

*Edgemont Bible Church*  
*Pastor Al Osden*  
*1 Thessalonians 5:23-24*

Feb. 12, 2017

Intro:

XVIII Prayer for Complete Sanctification

A. Sanctification's Nature, Source and Extent

1. Sanctify - *hagiazō* - to make holy, purify or consecrate; to venerate:—hallow, be holy, sanctify.
2. Sanctification is a concept found through-out the Bible
  - a. God Sanctifies the seventh day – Gen 2:3
  - b. Job made sacrifices for his sons, *consecrating* them to God – Job 1:5
  - c. God set apart the firstborn of the Israelites and animals for Himself – Ex 13:1-2
  - d. God set apart Israel as a Holy nation – Ex 19:5-6
  - e. God Sanctified Mt Sinai – Ex 19:23
  - f. God Sanctified Aaron and his sons to be priests – Ex 28:41
  - g. God Sanctified the Tabernacle and it's vessels – Ex 30-31;35-40
  - h. God Sanctified Jesse and his son, David – 1 Sam 16:5,12-13
  - i. God Sanctified the Temple – 2 Chron 7:16
  - j. God Sanctified Jeremiah before he was born for the prophetic ministry – Jer 1:5
  - k. God Sanctified John the baptizer to be a forerunner to Christ – Lk 1:13-17
  - l. God Sanctified the Son for the work of redemption – Mt 1:20-24
  - m. Jesus Sanctified His 12 disciples from the crowd following Him – Mk 3
  - n. The early Church sanctified some men for divine service as deacons – Acts 6
  - o. The early Church sanctified others for missionary service – Acts 13
3. The Three stages of Sanctification
  - a. Positional – in the past, fixed, God effected at salvation - Ro 6
  - b. Progressive – God developing in us the image of Christ as we pursue holiness or mature spiritually – Phil 1:6
  - c. Complete – ultimate, God makes believers sinless in body and spirit forever – 1 Jo 3:1-3
4. God
  - a. the source of sanctification
  - b. it is God who enables us to obey the admonitions and progress in sanctification
5. God of Peace
  - a. **Eirene** – peace, prosperity, one, quietness, rest, + set at one again.
  - b. summarizes God's saving work
  - c. denotes not just existence, situation, or a state of mind free from conflict, but the composite of the gospel blessing
6. Himself – **autos** – used to emphasize that He will be doing it
7. Completely
  - a. **holoteles** - complete to the end, i.e. absolutely perfect:--wholly
  - b. a compound of two words
    - i. holos - whole or complete,

ii. telos - finish or end

## B. Sanctification's Human Components

1. Paul's desire in this prayer is something to be true in practice, now
2. The Material Part - body
  - a. Body in the culture was inherently evil
  - b. provided a convenient rationale excusing immoral behavior as inconsequential
  - c. If sanctification is to be complete it must include the body which responds, feel, and acts in response to the holiness of the inner man
3. The Immaterial Part - spirit and soul
  - a. Some think that that we are three parts – trichotomists
    - i. Body, soul, and spirit
    - ii. They say that there are different functions for the two immaterial parts
      - soul is earthward conscience
      - the spirit is Godward conscience
  - b. Some think that that we are two parts – dichotomists
    - i. believe the words “soul” and “spirit” are used interchangeably in scripture – Heb 6:19; 10:39; 1 Pet 2:11; 2 Pet 2:8
    - ii. Paul prayer could be translated May your Spirit, even soul and body
    - iii. scripture that indicates that Paul was a dichotomist – Ro 8:10; 1 Co 2:11; 5:3,5; 7:34; 2 Co 7:1; Gal 6:18; Col 2:5; 2 Tim 4:22

## C. Sanctification's Goal and Culmination

1. and may your whole – **holoteles** - complete to the end, absolutely perfect, wholly.
  - a. Conforms to Paul's desire for the Church – Eph 5:25-27
  - b. Consistent with Paul's personal goal communicated to the Philippian Church – 3:14
    - i. The prize of being called up to heaven is eternal holiness and Christlikeness
    - ii. Consistent with his own personal commitment of pursuing Christlikeness
2. be preserved – **tereo** - to guard from loss or injury, by keeping the eye upon, to detain; to withhold, hold fast, keep, preserve, watch.
  - a. Paul was looking to God to keep them in the path of holiness until they get their ultimate sanctification
  - b. Mt 24:13; Acts 13:43; 14:22; Eph 6:18; Col 1:22-23; Heb 12:2-3
3. blameless – **amemptos** - faultlessly:--blameless, unblamably.
4. at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
  - a. God will make all believers sinless forever – **1 Co 15:50-54**

- b. **Parousia** - a being near, advent (return; specially, of Christ to punish Jerusalem, or finally the wicked); physically, aspect:--coming, presence.
- c. As in the three other usages in 1 Thessalonians, 2:19; 3:13; 4:15, it refers to the rapture of the Church

#### D. Sanctification's Final Security

1. He who calls you *is* faithful, - Phil 1:6
  - a. God has the power to guarantee their ultimate sanctification
  - b. God graciously Calls us – **Ro 8:28-30**
    - i. supplies faith to repent and believe
    - ii. provides grace to persevere to the end
2. Essential principles to remember concerning the sanctification process
  - a. Progressive Sanctification has both positive and negative aspects
    - i. negative in the put off of sin
    - ii. positive involves
      - the renewing of the mind – Ro 12:2
      - putting on Christlikeness – Col 3:5-17
    - iii. these changes as the Holy Spirit applies the Word of God in the life of the believer
  - b. Sanctification occurs primarily in the heart and mind
  - c. Holiness is the beautiful crown jewel of the attributes of God
  - d. Sanctification is a ongoing reality
  - e. People can counterfeit sanctification
    - i. moral virtue can substitute for real sanctification - people can exhibit character qualities like fairmindedness, loyalty, civility, kindness, generosity, diligence
    - ii. religious activity can masquerade as sanctification
    - iii. outward profession can mask as sanctification
    - iv. conscience and fear of consequences can mask as sanctification
  - f. Keeps believers from polluting holy things
3. who also will do *it*.
  - a. Sanctification is God's priority for us
  - b. it should be our goal