

Sermons
New Testament
I Corinthians
1:1-9

1

Date written: Oct. 9, 1946

Theme: Sanctification

Proposition: The Christian life is one of sanctification

Scripture: I Corinthians 1:1-9

Text: I Corinthians 1:2 "to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus."

Sources: McCartney's Illustrations, p. 73 & 284
Poems with Power to Strengthen the Soul, p. 83
1944 Methodist Discipline PP 86
Funk & Wagnalls New Standard Bible Dictionary, p. 809

Places preached:

Epworth 10/9/46

Pawcaton 10/13/46

Rocky oak 11/10/46

Huntington, W. Va. 11/16/47

Reumersburg, Wyo. 9/3/50

Paul called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother,

Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;

That in everything ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge;

Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you:

So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Text: I Cor. 1:2

to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus.

Introduction:

1. 1. Sanctification is that renewal of our fallen nature by the Holy Ghost, received through faith in Jesus Christ, whose blood of atonement cleanseth from all sin; whereby we are not only delivered from the guilt of sin, but are washed from ~~its~~ pollution, saved from its power, and are enabled, through grace, to love God with all our hearts and to walk in his holy commandments blameless.-- From the 1944 Methodist Discipline, pp 86

2. This statement gives the two ideas which are involved in sanctification, and which are better expressed in Funk & wagnalls New Standard Bible Dictionary.

a. Sanctification is renewal and being made holy by God.

b. Sanctification is that by which a person is enabled, through grace to continue and grow in loving God and in walking in his commandments.

3. Suppose a youth of 15 or 16 were stricken with a serious illness, and most of the doctors treating him said he didn't have much chance for recovery. Then suppose that through the skill of ~~one~~ particular outstanding doctor this youth were restored to health. As he ~~returned~~ to health he continued to improve in health until he was in a condition to study medicine and become a doctor himself. Finally he found that he had reached a point where he was able to step in and to be of much help to the doctor who had saved him in that doctor's effort to restore still others to health.

That would be a good illustration of the idea of sanctification. First the boy was renewed in health by a doctor. Then he continued to grow in health and in knowledge until he had become enough like that doctor to be of great help to him.

Sanctification is the consecration of an individual to salvation first, God being the one who consecrates that individual after he has put his faith in God through Christ. Sanctification is also the process of life, of growth, of progress, whereby that individual who has been so consecrated lives and grows to be more and more God-like and blameless in his living as time goes by.

4. These two ideas of sanctification combined in this definition:
sanctification is complete consecration by God which enables the individual to grow into increasingly perfect conformity to God's whole image.

5. This is the idea of sanctification used herein when it is maintained that the Christian life is one of sanctification.

I. Sanctification as complete consecration by God is the first step in the Christian life.

1. Jesus, the first Christian, was consecrated -- set apart, hallowed -- by God.

- a. Before and at his birth.
- b. His consecration was evident at the temple when he was 12.
- c. It was evident when he was baptized by John the Baptist.

2. Jesus taught that consecration by God is necessary as the first step in following him.

a. He preached "repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand," indicating repentance is necessary to enter the Kingdom of God. Repentance is the individuals part, that is, but entering that Kingdom comes through God's grace.

b. In his ministry as the Son of God he commanded his disciples to follow him: they were chosen or consecrated by him.

(1) To Simon and Andrew he said, "Come ye after me." He took the initiative.

(2) To James and John it is said "and straightway he called them." Again he took the initiative; he did the original consecrating, although they had to be prepared to do their part.

