

Are you set apart?

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Introduction: As we look back over Gods word in 1 Thessalonians we can summarize it this way! God gave His people objectives to accomplish while we wait on the Lord's return. They are; sexual purity (4:3-8), brotherly love (4:9-10), personal independence (4:11-12), Understanding the rapture (4:13-5:11), respect for leaders, love for all people, rejoicing, prayer, thankfulness, and sincerity in public worship (5:12-22). We see in our passage today that God is the giver of peace. Peace should be understood as a harmonious relationship between God and man through His Son Jesus Christ. That sounds good doesn't it, God the giver of peace. Let's examine that for a moment? If God has to be the giver of peace that means there is at least a little disharmony! Where does it come from? You and I. The peace God wants to bring is for a purpose, it is to sanctify us. Sanctify means to set apart. Many will say I am saved, that's all there is to it. Salvation begins your new life. Sanctification is Gods maturing process of developing that new life. The new life you have through Jesus Christ should set you apart from the world! Does it? How do you know? This morning I want you to know...

I. We know we are set apart when we... (v.23)

A. We are totally submitted to God.

God cannot sanctify you if you are refusing to submit to Him. You can't be obedient if you are not submissive!

B. Our character is seasoned with godly quality.

The quality of your character is directly related to how strictly you follow Gods word!

Do you let Gods word instruct your life?

Does your life instruct Gods word?

C. Our character is seasoned with godly quantity.

The quantity (collection) of your character is understood in the three parts of man!

The sanctification of spirit? Spirit = *pneuma*, and enables man to receive knowledge and guidance of the divine.

The sanctification of soul? Soul = *psyche*, it is the sphere of mans will and emotion.

The sanctification of body? Body = your personal relation to the physical world.

II. We know we are set apart when we... (v.24)

A. Realize and grasp the faithfulness of God.

God is faithful (God has never failed to be truthful)

In our salvation, In our blessings, In our convictions, In our correction, In our calling, In our commission, etc...

B. Realize grasp the fullness of God.

With God there are no voids in our lives.

God establishes every part of the Christians life

Conclusion: It is very true to say we are set apart as God's children the moment we are saved. If you are not saved this morning understand this; you ARE NOT one of God's children, you ARE one of God's creation. Jesus died for you and love's you and wants you to come to Him, ask for forgiveness and receive salvation. Christian understand this; being set apart as a child of God is the beginning of sanctification (being set apart for His work). What God has given you today is a very sincere look at what He expects from His children as He works out sanctification in your life. You don't pick and choose you live in total obedience or not! As our musicians come with a hymn of invitation the alter call is this. Consider these questions: Are you allowing God to work out His sanctification in your life? Are you totally submitted to God? Does God see you as having quality character? Does God see you as having the amount of character He desires for you? Do you truly realize the faithfulness of God in your life? Do you truly realize the fullness God desires to have through your life? The Holy Spirit has given you the answers to each of these questions, now what are you going to do with those answers? As we sing will you come?