

Rom. 14:19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.

THE LENEXA EDIFIER

John 8:32

“And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free”

June 5, 2022

WASHED, SANCTIFIED AND JUSTIFIED

by Jim Stauffer

“Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.” (1 Corinthians 6:11)

What is the connection between sanctification, justification and being washed? It is clear it took all three of these to change the Corinthians from the unrighteous who could not inherit the kingdom of God to those who were acceptable in His sight.

The first thing is being washed. This is a reference to the new birth Jesus taught Nicodemus in **John 3:3-5**. He said we must be born again of the water and the spirit. This is the washing of regeneration Paul speaks of in his letter to **Titus in 3:5**. This new birth corresponds to the new creature Paul tells the Corinthians they have become, **2 Cor. 5:17**.

Paul then says they were justified. Being justified is the same as being righteous. It means one is now in compliance with the law and previous violations have been removed. In **Romans 3:24-26** we learn justification occurs with the process of redemption. He then says to the Colossians redemption occurs with the forgiveness of sins (**Col. 1:13,4**). And, of course, we learn early on in Acts 2:38, forgiveness of sins results from being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

When they became justified by the washing of regeneration, God sanctified them. They became holy ones or saints. Their holiness resulted from obedience to Christ and the conference of His righteousness on them as is stated here, *“He made Him who knew no sin to be*

sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” (2 Corinthians 5:21) His saints or holy ones we are then set apart for service in His kingdom.

And all this, he says in our text is *...in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of God*. This reminds us Jesus is the author of eternal salvation to all those who obey Him (**Heb. 5:8,9**).

In summary of the message of **1 Cor. 6:11**, we see the need to be born again of the water and spirit, the washing of regeneration, becoming a new creature by way of baptism for the remission of our sins, the process of our redemption. This allows us to become justified, sanctified for His service as we then enter the kingdom of God. We have been redeemed, Peter tells us by the blood of Jesus Christ, the unblemished Lamb of God (**1 Peter 1:18,19**).

The Corinthians were outside the kingdom of God, lost in their sin, until they obeyed the commands of the Son of God. The man God has chosen to judge each of us in righteousness according to what we have done in our lives here on earth and by the words He has spoken (**Acts 17:31; 2 Corinthians 5:10; John 12:48**).

Would you like to be in the kingdom of God? You can be. There are two kingdoms, one is ruled by Satan and the other by Christ, the Son of God. You can be transferred from Satan's kingdom to God's kingdom as the Corinthians were if you will be washed, sanctified and justified as Jesus has authorized.

But Seek First the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness

Keith Sharp | Mountain Home, Arkansas, USA

True Story. Billy was 6 years old. It was springtime close to summer vacation. When school was out, he and his mom, a widow who was remarrying, were moving. He came home from school and informed his mom he wouldn't be going back to baseball. When she asked why, he replied, "The rest of our games are on Wednesday night, and we'll be in church." She hadn't said a word to him about it. She didn't have to. How would that compare to our family practices?

In **Matthew 6:19-34** Jesus contrasts the righteousness of the kingdom with the materialism of the Gentiles. **Matthew 6:33** summarizes this contrast. *"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."* What should be our chief goal in life?

The kingdom of God of Old Testament promise and prophecy is the rule of God in the hearts of His people. *"Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, 'The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you'"* (**Luke 17:20-21**).

The kingdom of Christ is the church of Christ in that the people in whose hearts the Lord rules are those who compose His church. The terms "kingdom" and "church" are used interchangeably at least twice in the New Testament (**Matthew 16:18-19; Hebrews 12:22-23, 28**).

If we *"seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,"* we put kingdom blessings and kingdom relationships at the absolute top of our priorities.

The context of this summary statement contrasts concern over material wealth with the spiritual blessings and relationships of the kingdom (**Matthew 6:19-34**). If I have a job which involves sinful activities or prevents me from serving the Lord, including assembling to worship with his people, I need to find a different job.

This also applies to family and friends. The Lord and His kingdom even come ahead of family (**Matthew 10:34-38**). If family comes to visit, and it's time for

worship, invite them to come with you. If they won't come, ask them to stay until you return.

