

Digging Deep In God's Word

2012-13

Sanctified!

God has required the sanctification of His people in every era. Sanctification is thematically woven in Scripture from Genesis to Revelation. To *sanctify* is *to purify or set apart for holy purposes*. God sanctified people in days of old, as well as places and things. We can also sanctify things in our lives (set them apart for His purposes). May we grow in holiness as we explore sanctification in His holy Word.

September

1. Read the book of Genesis. As you read, make notes from the following passages. Record who was sanctified and how.

Genesis 6
Genesis 12
Genesis 15
Genesis 17
Genesis 18,19
Genesis 24
Genesis 26:1-5
Genesis 26: 34,35
Genesis 31,32
Genesis 35:9-16
Genesis 45:1-15
Genesis 46,47
Genesis 50:19-26

2. Now read Acts 7:1-16

October

The Sanctification of Moses and the Israelites

1. Read Hebrews 11:23-29
2. Read Exodus 1-27 making notes on the following points of sanctification.
 - Exodus 1 The Line is Drawn
 - Exodus 2 Moses' Choice/ Covenant Remembered
 - Exodus 3 Moses' Call
 - Exodus 4 Obstacles in Answering Call to Sanctification; Circumcision Necessary
 - Exodus 5 Temporary Price of Sanctification

Exodus 6-10 Sanctified People Present God's Ultimatum
Exodus 11 Sanctified and Separate
Exodus 12 Remembering Sanctification
Exodus 13 Firstborn Sanctified

Colossians 1 Our Sanctification Through the Firstborn
(Find the firstborn in this passage and find sanctification or holiness.)

Exodus 14 Final, Miraculous Sanctification from Egypt
Exodus 15 Songs of Sanctification
Exodus 19 Holy People
Exodus 20 The Law That Sanctified
Hebrews 8 The New Law that Sanctifies
Exodus 22:31, Exodus 23:27-33, Exodus 24--God Expects Holiness
Exodus 26 Holy Places in The Tabernacle
Exodus 27 The Ark in the Most Holy Place (Find the passage that tells us that the Most Holy Place was a place of light never to be extinguished. Is light characteristic of holiness?)

November--The Priesthood, the Holy Place, and the Most Holy Place

1. Exodus 28,29 and Hebrews 4-7

This is a crucial comparison. See if you can answer the following questions as you study these chapters:

Who was Melchisedec and why was it important for us to know that Jesus was after his order rather than a Levite priest?

Are sanctified people still tempted to sin? How do we know this from these scriptures?

By what things did Jesus "learn obedience"?

Who called Jesus to be our high priest? (Who sanctified Him?)

Look through the Hebrews passages and make a note of each time you find the words "partake" "partaker" or forms of the word "share" (if it's ESV). How do we become partakers with Christ or the Holy Spirit? Of what particular things are we partakers if we are His holy people?

How does Hebrew 6 tie our sanctification all the way back to the call of Abraham in Genesis 12?

How does our hope enter into the Most Holy Place? Who went into the Most Holy Place first for us? When and how did the Most Holy Place become accessible to "regular

people” (priests in the kingdom today)? Find the passages in Matthew 27, Mark 15, and Luke 23.

How does tithing teach us that Melchisedec’s priesthood was greater than the Levitical priesthood?

What does “consecrate” mean in Hebrews 7:28? What are the characteristics from the passage that made Jesus consecrated (verse 26)? How can we work to have those characteristics today? How is it that we are separate from sinners?

2. Read Exodus 30 and 40. List some ways that God showed He was serious about the sanctification of his priests and the tabernacle. Do you think he is serious about the sanctification of his priests today? Find some New Testament passages that validate your answer.

December

Read Leviticus and make a notation each time the words “without blemish” are used. Read I Peter 1 and find the wording there.

January -- Seven Sanctified Soldiers

Read the following accounts of the sanctification process of these six men. Make a note of how God set them apart and for what purpose. Also make a note of how they responded to God’s setting them apart throughout their lives. You may have to dig a little deeper to find all the blessings that eventually came from their sanctification. Do we have a choice about whether or not we are sanctified? When God chose to sanctify a man, was the individual still responsible still for seeking holiness?

Joshua and Caleb --Numbers 13,14

Samuel--I Samuel 1-3

Saul--I Samuel 9-11

David--I Samuel 16

Solomon--I Kings 1; I Kings 4:29-14; I Chron. 22:1-13; I Chron. 28:9; II Chron. 1

February--Psalms of Sanctification

Psalms

4, 34, 45, 49, 60, 69 (notice especially verses 34-36), 74, 78, 81, 87, 89, 91, 101, 105, 106, 107, 110, 114, 115, 118, 132, 135, 136, 137, 139.

