

# If I Am Not Sanctified

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(Continued from Jan. 15 issue)

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## III. IF I AM NOT SANCTIFIED, I LIVE BENEATH MY PRIVILEGES.

"Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate" (Hebrews 13:12).

Tragically true is the fact that some born-again people live a lifetime under the constant sound of holiness preaching, yet fail to enter into the promised experience of entire sanctification. The reason? It is not easy to give, to be sure. Possibly one reason is the failure on the part of the preacher to make the issues clear to those in the congregation. Much too frequently what is clear in his mind is not clear in the minds of the people. This fact is verified simply by listening to people's attempts to explain the meaning of holiness. Confusion in concept quite naturally produces confusion in experience.

And the reason is to be found in the very nature of the second-blessing experience. Whereas in conversion one experiences a birth, in entire sanctification one experiences death—the death of the old man and his carnal deeds. This death does not come easily. Some come to the very border of the sanctified experience, even seek it at a public altar, yet fail to step into the joys of full surrender. The price of death is too high!

But these reasons, and many others added, do not in any sense justify one's continuing in an unsanctified state. For the fact is that Christ on the Cross provided for our sanctification.

The cost of our sanctification was too high for us to fail to claim it and receive into our hearts its benefits and blessings.

A businessman would be charged with insanity were he to build a huge plant to generate electricity and then fail to put that power to work. Inquirers would soon begin to ask, "Why the plant?"

If God, who knows us perfectly, felt it wise and necessary to purchase our sanctification at the price of Jesus' blood, then it behooves us to seek it with all our hearts until we find it. We dare not consider it optional, a spiritual luxury, something to have or not to have. To do so insults the very mercy and wisdom of God. The precious privileges made available to us by the blood of Christ must not be treated lightly, for it is what we do with them that determines our spiritual destiny.

## IV. IF I AM NOT SANCTIFIED, I RISK MY FUTURE DESTINY.

"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled" (Hebrews 12:14).

One fundamental teaching of this verse is that it is possible to fall from grace. Equally fundamental is the teaching that holiness is God's minimum requirement and is the best guarantee of spiritual success. Paraphrasing the above verse of scripture, Dr. J. B. Chapman put it this way: "Get sanctified wholly, lest the root of inbred sin which remains in the heart of the regenerated spring up and give the individual himself trouble and defeat, and bring an occasion for stumbling to many who observe his unbecoming break."

What is the root of inbred sin that can spring up and

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cause trouble? The Scriptures call it the "carnal mind" and the "old man." This inherited condition persists even after regeneration and, if left there, will surely cause trouble.

The original act of sabotage is said to have been committed by workmen who slipped a wooden shoe or sabot into a loom in the early days of machinery in order to hinder production. A Christian discovers that after being saved from his sins there remains something in his life that must be guarded lest it become a sabot in his spiritual progress. This presence of evil may exercise its influence through a spirit of indifference, or idleness, or by a violent outburst of temper. The sabot must be destroyed if the Christian is to save himself!

Some ask, "Is holiness necessary in order to reach heaven?" In the first place, let it be said that the person interested only in reaching heaven has not plumbed the depths of the riches of Christ; he is but a babe in spiritual things. The scripture says, "Without... (holiness) no man shall see the Lord." Nothing unholy shall enter the presence of a holy God. Heart holiness is God's minimum requirement for acceptance in Him.

We must not, however, entertain the idea that everything which goes by the name "holy" is holy nor that what does not come under that particular name is necessarily unholy. Unfortunately, much misunderstanding and prejudice have come to surround the word holy, until some good and godly men use the term with caution. Likewise, other terms are used with caution, e.g., sanctification, perfection, and Pentecost. But these terms are scriptural, and ought to be used, for they refer to experiences or states of grace which are for us to experience and to enjoy. At least one argument for the use of these terms is the fact that, where they are not used, there is an accompanying lack of understanding of the experiences of grace which they signify and define.

If I fail to be sanctified, there are at least three ways in which my spiritual well-being is placed in jeopardy.

A. The carnal mind is still with me, and as a sabot, it may destroy my soul. I cannot predict when it will destroy me, nor can I control its existence within me. "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Romans 8:7).

B. Growth in grace is necessary for continuance of the spiritual life. A static condition soon produces petrification. This can be more destructive in its total bearing on the Christian than even deliberate disobedience. For whereas an open break with God is instantly recognizable, the slow process of spiritual hardening is so subtle it scarcely can be discerned. Failure to walk in the light of holiness implies that the Christian has chosen not to grow. This means death for the soul.

C. By failing to "go on unto perfection" I deliberately drag my feet against the known will of God. This involves me in disobedience, and disobedience is sin. God is patient at this point, not expecting me to develop beyond the light which has come. But persistent rebellion against the light of entire sanctification will necessarily cause me to forfeit my justified state and eventually to lose my soul.

To the unsanctified, let us urge you with all Christian love and concern to press your claims in Christ and receive your "inheritance among them which are sanctified." Do not continue trying to satisfy your spiritual man with something less than the fullness of the blessing. For your own peace of mind, the influence of your life, and the destiny of your soul, seek a place of prayer today and enter, by faith, into the grace of entire sanctification.

FEBRUARY 14 IS BETHANY SUNDAY