

Characteristics of God's Grace

(Part 3)

Sanctifying Grace

In our past two studies, we first considered “The covenant of Grace” which is the bases of all the Characteristics of God’s Grace, and we left off from part one with the Holy Spirit’s Part in that covenant between the Great Three in One, by giving Life to cold dead sinners, part two was a continuation of the role, the Holy Spirit Plays in “Regenerating Grace”! tonight we consider “Sanctifying Grace”, the Grace of God in Sanctifying a people, who were once dead in trespasses and sin, yet are now, “Set Apart” or “Made Holy” by act’s of His Grace!

The word “Sanctify” *-hag-ee-ad'-zo-* means to *make holy*, that is, (ceremonially) *purify* or *consecrate*; to set aside for Holy uses, to set apart.

God, In The Character of His Grace, has set aside a people to be Holy, and unblameable before Him.

(Col 1:21-22) And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:

God the Spirit separates us, sets us apart from the world, preparing us to be used in Holiness, vessels of mercy, His mercy.

(1Pe 1:2) Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through **sanctification of the Spirit,**

(2Th 2:13) But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through **sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:**

Chosen us from where? From out of the world!

The world knows not God, as children of the most High, we see clearly now, there was a time we also knew not the true and living God! we could not know Him, in our natural walk, we walked according to the wickedness of this world.

(Eph 2:2-3) Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

Folks, contrary to the false, self-righteous religionist, that claim to be “Christians”, God does not love all men, His desire is not to save all mankind from their sins! Yet it is His desire to save a remnant, a people He has loved with an everlasting love, (Jer 31:3). It is His desire that He shall loose none of those for whom He died! If He could loose any, then His death is meaningless, there is no power in the blood that was shed! There would be no full assurance of salvation!

The Spirit comes in the day of His love and gives life where there was nothing but death, setting a vessel of mercy aside for Holy uses! discarding that old wicked dead heart and giving us a heart of flesh, a heart of life, a new heart, a new tabernacle, a dwelling place for The Lord of glory! Jesus Christ my Lord!

(Exo 29:42-46) This shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD: where I will meet you, to speak there unto thee. And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by my glory. And I will sanctify the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar: I will sanctify also both Aaron and his sons, to minister to me in the priest's office.

And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will be their God. And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, that brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them: I am the LORD their God.

(Psa 4:3) But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself:

The Holy Spirit sets us apart from the world, Yet it is not the Spirit that can make a man Holy! The Spirit cannot die! The Spirit does not bleed! And God is Righteous, and Just!

(Isa 13:11) And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity;

(Rom 1:18) For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

(Rom 6:23) For the wages of sin is death.

Can a man make himself Holy? Everything about you and I, is filled with sin! We sin because we are sinners!

(Jer 17:9-10) The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

(Pro 30:12) There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.

Can a man make himself Holy?

Look with me at these words of God's prophet Ezekiel;

Eze 16:1 Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Eze 16:2 Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations,

Eze 16:3 And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto Jerusalem; Thy birth and thy nativity is of the land of Canaan; thy father was an Amorite, and thy mother an Hittite.

Eze 16:4 And as for thy nativity, in the day thou wast born thy navel was not cut, neither wast thou washed in water to supple thee; thou wast not salted at all, nor swaddled at all.

Eze 16:5 None eye pitied thee, to do any of these unto thee, to have compassion upon thee; but thou wast cast out in the open field, to the lothing of thy person, in the day that thou wast born.

Eze 16:6 And when I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live; yea, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live.

Eze 16:7 I have caused thee to multiply as the bud of the field, and thou hast increased and waxen great, and thou art come to excellent ornaments: thy breasts are fashioned, and thine hair is grown, whereas thou wast naked and bare.

Eze 16:8 Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I swore unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine.

Eze 16:9 Then washed I thee with water; yea, I thoroughly washed away thy blood from thee, and I anointed thee with oil.

Can a man wash away his sins? Can a man make himself holy?

No but there is one who can!

(Rev 1:5-6) --Jesus Christ--, Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,--to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

There is only one way to be Holy before God!

(Joh 14:6) Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

And there is only one who can make His people Holy and presentable to God the Father! That's the God-Man, Christ Jesus the Lord, the Son of the living God, only the Perfect Righteous Blood of God in the Flesh can wash away the sins of His people! And for Him to do so, He must pay the debt, He must make Atonement, He must fulfill the role of Kinsman redeemer, That's why the Eternal Son of God must be manifest in the flesh, to die in our stead, to present Himself as our Sacrifice, our Spotless Lamb, our scape Goat, our city of refuge.

Folks the sacrifices of man in serving the law, were nothing but shadows of the only sacrifice worthy to be accepted! Our Blood, the blood of animals , these are all under the curse of sin, and could nothing in washing away sin! Yet the perfect Blood of Christ was sufficient, It did the job! God accepted the Blood of His Son!

Look with me at Hebrews chapter 10

Heb 10:1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

Heb 10:2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.

Heb 10:3 But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year.

Heb 10:4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

Heb 10:5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

Heb 10:6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.

Heb 10:7 Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

Heb 10:8 Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law;

Heb 10:9 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.

Heb 10:10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Heb 10:11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

Heb 10:12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

Heb 10:13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

Heb 10:14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

Heb 10:15 Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before,

Heb 10:16 This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;

Heb 10:17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

Heb 10:18 Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.

Heb 10:19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

Heb 10:20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

Heb 10:21 And having an high priest over the house of God;

Heb 10:22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

(Pro 16:5) Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished.

Continuing in (Pro 16:6) **By mercy and truth iniquity is purged;**
(washed clean) (Made Holy).

(2Co 5:21) **For he hath made him sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.**

Who can make you Holy? He who was made Sin for His people! Not for the whole of mankind, but for us “**he hath made him sin for us**”

He who has Sanctified (made Holy) His people, He who is our sanctification! Our Holiness, our righteousness!

The lord of all Glory, The Lord of all that is, Jesus Christ “ **Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, (sanctified, washed, made Holy) sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high**”;

(1Co 1:27-31) **That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him (of God) are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.**

(Rom 8:1) **There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.** Why? Because He was condemned in our stead!

To God be the Glory, great things He hath Done!