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Sanctification is God's lifelong process of preparing us for eternity. It begins in this life as we respond to His Son's gracious work on the cross by being born again of water and the Spirit (John 3:5), and it continues as we continue to be begotten by His word (1 John 3:9). It is not miraculous, but is totally spiritual. Certainly it is only possible by God's forgiveness, but there must be our willing participation to produce the fruit of the Spirit.

And to what end is God working? God wants us to stand before our Lord Jesus Christ, at His coming, blameless. To this end our God not only sanctifies entirely, but also "preserves" or "keeps" us. As Peter writes, we are "protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (1 Peter 1:5). This preserving is also said to be "complete" (NASB), "entire"(ASV), "sound" (RSV) and "whole" (NIV). Kittel says it "denotes completeness in extent or compass, and is thus a term of quantity rather than quality." In other words, God will completely preserve all of us or every part of us.

How can we trust so great a promise? "Faithful is he who calls." God's very character is our guarantee. Paul further writes, "He also will bring it to pass."

"God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?" (Numbers 23:19).

--John Kilgore, *Christianity Magazine*

### Miracles of Jesus

1. How was the woman with the issue of blood healed by Jesus? Matthew 9:20-22
2. What woman got up and started doing household chores after Jesus healed her of a fever? Matthew 8:14-15
3. What unproductive tree did Jesus wither by cursing it? Matthew 21:17-20
4. Where did Jesus work his first miracle? John 2:1-11
5. Who appeared with Jesus at his miraculous transfiguration? Matthew 17:1-9
6. Which apostle did Jesus enable to walk on water? Matthew 14:28-31
7. What disciples did Jesus call after blessing them with an enormous catch of fish? Luke 5:4-11
8. Whom did Jesus send to catch a fish that had a coin in its mouth? Matthew 17:24-27

**Answers:** 1. She touched the hem of his garment; 2. Peter's mother-in-law; 3. A fig tree; 4. Cana; 5. Elijah and Moses; 6. Peter; 7. Peter, James and John; 8. Peter

**ELDERS:** Doug Driver  
Johnny Felker  
**DEACONS:** Ralph Brown  
Mark Claypool



**Service Times**

**SUNDAY**  
Bible Study—9:00 am  
Worship—9:55 am & 6:00 pm

**WEDNESDAY**  
Bible Study 7:00 pm

# Perry Heights Weekly Bulletin

**Perry Heights church of Christ**  
423 Donelson Pike  
Nashville, TN 37214  
(615) 883-3118

*"...let us consider how we may encourage one another"*  
Heb. 10:24

May 24, 2009

### The Perfect God Who Perfects His People

*"Now the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and your soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass"* (1 Thess. 5:23-24).

What will the day of the Lord's coming be for us, those "who have loved His appearing" (2 Timothy 4:8)? Paul says we, like him, shall be awarded a crown of righteousness for having fought the good fight, finished the course, and kept the faith (2 Timothy 4:7-8). John tells us that those who have been perfected in love can have confidence in the day of judgment (1 John 4:1-18). But how can we have such confidence in view of our own weaknesses? It is because His hand upon us is greater than our hand upon Him and He has promised.

The greatness of God is seen in the greatness of His work in us. Paul admonishes us to be patient with all men, always seek after good for all men, rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks, examine everything carefully, hold to that which is good, and abstain from every form of evil (1 Thess. 5:14-22). The use of "all" and "always" and "every" and "everything" jar us to see that God's work in us is to be complete and perfect, encompassing every part of us. Our truly holy God can demand nothing less than a completely holy people (1 Peter 1:15-16). No wonder Paul would say for us to work out our salvation with "fear and trembling," but would also have to add that it is "God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure" (Philippians 2:12-13). The task is daunting, but our God is able. He takes this job on "Himself."

Now let us notice what our perfect God does. First, He "sanctifies" us. He makes us holy. He sets us apart by His will and for His work. This is why we are called saints. But also notice the degree of His sanctification. It is "entirely" (NASB), "wholly" (ASV), "completely" (NKJV), and "through and through" (NIV). As Lightfoot says, it "not only implies entirety, but involves the further idea of completion." Our God, through His son (Ephesians 5:26) and His Spirit (Romans 15:16), has begun a work in us that He will complete, completely (Philippians 1:6).

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# The Fruit of Godliness



*in your faith supply ... godliness; (2 Pet. 1:5-6).*

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## What is godliness?

*Godliness is that \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ that grows out of our understanding of God's majesty, greatness, and worthiness to be worshipped and obeyed.*

## How do we show godliness?

By offering reverential \_\_\_\_\_ to God (Rom. 1:18; Heb. 12:28-29)

By making careful use of His \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex. 20:7; Jas. 3:9-10)

By showing more exactness in learning and doing what \_\_\_\_\_ Him (1 Tim. 2:1-2; 2 Cor. 5:9)

By expressing concern and help to our \_\_\_\_\_ as well as others (1 Tim. 5:4)

## How do we grow in godliness?

By reflecting upon the greatness of God as \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 1:18-20)

By reflecting upon the \_\_\_\_\_ of God toward sinners (2 Pet. 3:10-11)

By reflecting upon the \_\_\_\_\_ of God toward the saved (Rom. 5:6; Tit. 2:11-12)

**I must caution you that a godly life with not be without difficulty. “All who lived godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.” (2 Tim. 3:12). But in spite of this, there is a great blessing in godly living since “...godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.” (1 Tim. 4:8) Let us seek every day to grow in the fruit of godliness.**

## Remember in Prayer:

### The Sick:

**Dennis Blanton** is home from the hospital and is improving after having a stroke.

**Xenna Gooch** is still having some problems with the regulation of medications being used to treat her arterial blockages and those being used to treat her blood pressure.

**Burton Brown**, Bettye's brother, is having difficulty with side effects of radiation treatment for cancer that has metastasized to his brain.

**Ronald Miller**, Larry's father, has a recurrence of cancer, and there are currently no plans for chemotherapy or radiation.

**Lauren Mack**, granddaughter of Betty Travis and niece of Pam Travis, continues to have problems with pre-term labor.

**Keith Clayton**, one of the preachers we support, has been receiving treatment for a brain tumor, and his condition has significantly worsened. A report on his condition from Lynn, his wife, is available in the lobby with the preachers' reports.

Continue to remember **Brownie Spicer**, **Karen Shelton**, **Carolyn Lowder** and **Lucy Karnes** (Martha's sister).

### **News & Notes:**

--**Group 2** will meet today in the Library after the morning service.

## Always There

Bless those folks who are “always there,”

Steadfast, loyal and true,

Standing by and happy to share

Your joys and sorrows with you.

Those who stand on the side and cheer

The runners in life's race,

Whose faith supplies the needed boost

To keep that winning pace.

Bless those backstage people,

Whose art no plaudits rouse,

But who provide the background

For those who take the bows.

Bless them all—those quiet ones,

Steady and staunch and square,

The little matches that light the stars —

The folks who are “always there.”

--Helen Lowrie Marxhall

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*“...The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:5-7*