

Sanctify

I Thessalonians 4:3a

It is God's will that you should be sanctified

If you talk to an old timer who has been around for a while. You will hear them say things like "saved, sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost"

Joke

- I heard about this lady who died and was standing at the pearly gates.
- St. Peter said you can't come in unless you correctly spell a word.
- She said what word – he said any word – so she spelled the word love **L-O-V-E**.
- Peter said welcome to heaven.
- Then Peter asked her if she would take his place for a few minutes.
- He instructed her that if anybody comes up just follow the same procedure.
- Well in a few minutes this lady sees her ex-husband coming up.
- She said, what are you doing here?
- He said I just had a heart attack, did I really make it to heaven?
- She said, not yet.
- You have to correctly spell a word. He said what word?
- After a long pause she said **Czechoslovakia**.

I Peter 1:1-2

Peter an apostle of Jesus Christ.

To God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, ² who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood:

Set up the text

- AD 64 Rome Burned
- Some people suspected that Nero set the fire so that he could rebuild it on a grander scale.
- Scape goat – he blamed Christians.
- He put them on poles and covered them in oil and lit them like lanterns around the city.
- Peter died in that persecution of late 64 or 65.
- Obviously then 1&2 Peter are written before that.
- The letter doesn't read like that kind of thing is happening in the church.
- It looks like that is written with the view of that on the horizon.

1 Peter 4:12

...do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

- Must be sensing something on the horizon.

How do I move from **nominal** to **radical**?

How do I move from **average** to **supernatural**?

From **ordinary** to **extraordinary**?

If you are tired of average today - is your day.

- **I want to be a burning man?**

Background

Peter

- Went from the open mouth insert food disciple to powerful Apostle.
- Denying Christ three times at the crucifixion to having his shadow cross over sick people and seeing them healed. (Acts 5)
- Transformed from the fear of men to incredible boldness.
- Acts 5:27-29 ²⁷ The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. ²⁸ "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood."
- ²⁹ Peter and the other apostles replied: **"We must obey God rather than human beings!"**

Audience

- Aliens, scattered throughout **Pontus**, **Galatia**, **Cappadocia**, **Asia**, and **Bithynia**.
- The apostle Peter took up his pen 30 years or so after the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus, and set himself to write something encouraging to the struggling Christians of Asia Minor.
- They were being abused by overbearing bosses (2:18), threatened by unbelieving spouses (3:1, 6), and ridiculed by skeptical neighbors and associates (4:14).
- On the horizon loomed the possibility of a much more violent form of persecution (4:12-18).
- It was a very anti-Christian society.
- The question raised for these believers is the same that we should pose for ourselves today: How can we have the power of soul in times of great stress and anxiety not just

to endure the evil day, but to be joyful and to fill our lives with the fruits of righteousness with deeds of kindness, with projects of mercy, with labors of love?

- How, when your *life* is in jeopardy, or your job, or your marriage, or your health, or your respect in the community—how can you rise up with boldness and joy and bless those who abuse you and devote yourself to labors of love?

I. I will believe what God says about me.

“To God’s elect”

- Realize who you are.
 - A. Who is Peter talking to?
 1. ***Eklektois*** – Greek
 2. Picked out, chosen, elected.
 3. Peter just drops that one right in there.
 4. Hello – elect!
 5. Hello chosen.
 6. **You are chosen --- feel chosen.**

John 15:16

¹⁶ **You did not choose me, but I chose you** and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

B. Unpack text

1. Chosen with a purpose.
2. John adds that Jesus chooses and appoints.
3. Interesting. Choosing and appointing go together.
4. Appointed for what... appointed ***to go and bear fruit.***
5. My choosing is for a ***purpose.... Bear fruit....***
6. Chosen and **appointed** -- to make a difference...
7. So that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.
8. I saw you and picked you out.
9. **For... Effective, fruit-bearing, favor.**

We are NOT helpless!

Question

Have you ever felt left out of something?

C. Warning against Christian pride and arrogance.

1. Zero in you prompted your being chosen.
2. **“To God’s elect”**
3. What does it mean to be **“God’s elect”**?
 - a. What does “election” not mean
 - b. Doesn’t mean that you were chosen because of something you did.

Romans 2:8-10a

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship...

- D. Thank God for his grace.
1. Thank you for your grace.
 2. Where would you be without God’s grace?

Hebrews 12:1-2

let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

- E. You’ve got to realize who you are.
- a. Ways that people see themselves.
 - b. False Identity.

