or purification – to be consecrated is to be set apart (holy); to be purified is to be cleansed from our sins
- Jesus’ death on the cross makes it possible for us to be cleansed of our sins and be set apart as His special people

Understanding the Concept

- We are sanctified through the sacrifice of Christ – through His body (Hebrews 10:10) and blood (Hebrews 13:12)
- The Holy Spirit plays a role in our sanctification (1 Peter 1:2-3) – we are born again (John 3:3, 5), then receive the gift of the Spirit (Acts 2:38; cf. Ephesians 1:13); He revealed the truth (John 16:13), and we are sanctified by truth (John 17:17)
- Sanctification involves keeping ourselves from sin (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8) – we put sin in our past (1 Corinthians 6:9-11); we are different from the world (Romans 12:2); we are called to be holy as God is holy (1 Peter 1:13-16); this is something to be pursued (Hebrews 12:14), and we cannot see God without this (cf. 1 John 1:5-7)
- Those who are sanctified are those in the church (1 Corinthians 1:2) – this makes sense when we understand what “church” means; ekklesia (Greek) means “called out”

Understanding This in Context

- Paul described a change that had taken place (Romans 6:16-17) – they had been slaves of sin, just like the world (Romans 3:9-12, 23); yet they became slaves of righteousness; they gave up sin (Romans 6:6-7, 11; cf. 1 John 2:1) in order to obey the Lord (1 Peter 1:14)
- This is something we choose to pursue (Romans 6:16-17) – “present yourselves,” “became obedient”; if we choose to continue in sin, we cannot fulfill God’s will for us and will not be set apart for Him
- This includes being obedient to a form of teaching (Romans 6:17) – we conform to Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6:3-4); washed and sanctified (1 Corinthians 6:11)

- God has given us every reason to choose to follow Him (Romans 6:20-22) – there is no lasting benefit for sin (cf. Hebrews 11:25); sanctification leads to the outcome of eternal life (Romans 6:23; cf. Titus 2:11-14)

Conclusion

- Jesus died on the cross to cleanse us of our sins – we can be reconciled to God; we take advantage of this by obeying the gospel and having our sins washed away; this makes us different from the world; not just forgiven, we now serve a new master
- Since Jesus died on the cross for us, we need to live for Him – not be slaves of sin but slaves of righteousness