

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: Leviticus 20:7-8 “Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am the LORD your God. And you shall keep My statutes, and perform them: I am the *LORD who sanctifies you.*”

Quote: “Godly character is not the result of good intentions, wishful thinking, some mystical ‘zap,’ or even sheer Bible knowledge. It’s developed through the self-disciplined application of God’s Word at a very basic level, enabled and empowered by God’s Spirit.”¹

The LORD Who sanctifies: “The Hebrew word for sanctify is also translated by other English words like dedicate, consecrate, and holy, but especially by the word holy.”²

Just before entering the Garden of Gethsemane on the night that He was betrayed, Christ prayed, “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, so that they also may be sanctified by the truth.”³ Christ set Himself apart to fulfill the Father’s will and to exhaust the righteous wrath of God on behalf of all who would place saving faith in Him. “Believers are set apart for God and His purposes alone so that the believer does only what God wants and hates all that God hates.”¹ Paul wrote, “And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, *to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight*—if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard.”⁴ Just as our salvation is of the Lord, so is our sanctification.⁵ While salvation is a one-time event by grace through faith in the finished work of Christ whereby we are declared justified by the imputed⁶ righteousness of Christ, sanctification is a journey that involves the pursuit of practical righteousness for the glory of God. We have our God-enabled responsibility to study and apply the Word through which He sanctifies His own.

Christians are commanded to “...gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the

grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy.’ And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear;’ knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”⁷ Sanctification is “serious business!” Commentators tell us that “gird up the loins of your mind means to be focused like a man who has tucked in loose clothing for work, warfare or competition.

Jehovah-McKaddesh, The LORD Who Sanctifies

“Spiritual sober-mindedness includes the ideas of steadfastness, self-control, clarity of mind, and moral decisiveness.”¹ We are to live obedient, holy lives with awe and adoration for the God Who saved us and Who sanctifies us while we are looking for Christ’s return.

If indeed God has saved your soul through the gift of repentant faith, some things will be evident in your life. He will be growing you into Christ’s likeness by sanctifying you through your study of His Word and your application of it to your life. He will be opening up opportunities for you to serve Him as a grateful ambassador of the gospel— “Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing⁶ their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, *as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.* For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” Praise God for His sanctifying grace!

¹ J. MacArthur ² N. Sloan ³ Jn.17:17-19 ⁴ Col.1:21-23 ⁵ Ex.31:13; Lev. 20:8 ⁶ Imputed: put to another’s account ⁷ I Peter 1:13-19