F. Daniel 1

- a. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego
- b. They were taken into Babylon and they **were given new names.**
 1. Names are powerful – renaming is powerful.

When you name something you either **own it**, **control it** or **have authority over it.**

- a.) Parents name their kids.
- b.) Jews came into **Babylon** and one of the first things they wanted to say to them was...

Babylon owns you now. We own you now... God doesn’t you now.

- c.) The Babylonians were trying to scrub God off of them...
- d.) There was a full assault on getting rid of any connection to God.
- e.) We own you and your going to do things our way – **not God’s way.**

Daniel

"God is my judge" – God is first in my life and I am accountable to God.

- Belteshazzar – "Protector of the King" – "Beltes" = feminine form or feminine name of false god or demon god Bahal.

"No longer are you accountable to your God Daniel your accountable to the king of Babylon and you are a protector of him and the God that you are associated with is Bahal."

- Degrading and demonic name.

Hananiah

"God is gracious" - Grace of God.

- Shadrach = "I am fearful"
- No longer are you going to live in grace you are going to live in fear.
- Which is exactly what the enemy wants to do in our lives.
- He wants to unseat God... your not accountable to God anymore, your in the ways of the world now.
- Your living in the grace of God, no

"No longer are you going to walk in the grace of God your going to walk in fear."

- If there is ever a time in the history of the world where there is so much fear.
- If we don't learn how to walk in the grace of God were going to end up walking in fear.
- That is exactly what the enemy wants to do to us.

Mishael

"Who is what God is" Who is what God is, who can compare to God?

Meshach

- "I am despised, contemptible and humiliated" = in other words it is the definition of condemnation.
- **His name meant** = God you are so great, who is like you, "I'm focused on the greatness of God.
- **Now his name is basically the definition of condemnation...**
"I am despised, contemptible and humiliated"
- The enemy wants you to get your eyes off of God and his greatness and get your focus on yourself and your sins and your failures and your shortcomings and into condemnation.

- If he can get you out of condemnation, he will get you out of faith and out of God's favor.

I hope I'm talking to a church who is not going to walk in condemnation but walk in grace.

- You're not going to focus on your shortcoming and mistakes but on God's grace.
- The world wants to bombard you with so much junk that you get into the flesh and into sin and turn your focus on yourself and away from God.
- **I'm not worthy**, keep you in shame and guilt, so that you try to do what Adam and Eve did... try to hide from God.

Azariah

"God helps me" - he is my source, my strength, my wisdom, he helps me, I get my wisdom from God.

Abednego

- "Servant of Nebo"
- Babylonian God of literature and science.
- No longer are you going to get your wisdom from God.
- No longer are you going to say that God's word and God's wisdom is priority, from now on its human wisdom and human intellectual science, its human literature.
- That's where you're going to get your values from.
- That is where you're going to get your wisdom from.
- ***Azariah*** was getting his wisdom and help from God now the enemy is saying that God's wisdom doesn't count anymore.
- You learn the ways of the world only...
- God doesn't help you anymore.... Not in Babylon.

All of these name are **humiliating, degrading**.

Application

1. The enemy has a name for you.
2. That name is designed to do exactly what these names are designed to do...
3. Wash you in the way of the world and scrub God off of your life.
4. Scrub God off of your marriage
5. Scrub God off of your business
6. Scrub God off of your career
7. Scrub God off of our kids
8. Scrub God off of your thoughts.
9. Scrub God off of your finances.

Get God out and get Babylon in.

10. Get rid of the Word of God and get humanism and secularism in
– we can already see how that is working out for us.
11. Get our eyes off of the splendor and beauty and supremacy of Jesus and his grace and get our focus on our shortcomings and sins and guilt and condemnation.
12. Get our eyes off of God's grace and let fear rule our lives.
13. Get our eyes off of who our identity is in Jesus Christ and give us a name or label.

The enemy will try to...

1. Rename us

- a. Steal our identity in Christ. Give us a name. label on us.
- b. Label... if you accept the name he has control over you.
- c. Don't believe a lie.
- d. Based God's love for you on what Jesus did on the cross.
- e. He proved once and for all that your important.

2. Tame us – keep you back through your flesh.

3. Maim us - wounding a part of the body that is permanent damage. God will heal you.

4. Claim us – flow in the ways of the world. It's your life but its God's way.

Application

- Once you realize who you are it strengthens you to be what you were made to be.
- We might be in Babylon but Babylon is not in us.
- All the stuff that is anti-god and anti God's word.
- Either Babylon is going to get in you **or** you're going to affect Babylon.
- I'm looking for some people who can believe in God's power.
- Quit living in fear. Quit being so scared. Start trusting God.

