



We read in the Biblical account of the exodus how God miraculously freed Jewish slaves from bondage and granted the opportunity to be His peculiar treasure. For the Israelites that moment was the beginning of both a privilege and a responsibility. It was a privilege to be invited to be known as God's holy nation. However, this special calling carried as much responsibility as opportunity.

In Exodus 19 the LORD instructed Moses that as the people were recipients of this blessing, they must also be adherents to the terms of the covenant. If the most holy LORD would make them His treasure, then they would separate themselves from worldly sin unto His holy pleasure. This is the Biblical concept of Sanctification.

It is not so much about what they could not have, but more about what they could. They could live in God's promised land, while they experienced God's abiding presence. They could count on God's protection from evil while they lived with His constant provisions for life. As adherents to that covenant, they would separate from the neighboring heathen nations. Those nations under God's judgment would see the treasured nation of a holy LORD and Israel could then witness of God's desire to have all repent and find peace with Him.

In the New Testament, we read of those redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ, who have been liberated from sin to become a peculiar treasure for the Lord (1 Peter 2:9). This wonderful privilege is ours to forever enjoy as we know the love Christ as we live daily in hope eternal comfort in Heaven. What should we do with this awesome privilege? We should commit ourselves to loving the Lord with all our being as a people set apart for the glory of God (1 Peter 2:11). This is sanctification in both our position in Christ and practice in daily holy living.

“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light... Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;” 1 Peter 2:9, 11

*Pastor Toby Cambron,
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What Must I Do To Be Saved?

By Jill Connell

Matthew 19:20 “...All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?” I grew up in a very happy, secure, sheltered home, for which I am thankful. We went to church and learned to be “good.” And that is good! But my youthful heart devised the “religion” that God loves everyone, everyone is good, and everyone is going to heaven.

Then I went away to college...

Judges 17:6 & 21:25 “...but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.” Wow, culture shock! I was surrounded by people that were not living the “good” that I thought was right. However, they were becoming my friends, and the things I thought were wrong did not seem so wrong anymore. It seemed “fun,” but the more “fun” I entertained, the more miserable I became. But the most important truth I realized in college was that I was a sinner, fallen so very short of God’s righteousness.

I did meet the love of my life in college- - - yes, *Tim*! And eek, we were in very dire shape spiritually! After I graduated, we got married, and soon baby number one was coming. I knew I had to “get back” to God and get this baby in church. So, I began visiting every church in town – every church except the denominations Tim and I grew up in. *God was drawing me to something bigger.*

John 1:5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.... **John 1:9** *That was the true Light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.* I also went to several Bible studies, and one of the studies was just finishing the book of John, so I went home and read the book of John. Wow, I remember the concept of light and darkness penetrating my heart and prompting me unto the truth of Jesus, “...I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.” (John 8:12). The light was shining in my darkness. I remember thinking, “All those years Easter meant a new dress and a basket of jellybeans. We went to church, but I never considered the cross or the empty tomb. Wow, now I get it! Why didn’t I understand this before? Jesus died on that cross because I am a sinner, but I’m not alone! We are all sinners! That is what the cross is all about!” I still remember the feeling of incredulous joy and relief... God knew my ugly sin... but still loved me... and died for me.... And forgave it all!

I do not know my “spiritual birthday,” because I didn’t have someone in my life to take me down the “Roman’s Road” and tell me the words of the “sinner’s prayer.” But somewhere in that time I received Christ as my Savior, yet I did not really understand what to do with it!

Deuteronomy 6:7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

I will never forget the sermon at one of the churches I visited during that time. The young assistant pastor was talking about having daily devotions with his young sons. Wow, I sat there mesmerized as he talked of sharing with his boys the story of Jesus turning water to wine. I had never heard of such a thing- Sunday school in the home every day! I held back the tears as I sat there praying, “God, *this* is what I want to do with my children. I want a home where we’re talking about Jesus all the time.”

As I walked away from that church my tears were tears of grief. I had prayed for the impossible. I knew my husband was not saved. I didn’t think there was any way I could have a home like the one I had just heard about. But, God was faithful!

2 Timothy 2:13 If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: He cannot deny Himself.

My human reasoning (stupid!) decided that if I attended the church denomination Tim had grown up in, then maybe he would start attending church with me. So, I did, but week after week I went to church alone and came home unfed. Little did I know that during that time Tim was under great conviction of the Spirit and reading his Bible. One day I asked him, “Are you ever going to go to church with me?” He replied, “Maybe, if you went to a REAL church, I’d go with you.” That was the most blessed rebuke I’d ever been given! The next week we went to the church where I had heard the sermon about family devotions. We came home and shared the things that had been going on in our hearts. That evening we returned to church, and when the invitation was given, we walked the aisle together, seeking someone to help us understand this new salvation we had both experienced. So, God has been taking us on a wonderful journey together in Him ever since! We’ve made a lot of mistakes, but God has been faithful.

