

Sanctified Saints in Permanent Perfection

Scripture Reading:

Ephesians 5: 25-27

INTRODUCTION

We've been looking at NT Scripture to understand how God is fulfilling His plan to make us holy – sanctified, separated – unto His person and purpose(s).

REVIEW

He is sanctifying believers in three tenses:

1. When we believed the gospel, we were caused to be set apart to Him by being placed into Christ – a work by God alone!
2. Now, we are being sanctified our present activities by God's continuing work of sanctification in daily lives. We respond to this work by yielding to it. Both God and the believer are active in present tense sanctification
3. At the Rapture of the Church, our sanctification will be permanently perfected.

Christ's Present Sanctifying Work Resulting in Permanent Perfection - Eph 5:25-27

- Christ's PRESENT dedication on behalf of the Church
 - Eph 5:25, which is His Body – Eph 1:22-23, 2:15-16, 5:23, 29
- Christ's PRESENT work of preparation for perfection
 - Eph 5:26

Christ's Present Sanctifying Work Resulting in Permanent Perfection - Eph 5:25-27 (continued)

- By the Holy Spirit's ministry of grieving- Eph 4:30, II Cor 7:9-10
- By "A washing by an utterance" (word) from Christ to the Father – cf Heb 12:6-8
- By a forgiveness and cleansing by the Father when the believer confesses his/her act of sin – I Jn 1:9
- NOTE: "might sanctify" (subjunctive mood of reality). This sanctifying work is accomplished in this lifetime IF the believer cooperates by **submitting to the Lord**

• Christ's PRESENT sanctifying ministry completed – Eph 5:27

- “...might present to Himself...” (subjunctive mood of reality), this perfect presentation WILL happen. The question is WHEN (at the Rapture of the Church)
- Our condition at His presentation of us to Himself
 - Our glorified garments of righteousness – Rev 19:7-8
 - No spots
 - No wrinkles
 - Nor “any such things”
 - BUT holy and without blame
- We are THEN a permanently perfected saint!

CONCLUSION

- We have been sanctified in Christ when we were saved (past-tense)
- The daily question before us as saints is, “How will I arrive at the moment of the Rapture?”
What condition will we find ourselves in if the Rapture of the Church were to happen today?
- Hebrews 6:1,3 “Let us be carried on to maturity... and this we will do if God permits”
 - He only permits if we allow Him to carry us HIS way