

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **2Thessalonians 2:13-17**.
- B. Paul first speaks of salvation, which in turn means sanctification.
- C. Then he says that sanctification comes by the Spirit and by faith in the truth.

I. WHAT IS SANCTIFICATION?

- A. See **2Th. 2:13**.
- B. Sanctification means to have been set apart, made holy, or separated to God (*Vine*).
- C. Closely akin to this word is the word *holy*. OT readings show that the Levitical priests were to be holy unto God. They had been set aside for a purpose. The language and instructions from the book of Leviticus show this separation unto holiness.
- D. Christians are sanctified because, by the blood of X, they have been separated from their sins (see 1Cor. 6:9-11; Ac. 26:18; Heb. 10:10, 29).
- E. We are, in a sense, then, separated to God while separated away from sin. Jesus is the One who causes us to be sanctified in God's sight (see 1Cor. 1:30; Eph. 5:25-26; Col. 1:22).
- F. Most importantly, our sanctification doesn't end when we become a Xian. As we live in the truth our sanctification remains. Notice the continuing effect in these verses (see 1Th. 4:3-6; Heb. 12:14).

II. SANCTIFICATION IS A WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

- A. The NT clearly teaches that sanctification comes by work of the HS (1Pet. 1:2).
- B. Paul's ministry was acceptable because it was sanctified by the Spirit (Rom. 15:16).
- C. The HS is an agent of death, putting to death the deeds of the flesh (Rom. 8:13).
- D. Accordingly, the Spirit strengthens the inner man (Eph. 3:16).
- E. Romans 8:16 says that to be a child of God, our Spirit must agree with the HS. As the Spirit has instructed us, must have our spirit in agreement.
- F. The Spirit can offer sanctification (or salvation) but for it to be acquired one must react in faith according to the truth of the gospel (2Th. 2:13; Jn. 17:17).

III. SANCTIFICATION IS BY FAITH IN THE TRUTH.

- A. Our part in being sanctified is to hear the word of truth, which will develop faith (Rom. 10:17).
- B. The Spirit does this work through His agent, the word of God (Eph. 6:17):
 - 1. We are called by the gospel (2Th. 2:14).
 - 2. By one Spirit are we baptized (1Cor. 12:13). That is, by the instructions given by the Spirit people obey the gospel in becoming Christians (see 1Th. 1:5). The latter portion of 12:13 corresponds to Gal. 3:27-28.
- C. The truth will then furnish us to every good work, so that we can continue to have the salvation (and sanctification) needed to inherit eternal life (2Tim. 3:16).

IV. WHAT TO DO NOW.

- A. See **2Th. 2:14-17**.
- B. Because of salvation and sanctification by the Spirit and faith, Paul gives two instructions for the brethren:
 - 1. Stand firm.
 - 2. Hold to the traditions taught.
Tradition simply means a "teaching handed down either oral or written." We put the negative connotation on it, making it bad. But traditions can be good, if used properly.
- C. The result (of sanctification) is the following blessings from God:

1. Eternal comfort.
 2. Hope by grace.
 3. Strengthened hearts.
 4. Power for every good work and word.
- D. Being faithful unto death has the reward of eternal life. This is made possible by our faith in the word of God, and sanctification by the Spirit.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. All men are called by God through the gospel.
- B. Jesus gave the great invitation and said, "Come."
- C. Experience the sanctification from sin and to God.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.