

# RUMINATIONS OF A FORMER HEATHEN

Copyright Walter Arcel

**Holiness, Sanctification**

[www.graceandsanity.org](http://www.graceandsanity.org)

W. Arcel e-mail, [gen315@charter.net](mailto:gen315@charter.net)

Grace and Sanity Ministries, May 2009

Words have meaning. Meaning has guidance. It is important to know the meaning of words, because our guidance comes from that meaning. What really matters is not the meaning people have given to God's words, but the meaning God has given to his own words. God has given clear meaning to words but sometimes people, some of those who think they know what they are talking about, distort those meanings.

Holiness and Sanctification are two of those words. Oh, yes, you must be holy and sanctified, today. Have you accepted Christ? Then, you are a new man, the old man has died, go and sin no more. Christ has cleansed you from all your sins, but from now on is up to you. You have to live a holy life. Aren't you indwelled by the Holy Spirit? How can you continue in sinful behaviours and think you are saved? If we continue to sin after we are saved, are we really saved? But, is it only sinful behaviour that is condemned? What about sinful thinking? Behaviour bad, thinking O.K? Only God is sinless. How can anybody escape the fires of Hell without the covering of the blood of Christ? You tell me. Is any of those preachers preaching against sin free from sin themselves? Well, if not, then don't tell me not to sin, tell me how you get out of the pickle. I need to know the way of salvation, because the cleaner I get and the more I see inside myself, the worse it looks. John says, in recognition of human nature, that if you say you have no sin the truth is not in you. Why did God ordain a continual sacrifice, morning and evening? Because there is nobody who can make it through the day without sinning. Jesus is my continual sacrifice, I run to him morning and evening.

I want eternal life, forget everything else. I am grabbing hold of the death of Christ, his blood shed in death, to be the guarantee that I will not go to Hell after I die. By the shed blood of Christ I will go to Heaven to live forever with God. How do you like that? I am all for avoiding pain and having everything go easy, I want to be shielded and protected by God. I want God to benefit me, to guide me, to give me strength day by day, to save me from Hell, to give me eternal life. Is that selfish, is that dirty in some way, that I should want God to benefit me? I don't know, may be, but he said himself that he would benefit, protect, give strength, not destroy and bring back from the dead those who believed on him. He

makes a hedge around us, he sends his angels to camp around us, that is, around those who fear him. And you better be afraid of him. As good and guaranteed his gifts and all his blessings are, the consequence of rejection of his hand offered, are unimaginably bad. To be afraid of him is to believe on him. And I believe on him. I am going to hang on to his offer come what may. What choice is there other than him, anyway? You go look. I have. There is absolutely nothing coming from the heathen, other than the despair of perfection.

But, the question remains, are we not supposed to separate from the world in order to live holy lives and be sanctified by the Holy Spirit? Well, yes, we are supposed to live holy lives and be sanctified, both. Holiness and Sanctification are absolutely the results of being saved. Sanctification and Holiness are very much related. God makes it very clear in the Law what is the meaning of those words: Sanctification means, appointed to, designated for. Holiness means, to be set apart. So, Holiness really comes first. You must be Holy before you can be Sanctified. You must be set apart (be Holy), to be appointed to a specific task (Sanctified). The example is the Levites whom God set apart for the service of the tabernacle. The Levites were descendants of Levy, one of the sons of Jacob who made up the twelve tribes. The Levites were first made Holy (were set apart), then Sanctified (assigned to the service of the tabernacle). They were not pure and sinless before, during or after they were made Holy and Sanctified. They were simply a tribe separated from the rest of the tribes for the service of the tabernacle and that was the job of that tribe for life.

How do we separate from the rest of the tribes, from the rest of the world, friends and even family? It's easy, every time you open your mouth wanting to tell them about Christ, that he is the payment, the exchange, for our total sinful nature, it will be a clue for them to find something else to do rather than listen to you. The more enthusiastic you are about Christ, the less enthusiastic will your friends, and your own family, be to hang out with you. Your friends will abandon you, your family will become subtly distant, it will be holiness by default. Once you are separated, made Holy by God, he will give you a job to serve him, Sanctify you, and the job will be to spread the Gospel, the Good News that Christ has paid for our sins.