It certainly applies to recreation. Are we *"lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God"*? (**2 Timothy 3:4**) If we miss worship or Bible classes for sports, what does that tell us? Do we have time to go fishing but can't find time to talk to a neighbor about the Bible? If we put kids' sports ahead of the gospel meeting, what are we teaching our children? (**Ephesians 6:4**)

Brother J.D. Tant was a famous preacher of three or four generations ago. He used to close his articles in "Gospel Advocate" magazine by warning, "Brethren, we're drifting." It didn't make him popular, but he was right. Are we drifting?

12 Evidences I Have "Lost My First Love"

"Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love" (**Rev. 2:4**).

1. When my delight in the Lord is no longer as great as my delight in someone else, I have lost my *"first love."*
2. When my soul does not long for times of rich fellowship in God's Word or in prayer, I have lost my *"first love."*
3. When my thoughts during leisure moments do not reflect upon the Lord, I have lost my *"first love."*
4. When I claim to be "only human" and easily give in to those things I know displease the Lord, I have lost my *"first love."*
5. When I do not willingly and cheerfully give to God's work or to the needs of others, I have lost my *"first love."*
6. When I cease to treat every Christian brother as I would the Lord, I have lost my *"first love."*
7. When I view the commands of Christ as restrictions to my happiness rather than expressions of His love, I have lost my *"first love."*
8. When I inwardly strive for the acclaim of this world rather than the approval of the Lord, I have lost my *"first love."*
9. When I fail to make Christ or His Words known because I fear rejection, I have lost my *"first love."*
10. When I refuse to give up an activity which I know is offending a weaker brother, I have lost my *"first love."*
11. When I become complacent to sinful conditions around me, I have lost my *"first love."*
12. When I am unable to forgive another for offending me, I have lost my *"first love."*

by Mark White

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The first gospel sermon -- all about *EVIDENCE*.

The fundamental requirement of the gospel is faith. One cannot please God without faith (**Hebrews 11:6**). The first sermon preached that included the offer of complete forgiveness of sins is recorded in **Acts 2:14-39**. It concludes by giving answer to their question: "*What shall we do?*" (**v.37**) That question is the result of their conviction. They believed! The sermon was designed to produce that faith by supplying strong evidence - reasons to believe. What evidence did Peter supply?

- prophecy about the events that were occurring on that day (**v.17-21**).
- miracles, signs and wonders openly done by Jesus (**v. 22**).
- the public life of Jesus known to multitudes of people (**v. 22**).
- the unique and unprecedented death of Jesus, an innocent man (**v. 23**).
- The Resurrection -- the ultimate proof ... for which there must be further proof (**v.24**).
- David's prophecy about the resurrection (**v. 25-27, 30-31**).
- David's body still in the tomb vs. the empty tomb of Jesus (**v. 29**).
- testimony of many eye witnesses who saw Jesus alive after the crucifixion (**v. 32**).
- the outpouring of miracles (**v.1-12**) on this Pentecost in Jerusalem (**33**).

Peter's conclusion: "*Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ*" (**v. 36**). Many who heard were "*cut to the heart*." They believed. Their faith caused them to ask: "*Men and brethren, what shall we do?*" (**v. 37**).

Faith is not spiritual wishful thinking. Bible faith is a conviction of truth on the basis of incontrovertible evidence.

Do you believe? Then you should be asking: "*What shall we do?*"

Don Bunting

JUST STAY IN THE CHARIOT

Worry is solved when we learn to believe God when He says, "*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*" (**Philippians 4:6**)

One of my favorite stories has to do with the 1959 Biblical epic called "Ben Hur." One of the most famous scenes in that movie was the climactic chariot race,

which required 5 weeks of filming, 15,000 extras, and 18 chariots – nine to be used by the stunt crew during practice.

In the spirit of authenticity, Charlton Heston actually learned to drive the 4 horse vehicles. But after weeks of practice, he expressed concern about the final shoot.

He took the stunt coordinator aside and said, "I can drive the chariot, but I'm not sure I can win."

"Chuck, you just make sure you stay in the chariot," the stunt coordinator replied, "and I'll make sure you win the race."

Likewise, God is saying to us: "Just stay in the chariot... and I'll make sure you win the race."

Ken Green

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Call me, Jim Stauffer at 913-620-0563, Evangelist at the Lenexa church of Christ.

We believe in worshiping and serving the Lord as He has instructed in His word.

Did you know the Bible tells us there will be no signs or warnings of the imminent coming of the Lord to judge all men?

"For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will." (Matthew 24:44)

"The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up." (2 Peter 3:9–10)

....behold now is the day of salvation - 2 Cor. 6:2

Psa. 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

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What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10