Illustration

1. David.

- a. anointed as King 1 Samuel 16.
- b. In 1 Samuel 17 the boy David is killing a giant named Goliath.
- c. He believed he was what God said he was and then he lived like God said he could live.
- d. He graduated from shepherd to Giant Killer.

Application

1. As long as you believe anything except what God says about you it will limit you.
2. The Light comes on.
3. **“God is saying take off the limits”**

When you know who you are you are on the offence not the defense.

Self-assurance in Christ makes you advance not retreat.

A “just survive this thing” mentality will keep you timid and quiet and defensive.

**But when you hear the word of God over your life and it get’s in you that thing is
TRANSFORMATIONAL!!**

II. I will complete my assignment.

- Temporary because the assignment lasts while you’re alive.
- Eternal because the results of your assignment will last forever.

To God’s elect, strangers in the world

- A. Who is Peter talking to?
 1. Peter is talking to those who are Christ followers.
 2. Christians who are away from their ultimate home... heaven.
 3. He calls them... strangers in the world.
- B. Strangers in the world.
 1. Sojourners.
 2. Aliens
 3. Immigrants.
 4. Your home – citizenship is heaven.
- C. As a stranger in this world.
 1. I do...
 - a. Remember where my ultimate home is.
 - b. I keep the “things” of this world in perspective.
 - c. This world has no hold on me.
 - d. The “things of this world” I hold loosely.

Philippians 3:20

But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. (NLT)

Hebrews 11:13

¹³ These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. (ESV)

Hebrews 13:14

For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. (ESV)

I Peter 4:3-4

³ For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. ⁴ With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you (ESV)

Why is the world surprised?

Because there is no HOPE of a future home somewhere else.

Illustration

- Today we launch another leg of our Compassion 1/27 ministry.
- Today we strike the iron to shape one more weapon of warfare in the Kingdom.
- Today we stand with the fatherless.
- Today we stand with the orphans of this community.
- Today we launch the participation of what is called the “care portal”
- We stand with those who have chosen to open their homes to orphans through “foster care”
- We will help resource, and encourage and lighten the load of those who go the extra mile in loving children who have no other suitable home.

Application

- Today come to the meeting after service and hear a few more specifics.

Application

- As a citizen of heaven on special temporary assignment I resist a desire to be accepted by the world.
- I don't live for that.
- As a citizen of heaven on special temporary assignment I resist a desire to live to collect stuff.
- I don't live for that.

Mark 8:36

For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?

- a. As a citizen of heaven on special temporary assignment is don't live like I am going to be here forever. **I'm not.**

Question

What does a citizen of heaven live like in a broken world?

Elaborate

Healing agent.

Illustration

Good Samaritan.

Saw a problem that he didn't cause.

1. He stopped to help.
2. He put oil and wine on the man's wounds -- he became a healing agent.
3. He put him up in a room so he could recover and used his own money to do it.

I hope I'm talking to some people who understand that we are to be healing agents! Everybody else can argue over who is right and who is wrong but were called to get in the middle of the mess and heal this world.

Psalm 103:1-5

- ¹ Praise the Lord, my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
- ² Praise the Lord, my soul,
and forget not all his benefits—
- ³ who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,
- ⁴ who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,
- ⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things

III. I will allow God to sanctify me**1 Peter 1:2**

who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood:

Sanctify = means to set apart

Question

How do you become a stranger in the world?

You look like everyone else...

Here is how it happens. It happens through the work of the triune God-head.

Father, Son, Holy Spirit.

Father, Holy Spirit, Son.

1. Chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father.
2. Through the sanctifying work of the Spirit.
3. For obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood.

- a. Why are you chosen... for obedience.
- b. sprinkling by his blood

1 Peter 1:17-19

¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

The blood was shed and by it you were ransomed and what you were ransomed from was **WAYS**, futile, empty, suicidal, Christ-dishonoring ways.

- For obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood are not two separate things.
- One thing.
- Obedience that is accomplished through day by day “sprinkling by his blood” by which I am set free from my “futile ways” into obedience.
- I am reminded what it cost to get me to a place of obedience.
- If you are walking in **ANY** patterns of life that are not obedient to Jesus it means that you are scorning the blood.
- Knowing you were ransomed.. not with perishable things like silver or gold or 500 million mega millions jackpots but with blood...