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SHORT SUMMARY ON HOLINESS, JUSTIFIED, SANCTIFIED, WORKS OF FAITH, AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

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HOLINESS

¹⁴ *Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: (Hebrews 12:14).*

¹ *Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more. ² *For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus. ³ For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: ⁴ That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; ⁵ Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: ⁶ That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. ⁷ For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. ⁸ He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit. (1 Thess. 4:1-8)**

¹³ *Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;*
¹⁴ *As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: ¹⁵ But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; ¹⁶ Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. ¹⁷ And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, 1 Peter 1:13-17a*

*"Be ye perfect, even as your Father Which is in Heaven is perfect"
(Matthew 5:48).*

"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord" (2 Corinthians 7:1).

"Christ loved the Church, and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it" (Ephesians 5:25, 26);

¹⁴ Do all things without murmurings and disputings: ¹⁵ That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; " (Philippians 2:13-15).

"He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still" (Revelation 22:11).

JUSTIFIED

You become holy, the very moment the Holy Spirit leads you to repent of your sins and to surrender your life to Jesus Christ. At that very instant, your sins are forgiven, and you are saved from sin's guilt. You are declared "not guilty," not because you are innocent (in the sense of being "not guilty as charged"), but because you have been pardoned. Christ's perfect and blameless life is credited to your account. No longer condemned to die, you are "justified" by God's grace and restored to favor with God.

Justification cannot be earned—it is a free gift (Romans 5:16) that can only be received by faith.

In justifying the sinner God acquits him, declares him to be righteous, *regards* him as righteous, and proceeds to *treat* him as a righteous man. Justification is the act of acquittal and the accompanying declaration that a state of righteousness exists. Charges of wrongdoing are cancelled, and the sinner, now justified, is brought into a right relationship with God that Paul describes as being at "peace with God" (Romans 5:1).

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. John 5:24

Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them. Hebrews 7:25

...no man can cover his soul with the garments of Christ's righteousness while practising known sins, or neglecting known duties. Selected Messages, Volume I, page 366.

No one can believe with the heart unto righteousness, and obtain justification by faith, while continuing the practise of those things which the Word of God forbids, or while neglecting any known duty. Selected Messages, Volume I, page 396.

Being *justified* freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Romans 3:24

Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. Romans 3:28

Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith. Romans 3:30

For if Abraham were justified by works, he bath whereof to glory, but not before God. Romans 4:2

SANCTIFIED

But the Holy Spirit does more than just saving us from our past sin. He also saves us from the power or dominion of sin. He begins another exciting work of keeping us day by day from falling into sin. The process is called sanctification, and the purpose is to make us "partakers of holiness"

¹⁰ *For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. (Hebrews 12:10;*

⁴ *According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: (Ephesians 1:4;)*

² *Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.(1 Peter 1:2).*

2 Thessalonians 2:13. "But we are bound to give thanks always 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."

Justification and sanctification—two processes in salvation—are the means by which a person becomes holy and is kept holy. A person *becomes* holy through justification, and he *remains* holy through sanctification. Both processes in salvation are the operations of the Holy Spirit in the life of a person. Justification describes the Spirit's work *for us*, and sanctification is His work *in us*.

Note that while the terms *justification* and *sanctification* describe two different operations of the Spirit, the two are always together. Responding to those who were in the habit of speaking loftily about justification at the expense of sanctification:

I fear it is sometimes forgotten that God has married together justification and sanctification. They are distinct and different things, beyond question, but one is never found without the other. All justified people are sanctified, and all sanctified are justified. What God has joined together let no man dare to put asunder. Tell me not of your justification, unless you have also some marks of sanctification. Boast not of Christ's work for you, unless you can show us the Spirit's work in you. Think not that Christ and the Spirit can ever be divided.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 "⁹ Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, ¹⁰ Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."

In Acts 26:18 "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me."

"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." (2 Corinthians 3:18)

When it is in the heart to obey God, when efforts are put forth to this end, Jesus accepts this disposition and effort as man's best service, and He makes up for the deficiency with His own divine merit. Selected Messages, Volume I, page 382.

. . . forgiveness has a broader meaning than many suppose. . .
God's forgiveness is not merely a judicial act by which He sets us free from condemnation. It is not only forgiveness *for* sin, but reclaiming *from* sin. (Emphasis hers.) *Mount of Blessings*, page 114

The religion of Christ means more than the forgiveness of sins; it means taking away our sins, and filling the vacuum with the graces of the Holy Spirit . . . When Christ reigns in the soul, there is purity, freedom from sin. *Christ's Object Lessons*, pages 419-20

WORKS OF FAITH

¹¹ *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,*
¹² *Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;* ¹³ *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*
¹⁴ *Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*" (Titus 2:11-14,).

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man: for God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil.
(Ecclesiastes 12:14)

But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned. (Matthew 12:36-37)

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. (2 Corinthians 5:10)

For I was an hungered, and ye gave Me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave Me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took Me in: naked, and ye clothed Me: I was sick, and ye visited Me: I was in prison, and ye came unto Me (Matthew 25:35-36).

"For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works." Matthew 16:27.

"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." Revelation 20:12.

RIGHTEOUSNESS

1 Peter 3:10-12 ¹⁰ For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: ¹¹ Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. ¹² For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.

1 John 3:7 ⁷ Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

Revelation 22:11-14 ¹¹ He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. ¹² And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. ¹³ I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. ¹⁴ Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

Righteousness by Faith is not a mystery. It is not difficult to understand, to practice, or to experience. It is right doing by means of power received from God. It begins with the righteousness of God *upon* us, justification. It continues with the righteousness of God *unto* us, sanctification. The transmission of power is through our reading and studying God's Holy Word, the Bible.

After the Bible, we would recommend the book *Christ's Object Lessons* by Ellen White. Just as *The Desire of Ages* is her position paper regarding the nature and work of our Lord Jesus Christ, even so the smaller book, *Christ's Object Lessons*, is her position paper on the Doctrine of Righteousness by Faith. Anyone who masters the contents of this little book will be secure against misinterpretations or distortions of the doctrine.