3. The experiences of men in their regular lives show that the real Christian life begins with God taking the initiative in giving the first consecration or sanctification.

a. John Wesley was a serious-minded theological student in England, and later became a well-intentioned missionary to indians in the colony of Georgia. Yet, though he had previously been a priest of the Church of England, he testified that it was not until one night in a prayer meeting on Aldersgate Street that he felt that "strange heartwarming experience" which set his life apart as one that would bring Christ to many. God consecrated Him that night, and until God

took that step Wesley could not accomplish much, regardless of his good intentions.

b. Albert Schweitzer was an accomplished musician in Germany and was much in demand for concerts all over Europe. He was also a minister and an outstanding theologian in the European Church. However, he felt God within telling him that in these two fields he was not accomplishing his mission in life. So Albert Schweitzer studied medicine, then went to Africa as a missionary. His friends wondered why he should leave a life in which he was a leader as a churchman, as a musician, and was beginning to make a name for himself as a medical man. Yet Albert Schweitzer knew that God had sanctified him and set him apart for a missionary to Africa.

c. In the year 1643 a young shoemaker's apprentice in Leicestershire, England, on business at a fair, was invited by a cousin and another friend to have a jug of beer with them. Being thirsty, he joined them. When they had drunk a glass apiece, his friends began to drink healths, agreeing that he who would not drink should pay all. This shocked the serious youth; and, rising from the table, he took out a groat and laid it before them, saying, "If it be so, I will leave you." That night he walked up and down and prayed and cried to the Lord. The Lord spoke to him, saying, "Thou seest how young people go together into vanity, and old people into the earth. Thou must forsake

all -- young and old -- keep out of all, and be as a stranger unto all."

In obedience to this command, the young man left his relations and his home and became a wanderer in England. His name was George Fox, and he became the founder of the Quakers.

II. Sanctification as increasing growth toward perfect conformity with God's whole image is the task of the Christian life.

1. The Genesis account of man's original imagery of God, his fall and his resulting life of sin emphasizes man's need to be more like God, and also emphasizes that man can become similar to God.

2. Jesus taught this too, when he said "be ye therefore perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect."

3. All of the moral qualities that we think of as Christian, we think of as being possessed by God in perfection. Thus, as we practice them we grow more like Him.

4. Having faith that through Jesus we will eventually come into the fellowship of God, the Christian repents for his errors, tries to improve his ways and to grow more holy -- more God-like, feeling all the while that God is helping him. That is sanctification.

5. A plane is made to go forward and upward. Between an airplane and every

other form of locomotion and transportation there is one great contrast. The horse and wagon, the automobile, the bicycle, the locomotive, the speedboat, and the great ship -- all can come to a standstill without danger, and most of them can reverse or back. But there is no reverse about the engine of an airplane. It cannot back, It dare not stand still in the air. If it loses its momentum and forward drive, then it crashes. The only safety for the airplane is in its forward and upward motion.

What a parable that is of the Christian life! The only safe direction for the Christian to take is forward and upward. If he stops, or if he begins to slip and go backward, that moment he is in danger. Sanctification is the plane upon which the Christian rides into the eternal presence of God.