"MY TESTIMONY"

I used to think that "Christian" meant
"Be kind to fellow man"-
I'd tell myself when I fell short,
"Just do the best you can!"

As years went by, my falling short
Was out of my control;
I'd do things that I knew were wrong
While guilt pierced through my soul.

I tried to justify myself
For all the things I'd done;
My friends all lived the life I lived-
We were just "having fun."

But, somehow "fun" was agony
I wrestled with each day;
And inner peace I longed to find,
But didn't know the way...

I thought of God, but He's so good,
How could He favor me?
I'd lost my chance to EARN His grace;
A saint I'd NEVER be.

But then I read the Gospel as
I never had before-
My Savior waited lovingly
Outside of my heart's door!

For all have sinned and fall so short;
God's favor can't be won...
We cannot reach Him on our own-
THAT'S WHY HE SENT HIS SON!

How could this simple truth have been
So veiled I couldn't see?
Then, O, 'twas like a light came on,
Illuminating me;

He offered me eternal life
Within my wretched grasp;
My price? 'Twas free- He'd paid in full;
I simply had to ask...

So ask I did, with tear stained prayer,
"Lord Jesus, please come in,
Control my life, and be my God,
And free me from my sin."

The weight of death was lifted-
Springs of joy did overflow
My every breath was singing
"Jesus loves me, this I KNOW!"

A hidden treasure I had found;
A priceless jewel for me...
A life with Christ, my loving Lord,
For all eternity

-Jill R. Connell

If you would like to add to your "**Good Books to Read**" list this summer, here is some books recommended by Pastor Toby.

Biographies and Life Stories

- Through Gates of Splendor by Elizabeth Elliot
- Gifted Hands "The Ben Carson Story" Ben Carson MD with Cecil Murphy
- Peace Child by Don Richardson
- Bruchko by Bruce E Olson
- The Autobiography of George Muller
- God's Smuggler By Brother Andrew with John and Elizabeth Sherrill
- In The Presence of Mine Enemies –Howard and Phyllis Rutledge with Mel and Lyla White



Apologetics

- Jesus on Trial by David Limbaugh

Christian Theology

- The Great Doctrines of the Bible by William Evans

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ Philippians 1:6

Paul opens his letter to the Philippians with a deep desire to see them continue growing in Christian maturity. "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you Phil 1:3." "And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more in knowledge.....Phil 1:9."

At the time of our salvation, God begins His work in us...Phil 1:6. We are sanctified (set apart) from Satan unto God....set apart from darkness unto light... We have received a new nature (see 2 Cor 5:17). When we are saved, the Holy Spirit begins an amazing work of transforming us into the image of Christ. To be sanctified means God loves us too much to let us stay the same. It is through His Word that God cleanses us and makes us holy, as in the likeness of Christ (Eph 5:26).

So, what does *true* sanctification look like? It begins with renewing my mind. "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.....Rom 12:2." Also, I must know the truth and this requires discipline of constantly putting God's truth into my mind. As I open my bible, and the Holy Spirit helps me gain understanding, this will lead to the second step of true sanctification called conviction. It is a transformation of my heart that will compel me to obey God and truly love his truth. That's Sanctification!

*Saved by His Amazing Grace,
Nancy Mitchell*



WESTPHAL AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

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SUMMER QUARTER EVENTS

Whitehall Fourth of July Parade

Tuesday, July 4, 2023

Neighborhood Bible Time Rally

July 23-28, 2023 (Sunday-Friday)
6:30 – 8:30 pm

Whitehall PD National Night Out

John Bishop Park
Tuesday, August 1, 2023,
5:00-8:00 pm

Semi-Annual Business Meeting

Sunday, August 27, 2023, 6:00 pm

WEEKLY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday Adult Bible Class.....9:30am
Sunday Worship Service.....10:30am
Wednesday Morning Prayer.....11:00am
Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study.....7:00pm
Thursday Women of Warfare Bible Study.....6:30pm

Facebook Live:

Sunday Worship10:30am

Monthly Bible Studies

Men’s and Women’s Classes.....9:30am
(2nd Saturday of Month)

Have a Story or Suggestion to Share? Email Editor, Nancy Mitchell njmitchell510@gmail.com

TRINITY TRIBUNE

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP