

YOUR SANCTIFICATION

PHILIPPIANS 2:12, 13

BACKGROUND: In this lesson, we use the term sanctification to refer to the process of Christian growth that occurs in our lives through which the Holy Spirit makes us more like Christ after the “original sanctification” or setting apart for Himself that only God can accomplish. We might call our growth “progressive sanctification.” and most often when Christians speak of sanctification, they are speaking of this meaning. It is through the process of Christian growth that the Holy Spirit makes us more and more like Christ. **(II Thessalonians 2:13, fn 2:13)**

BY YOU ALONE is pietism. “Pietists ...are typically aggressive in their pursuit of correct doctrine and moral purity. To their credit, most pietists place strong emphasis on Bible study, holy living, self-discipline, and practical Christianity... Yet they often stress self-effort to the virtual exclusion of dependence on divine power. As would be expected, pietism frequently leads to legalism, moralism, self-righteousness, a judgmental spirit, pride, and hypocrisy.” John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Philippians, pp. 152-153. **(Philippians 2:12, Galatians 2:19-21, fn 2:21, Galatians 3:18-19, fn 3:18-19, Colossians 2:20-23, Mark 2:15-17, fn 2:16-17)** *Do you have former friends and family that you will not associate with because of your piety? How will you let Jesus help with the situation?*

BY GOD ALONE is the quietist view. “The quietist views believers as passive in sanctification. A common maxim is, ‘Let go and let God.’ Another is ‘I can’t; God can.’ Quietism tends to be mystical and subjective, focusing on personal feelings and experiences. A person who is utterly submitted to and dependent on God, they say, will be divinely protected from sin and led into faithful living. Trying to strive against sin or to discipline oneself to produce good works is considered to be not only futile but unspiritual and counterproductive.” MacArthur, p. 152. **(Philippians 2:13, Philippians 1:6, fn 1:6[1st], Revelation 3:14-18, fn 3:15, James 2:14-18, fn 2:17-18, Ephesians 2:8-10, fn 2:8-10)** *As a result of placing your faith in Christ, how are you participating in His Spirit’s work in you?*

IS BY BOTH. In these two verses we see the two parts that are vital in our sanctification. To leave out one verse to the expense of the other in meaningful application, leads to a questionable understanding of our relationship with Jesus. Your sanctification is by you but it is of God. **(Philippians 2:12-13, fn 2:13[2nd], Romans 8:29, fn 8:29, II Thessalonians 1:11-12, fn 1:11-12, II Peter 1:3-11, fn 1:9, fn 1:10)** *What needs to happen in your role in your sanctification?*

Are you taking time to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit with the Living Word teaching you and giving you His joy, His love, and His peace?