III. Without sanctification there is no Christian life.

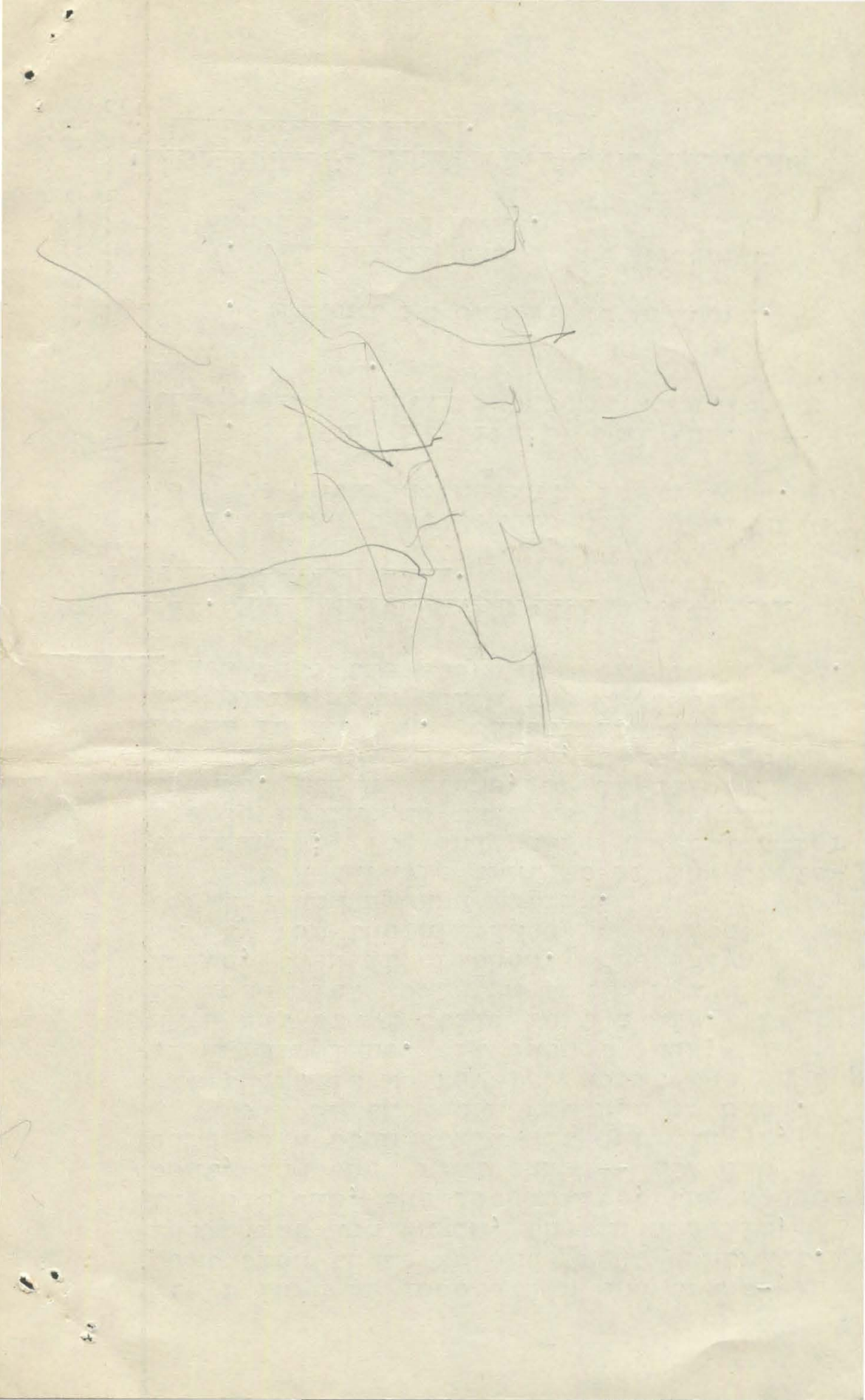
1. Without it God is not considered to have entered the individual life.

2. Without it life's goal is something other than to become more in the image of God.

3. Without it Christ is unknown.

4. Yet all of these are necessary if one is a Christian.

Conclusion: The Christian life is one of sanctification.



1. It puts God the creator at the center of life in a heart-felt, soul-lifting experience.

2. It gives a purpose to life : to become more like God as revealed in Christ.

3. It is uniquely a Christian doctrine for it comes through Christ.

Jesus, I my cross have taken,
All to leave and follow thee;
Naked, poor, despised, forsaken,
Thou from hence, my all shalt be:
Perish every fond ambition,
All I've sought, and hoped and known;
Yet how rich is my condition,
God and heaven are still my own!

Know, my soul, thy full salvation;
Rise o'er sin, and fear, and care;
Joy to find in every station
Something still to do or bear.
Think what Spirit dwells within thee;
What a Father's smile is thine;
What a Saviour died to win thee:
Child of heaven, shouldst thou repine?

Haste thee on from grace to glory,
Armed by faith, and winged by prayer;
Heaven's eternal day's before thee,
God's own hand shall guide thee there.
Soon shall close thy earthly mission,
Swift shall pass thy pilgrim days,
Hope shall change to glad fruition,
Faith to sight and prayer to praise.

"to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus" --- God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord."

