

**Scripture:** Colossians 1

Lord's Day 32.86 #1

**Singing:** 381:1-4 – 293:1-3 – 108:1-5 – 298:1-3

Intro: God's work of sanctification is the restoration of the sinner

A. He first bought the sinner: Romans 5:6, 8, 10

B. His bought people will be found *in the world* or *in the church*: Eph. 2:1-3

C. God makes His people into saints: Eph. 2:10; Is. 11:6-9; Rom. 8:29; Eph. 1:4

D. Holiness is a life of holiness in peace and joy in the Holy Ghost: Rom. 14:17

E. Yet how come that many children of God are not joyful like Rom. 5:11?

F. Two common (wrong) reactions to call and strive for holy living

1. Holiness is not important but having sound truth and knowing misery is

2. Holiness is adhering to a rigid set of standards which still bring no joy

<b>THE SPIRITUAL PITFALLS HINDERING THE LIFE OF HOLINESS IN BELIEVERS</b>
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**I. Misunderstanding of relationship of sanctification to justification**

A. Right thinking about the heart of the Gospel is the key to holy living

1. What happens when someone comes to faith in Jesus Christ?

a. compare Romans 3:21-24; Romans 4:3, 5; 6-8

2. Note the clear Biblical language reflected in Lord's Day Q & A 86

a. believers **are delivered** from their **misery** (Col. 1:13-14; 21-22)

b. believers **are redeemed and delivered** by Christ's blood (John 1:12)

B. Holy living is living the reality of the Gospel grace of being *justified by faith* or being *righteous in the sight of God* as holy, unblameable and unreprouvable! (Col. 1:22)

C. Gospel: *You are invited or even compelled to the great supper* (Luke 14:16-24)

1. None were worthy (18-20) or fit (21-23) **yet invited to come**

2. What is the application of this to us today?

a. you are invited to come to be part of the Kingdom of God (vs. 15)

b. you need nothing but to bring yourself: *without worthiness or fitness*

2. "But don't I need a new heart first?"

a. new heart is the fruit of faith in Jesus' offer not the root for faith

- a new heart is not your making or preparing or desiring

- all 'good' that comes from our old heart is a stench to God

b. Jesus NEVER asks you to get a new heart first but to come to Him for the new heart

Close: *Justification of the ungodly believer in Jesus is the best news!*

A. It spells hope for the worst among us (1 Tim. 1:15; Acts 13:38)

B. It spells comfort for every believer as we daily fall short in living right (Is. 40:2)