

- Editorial -

Christ Prayed for Our Sanctification

by the late James F. Gregory

John 17 contains the highpriestly prayer of our Lord, offered the night before His crucifixion. In it Christ prays to His father, "Glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee" (v. 1). But more particularly He prays for His disciples and those who should follow them. He does so for three reasons: They are God's gift to Christ; Christ is glorified in them—the power of His character is reflected in their faith: and soon they will be left alone in the world without the guidance and protection of the Son.

That the disciples may be kept in this evil world, our Lord prays, "Sanctify them" (v. 17)—that is, make them holy. Sanctify implies, on the one hand, to be set apart for God, and on the other hand, cleansed from evil and devoted only to God. In the case of the disciples, this setting apart unto God was a second work of grace in their lives. Jesus had already said, "thine they were" (v. 6), they are thine" (v. 9), "I kept them in thy name" (v. 12) "I have given them thy word" (v. 14), and negatively, they are not of the world" (v. 16). These are the "kept", the "saved," who are eligible for the sanctification of the Father.

Now sanctification proceeds "through thy truth" (v. 17) This is not a reference to means or agency, but a clear statement that the Word of God is the entire revelation of the Father. Christ declares that the blessed Word is truth and reality. Those who seek "the truth" that saves and sanctifies must go to the Word, and there they will find the truth in which they may with confidence put their faith. Faith in the infallible Word, with its truth of complete redemption from sin through Christ, makes effective for us the prayer, "Holy Father, sanctify us."

The sanctification which Christ prays the Father to bestow upon the disciples is related to Christ's mission in the world. His plan for them as the sanctified was that they would exist not only for themselves, but for the world. They were to go out into it, influence it, save it, change it from what it was into what it is meant to be. As Christ came to save the world, they were to continue His work.

How the commissioning of the disciples is connected with their sanctification is made plain by referring to the sanctification of Christ. These eleven wavering men were not very promising material for carrying out the mission of Christ. The conditions of the world appeared insurmountable. But there was hope for even such a daring enterprise, since on behalf of His disciples Christ sanctified Himself. He set Himself aside for His divine mission, and at the same time made possible the sanctification of the disciples.

Christ does not say that we, His disciples, in like manner, will be sanctified. Our gift of sanctification is to proceed from what Christ did for us on Calvary. As Christ offered Himself to die on our behalf, we are called upon to die to self, that we may receive the benefits of His sanctification.

—The Free Methodist

"God reigns!" Yes, but there is still one far more important question. Does He reign within my heart? When I can say indeed that He does, then I have realized the goal of history for my own personal life.

—Selected.

SHORT NOTES

by E. G. Garrett, Editor, The Church Herald

Self-love Destroys . . .

The most destructive characteristic within the human frame is that of wanting everything to revolve around oneself. I wonder if maybe you might be conscious of any of the following traits?

A secret attitude of pride — an exalted feeling of what you have accomplished, or your good training, or your natural gifts and abilities: that attitude of importance.

Human desire of praise — a secret fondness to be noticed; drawing attention to self in conversation.

The stirrings of anger or impatience in the actions of others, which you call nervousness; that touchy, sensitive spirit; a desire to throw sharp, heated words at those who disagree with you.

Self-will; always arguing, but unteachable yourself, a disposition to criticize and pick flaws when set aside and unnoticed; or peevish in nature which loves to be coaxed and humored.

A jealous disposition, with envy shut up in the heart; that disposition to speak of the faults and failings, rather than the gifts and virtues, of those more talented and appreciated than yourself.

The ability of always placing the wrong interpretation on the actions of others, especially if you can be the hero in a given situation.

These all indicate a carnal heart. Prayer and humble submission before the Almighty will relieve the possessor of these traits.

TO ENTER EVANGELISTIC FIELD

Rev. Laurel D. Buckingham, who has pastored the Plaster Rock circuit of Primitive Baptist Churches for several years has resigned as pastor as of June 30 in order to enter the field of Christian evangelism.

Mr. Buckingham is a graduate of Bethany Bible College, Yarmouth, N. S. and has ministered as evangelist in a number of Reformed Baptist Churches as well as churches of other denominations. He will be available for meetings beginning August 1.

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