

Holiness is a Part of Salvation

The Gospel Mystery of Sanctification – Direction 8

Direction 8: Be sure to seek for holiness of heart and life only in its due order, where God has placed it, after union with Christ, justification and the gift of the Holy Ghost and, in that order, seek it earnestly by faith as a very necessary part of your salvation.

Thesis: Holiness is part of salvation; seek it as such.

Introduction: Holiness is not received through the one-time exercise of faith or the one-time receiving of grace. This holiness is conformity to the God's moral law, which is required of every person even if there were not Gospel or saving faith.

I. You must understand the place of holiness in the order of salvation.

A. Each part of salvation is a link in the chain of redemption.

1. This order is prescribed in the Gospel: "He makes us first to be in Christ by faith, as branches in the vine, that we may bring forth much fruit (John 15:4, 5). He first purges our consciences from dead works by justification, that we may serve the living God (Heb. 9:14). He makes us first to live in the Spirit, and then to walk in the Spirit (Gal. 5:25)."
2. The law prescribes a different method: keep its commands to be justified and so brings death instead of life.

B. There are many advantages to seeking it in the right order.

1. "You will have the advantage of the love God manifested towards you, in forgiving your sins, receiving you into favor, and giving you the spirit of adoption, and the hope of His glory freely through Christ, to persuade and constrain you by sweet allurements to love God again, who has so dearly loved you, and to love others for His sake, and to give up yourselves to the obedience of all His commands out of hearty love to Him."
2. "You will also enjoy the hold of the Spirit of God to incline you powerfully to obedience, and to strengthen you for the performance of it against all your corruptions and the temptations of Satan, so that you will have both wind and tide to forward your voyage in the practice of holiness."

C. If you take hold of the law and seek to achieve holiness that way you will not find these benefits.

1. "Your guilty consciences and corrupt dead natures will certainly defeat and frustrate all your enterprises and attempts to love God and serve Him in love."
2. "You will but stir up sinful lusts instead of stirring up yourselves to true obedience, or, at best, you will but attain to some slavish and hypocritical performances."

II. You must view holiness as part of salvation received by faith in Christ.

- A. By denying works as a *means* of salvation, we are not denying the necessity or importance of works as a *part* of salvation.
- B. Some limit "salvation" to the forgiveness of sins, deliverance from hell, and the assurance of heaven.

C. Though the Scriptures do use “salvation” to refer to ultimate deliverance from judgment, the term also encompasses freedom from sin and the blessings of Christ in this life. This means that justification, adoption, sanctification, and glorification are all parts of salvation. So holiness of life: the conformity of our hearts to the law of God and the fruit of righteousness with which we are filled by Jesus Christ are also a necessary part of our salvation.

D. God saves us here by the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Ghost (Exek.36:29; Titus 3:5).

1. Jesus is called “Savior” because he saves his people from sin (Matt. 1:21).
2. This salvation is begun in this life through justification and sanctification and is completed in glorification.
3. How then can we doubt that sanctification is a part of our salvation? Through it we are set from our enslavement to our own lusts and to have God’s image in holiness and righteousness restored to us and we are granted to walk by the Spirit and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit.

E. Holiness in life is an absolutely essential part of salvation.

III. You must earnestly seek holiness of heart and life by faith, as part of salvation.

A. There is no true salvation that does not involve holiness.

1. Too many professing Christians live in ignorance and hardness of heart because they believe in an imaginary salvation that does not consist of holiness, but only forgiveness of sin; they have no desire to be holy or to be freed from the slavery of sin.
2. The way to oppose this is to show that true salvation is not only trusting in Christ for forgiveness of sin but also trusting him for holiness. Also, one does not desire true salvation if they do not also desire to be made righteous and holy in this life.
3. “If ever God and Christ give you salvation, holiness will be one part of it; if Christ does not wash you from the filth of your sins, you have no part with Him (John 13:8).”

B. It is a strange salvation that seeks to be saved while one is dead in sin; to have the image of God restored while bearing the deformed image of Satan, to be a servant of God and yet still a servant and slave to sin.

1. “They would be saved by Christ, and yet out of Christ, in a fleshly state; whereas God frees none from condemnation, but those that are in Christ, that walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit; or else they would divide Christ, and take a part of His salvation, and leave out the rest, but Christ is not divided (1 Cor. 1:13).”
2. “They would have their sins forgiven, not that they may walk with God in love in time to come, but that they may practice their enmity against Him without any fear of punishment.”

C. “But, let them not be deceived, God is not mocked.”

1. “They do not understand what true salvation is, neither were they ever yet thoroughly sensible of their lost estate, and of the great evil of sin; and that which the trust on Christ for is but an imagination of their own rains, and therefore their trusting is gross presumption.”

2. “True gospel faith makes us come to Christ with a thirsty appetite, that we may drink of living water, even of His sanctifying Spirit (John 7:37, 38), and cry out earnestly to save us, not only from hell, but from sin, saying, 'Teach me to do Your will; Your Spirit is good' (Ps. 143:10), 'Turn me, and I shall be turned' (Jer. 31:18); 'Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right Spirit within me' (Ps. 51:10).”
3. “This is the way by which the doctrine of salvation by grace necessitates us to holiness of life, by constraining us to seek for it by faith in Christ as a substantial part of that salvation which is freely given us through Christ.”