As you read these Psalms, look for instances where anything or anyone was set apart, consecrated, separated, sanctified or holy. Notice that sanctification is not just something we do to our lives and the things we give to God; it is something God does to

people as well as nations and hills and things. Write down every case of sanctification you find. Notice especially the hill of Zion, Jerusalem, Israel. What is Zion today? The new Jerusalem? Israel today. Can you find these in the New Testament?

March -The Book of Daniel and People Who Were Different from the Culture

You can't study sanctification and not include this amazing book about four men who were willing to put their lives on the line to be God's holy people. As you read the book, list the actions that showed sanctification. Begin with the purpose Daniel made in Daniel 1:8. Think about how deciding ahead of time that we will not defile ourselves with impurities of the world makes it easier to be consecrated. List specific things in your community that make it difficult for God's people to be holy. Be prepared to discuss these things on the podcast.

April -The book of Hosea and God's Pain when His People Are Not Distinctive.

This book will make you sad for Israel and afraid for the kingdom in America. As you read, list the sins that were hurting God. See how many of these sins are prevalent in the church today.

May-The Gospel of Matthew

Two people were sanctified in chapter one. Who?

Who was sanctified in chapter three?

Fishermen were sanctified in chapter four. Who?

As you read the Sermon on the Mount, list the different contrasts that Jesus made between the way the Jews were accustomed to thinking (the old law) and the way Jesus was calling them to think (new covenant). Does sanctification sometimes include transformation by renewing our minds? Read Romans 12:1, 2.

Twelve were sanctified in chapter 10. Who?

Memorize Jesus' call to sanctification in Matthew 11: 28-30. How is being set apart for Christ a "restful" sanctification?

Notice the *Parable of the Tares* In Matthew 13. it seems that God has no trouble knowing who His people are and, one day, the separation will be eternal. It's very important that we are products of the good seed, for everything else is among the tares.

It is interesting to notice what happened to John the Baptist in chapter 14. This occurred because he taught that it was wrong for Herod to be with a certain woman. Are we different from the culture around us when we teach the sinfulness of divorce and the doctrine of Matthew 19:9 about marriage, divorce and remarriage? Why do you think this teaching sets us apart from the world around us? Why are we in stark contrast to our culture when we talk about this subject? Was this a pretty important concept to John the Baptist?

What does chapter 15 teach about “rooting up”?

What does chapter 16 teach us about Our material possessions? Should they be sanctified for God’s purposes--all of them? Why or Why not?

In Chapter 23, Christ gives a stern rebuke to the religious leaders of His day. What are some ways that the 21st century church is and must be sanctified (set apart) from the religions of today? Can you find some of these ways in Matthew 23?

List every thing that was set apart for a holy purpose in Matthew 26. There are quite a few things.

Matthew 27 is the climax of the Bible’s sanctification theme. This chapter hearkens back to the passover lamb, the priesthood and the veil and reaches forward to the symbolism in baptism. The event of this chapter is the only way we can have the washing and sanctification of I Corinthians 6:9. Please read this verse now.

It is very important to remember that, from this point on, God’s call to sanctification comes through the Spirit’s revealed Word and the sanctification comes through the blood, contacted at the point of baptism. Unlike many who were sanctified by God under the Old Law, we **choose** to be sanctified in baptism and holy living, or to remain in the world. God has chosen, in turn, those who are obedient for sanctification.

Read Jesus’ prayer in John 17. Memorize verse 17.

June-Acts 1-16

List the people sanctified in baptism in these passages. (even if unnamed). Begin with the 3000 on Pentecost. If sins are listed of which they repented prior to baptism, list those. If they had to suffer in their separation from the world, list those trials.

July-- I Corinthians

Read the book.

Chapter 1- What “foolish” thing does God use to call us? What four things does Jesus have that we need in order to be in God’s holy presence?

Chapter 2- How is it that we become spiritual...that is, how, exactly are the things of God revealed by the Spirit (vs. 13)?

Chapter 3- What were the obstacles that were in the Corinthians' way of being sanctified and holy (spiritual)?

Chapter 4-List the things from this passage that the apostles had to endure because of their faith? Read II Corinthians 11 and complete this list as it relates to Paul, personally.

Chapter 5-This is probably the most overlooked chapter in all of Paul's writings in the church today. What is God's plan for keeping the body pure and sanctified? If we do not do this, are we the fully restored New Testament church? Why or Why not? Read II Thessalonians 3:6.

Chapter 6-Should our physical bodies be sanctified? How?

Chapter 7- Can a woman be sanctified in a sexual relationship outside of marriage? Is it possible for a woman to be sanctified and yet married to an unbeliever? How long is a woman bound to her husband? Would a sanctified woman ever choose to marry a man who is not sanctified man? Give reasons for your answers. (Good podcast fodder!)

Chapter 8-How important should the sanctification of our brothers and sisters be to us? See if you can make an application from verse 13 to us today about how we dress, act, choose entertainment, etc...

Chapter 9- In what verse does Paul make the distinction between carnal or fleshly material things and the spiritual, or sanctified? In the context, what is the spiritual and what is the carnal?

Chapter 10--Is there any sense in which the physical rock from which the water came in Exodus 17 was sanctified for a holy purpose? Who is the spiritual rock? Is the spiritual rock sanctified?

Chapter 11-Is there a sense in which the communion emblems are set apart for a holy purpose? Is the Lord's Supper sanctified? If it is holy, then do we profane it when we eat and drink thoughtlessly? Substantiate your answer from the passage.

Chapter 12- Were the miraculous spiritual gifts (abilities to speak in foreign languages [tongues] gifts given for a specific holy purpose? Were they, then sanctified gifts?

Chapter 13- List the attributes of love in this chapter. can we be sanctified without these attributes? Give reasons for your answers from this chapter. How does this chapter give evidence that we are no longer able to perform miracles? Does sanctification today involve our performance of miracles?

Chapter 14--Paul made the case that prophesying was a richer spiritual gift than speaking in foreign languages? Why did he make this claim? Does sanctification...being his holy people always involve teaching others? Can you give passages for your answer?

Chapter 15--In this chapter, a contrast is made between our earthly bodies (flesh and blood) and our spiritual selves. It is interesting to notice that upon the resurrection in baptism, we became sanctified to live a new life (Romans 6: 3-6). At that point we became spiritual and not carnal (so long as we are walking in the light). But up to the point of the “twinkling of an eye” (vs 52), our spiritual selves were housed in the flesh and blood. In this moment of change (vs 52), though, the whole of us becomes spiritual, we completely leave all of the carnal, and we become sinless...completely holy. Let us strive to sanctify ourselves as we live, so that we may be wholly holy when we die.

Chapter 16--Memorize vs 22. We really need to be quoting that in our minds as we interact with our culture of tolerance at all cost.

August--The Month of Reaching Out.

Read the book of I Peter this month, memorizing chapter 2, verses 9-11. Make a note of each time suffering or trials or pain is mentioned. See if you can also make a list of promised benefits of suffering. Does suffering sanctify us? Give scriptures to prove your answer. How does suffering allow us to be partakers with Christ? When we are partakers with Him, we are sanctified!

The challenge for August is to reach out to someone who may be struggling in their attempts to leave the world and be holy. Perhaps it is a teen girl in your congregation who is peer dependent. Perhaps it is a young mother who thinks an awful lot about the acquisition of this world's goods. Perhaps it is a brother who is tempted by alcohol. Perhaps it is a business person who is constantly away from his family. Choose one or more of the following ways to encourage holiness in the body where you are. If this is hard for you, remember that it's the hard things that help us to be partakers with the Christ!

1. Write a letter to a younger woman and tell her that you are praying for her daily as she faces the rough decisions of her school or workplace. Tell her you are “here for her” when she needs encouragement.
2. Ask a weaker member of the body to have a weekly study with you about sanctification. You should be ready for this.
3. Make a phone call to someone who is haphazard in attendance to let her know she is missed and ask if she's okay.
4. Purchase a Christian parenting book written by one of our faithful brothers or sisters for parents who are struggling to bring their young children up in the ways of the Lord.

Write a sweet note in the cover and tell them you are appreciative of the way they are trying to be godly parents in this tough world.

5. Purchase a book about teen purity for a struggling teen in your congregation. Ask her to read it and then get together with you at the coffee shop or at your house to talk about how she liked it.
6. Sit beside someone at services who is struggling with a sin problem. Let him or her know that you are keeping him/her in prayer.
7. Have a ladies prayer group meeting in your home and just pray, pray, for the sanctification of the body.
8. If your congregation is one which does not practice the withdrawal of I Corinthians 5, go to your elders, or humbly ask your husband if he would be willing to go to them and meekly ask them to help you win back those who are in sin by faithfully practicing this command. Godly elders will respond well to a kind spirit of obedience.
9. Purchase a book about future church leadership to give to one or more boys in your congregation to help insure faithful leadership for the sanctified body in the year 2035. This could be a gift that keeps on giving!
10. Read Galatians 6:1 and decide another approach you will take this month to try and restore the one who is overtaken. Remember to wear the spirit of meekness.

