

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 1

CoF art 24 (1)

Singing: 278:1, 4-5 – 90:1-3, 5 – 426:1, 7 – 250:1, 2, 5

Ponder Jesus' sweet words: *Go in peace* (Mark 5:34)

A. You learned that faith in Jesus brings you *justification* (art 22-23)

B. Yet don't imagine God's saints to be only saintly (Rom. 7:24; Phil. 3:21)

Gift of Faith in Jesus will not only bring you justification, but also sanctification

I. God's gracious gift of faith in Jesus never leaves you as it finds you

A. Why will you not stay the way that as you came to Christ?

1. It is because *you are Jesus' workmanship* (Eph. 2:10; Phil. 1:6; 1 Thess. 1)

B. The Lord Jesus also invites you to reflect on His promise of *sanctification*

II. God's gracious gift of faith in Jesus will unleash His power within you

A. Jesus teaches this in John 15:1-4; Rom. 1:16; Romans 5:5; Gal. 5:6b)

B. Therefore never think that *sanctification is your work* (1 Cor. 1:30; John 15:4)

1. Ponder CoF art 24

2. 'Go in peace' also means *Rest in My promise to make you whole*

C. God's gift of sanctification is not an addition to your life or new lifestyle

1. Sanctification is a 'new life' (2 Cor. 5:7)

2. This new life is 'abundant life' filled with *freedom* (John 8:32) – *rest* (Matt. 11:28) – *love* (Rom. 5:5) – *serving God without fear* (Luke 1:74)

3. This new life is *under the reign of grace* instead of *reign of sin* (Rom. 5:21)

III. Yet don't expect to be sanctified wholly till you get to heaven

A. When united to Christ, justification is complete, sanctification just begins

1. A believer in Jesus becomes a *new creature* in Christ (2 Cor. 5:7)

a. they start where all new people start: *as a baby*

B. Don't expect as young believer you go from 0-100 in holiness instantly!

1. Sanctification is *a life-long journey*

2. Jesus' final strokes are your *physical death and/or resurrection* (Phil. 3:21)

For the children:

1. What can you learn from Mr. Publican? (Luke 18:9-14)

2. Right or wrong:

_____ *If forgiven, you will never sin again while living on earth.*

_____ *When Jesus begins His saving work, He finds us a wreck of sin.*

_____ *Sanc-ti-fi-ca-tion means to be made sinless.*

_____ *To become a better person depends on you making right choices.*

_____ *The power of God that brings salvation is the power of love.*

_____ *To be saved is like adding something new to your life.*

_____ *When God saves you, you begin your journey like a little child.*

_____ *God's work making a person totally sinless is finished when you are old.*

3. Conversion is when your whole life changes. Not only do your desires change but also your choices. What text in 1 Thessalonians 1 describes this?

4. Write down what you will pray about after you listened to this sermon.