Does God cleanse us through the Holy Spirit? Yes. How does God do it? By our proximity to him. The closer we get to him the cleaner we get. Why? Because our attention is more and more absorbed with how we are going to be

more effective in our work for him. Why should we want to work for him? Because this world has absolutely no hope for anybody, the wise dies, the fool dies. All have the same end. Is there any advantage to being wise over being a fool? There is nothing in this world, death awaits us all. But, eternal life is the promise of God to those who are Pure, Holy, and undefiled, and they are those who trust in Christ to present them to God spotless by his blood.

How do you get close enough to God to receive his cleansing? Meditation, daily meditation, and there is nothing mysterious about meditation, meditation can be as simple as asking God to save those in your own family who are unsaved. But daily meditation, particularly as intercessory prayer, is good a way to seek his face, to get to know him. It is a must in our daily lives. What should be the preparations for that sort of meditation? After you go to the bathroom first thing in the morning, after you take your shower or wash your face, but before you eat breakfast, that's when you are ready. Sit on your bed, or sit inside a closet where no one can disturb you and pray for those dearest to you who are unsaved. If you have to get up 20 minutes earlier in the morning to do it, do it. It's not that hard. Just do it, and you will discover many rewards. However, the rewards are incidental, they are only the result of doing something you should be doing anyway. Forget the rewards, this is a duty. Once in a while, during those meditations you will get a jolt, the sudden sensation that you really are talking to God himself.

The Law God gave to Moses, generally referred to as the Law of Moses, the Torah, reveals in detail the depth of our sinful nature. We plot, we scheme, we have evil desires. Murder, theft, fornication, are common items we ponder. We won't go to jail for only thinking about those things, so we feel free to do so. From the world standpoint, it is legal to only think about something illegal as long as you do not carry out the action. How can you shield yourself from evil desires to become cleaner in spirit? If being cleaner is the urge there are practical things one can do. First, read the first five books of Moses over and over, when you get to the end, start over again. After a few times of that, go to the New Testament. I can guarantee you your understanding of who Christ is will increase much, much. Second, pray, pray, pray. God gave me a prayer long ago, it is a prayer I say every morning at the start of prayer and meditation and every night as I go to sleep, it goes like this: "Lord, I come to you sprinkled with the blood of your Son Jesus, the Wonderful and Unblemished Lamb whom you prepared and slayed for us."

“Thank you, my Lord, for your Son Jesus Christ, without whom, I could never make it.” “And thank you, my Lord Jesus, for your willingness to suffer and to die.” “And thank you, Holy Spirit, for your Kindness and your Love, and for chasing me down to bring me back to see the things of Christ before I died. Thank you all, and amen, and amen.”

God has blessed me much with that prayer, I feel like he has a leash on me, I know he is in charge. If the request is regarding sins you are committing that really bother you but you cannot let go of them, the recourse is to pray, fervently pray. Ask God the Father, entering the Holy of Holies covered by the blood of Christ, to give you a repugnance for this activity. Trust in your salvation and pray. Your salvation is guaranteed, what all of us need is strength to withstand Satan. One thing about Satan is that he always shows his hand too soon. He always thinks he has the winning hand and through intimidation and accusations, he tries to make you give up. However, I tell you from direct experience that when God is your strength he will kindle a fire, a fury, an unexplainable resolve in you.

Your prayer could simply be, Lord, take this thing away from me, rip it out of my system, put a hook in my jaw and steer me, squeeze me with your thumb, beat me up, do what you have to do, for I am too wicked and helpless. If you go to him with that attitude, you’ll get his attention. Also, learn hymns. “Jesus Lover of my Soul,” “The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus,” “O, Sacred Head Now Wounded,” are some that come to mind. I have lots of favorites so these are by no means the only ones, but the purpose of learning Hymns is that you can use them as shields against evil thoughts. When you start thinking about something you shouldn’t be thinking about, start singing “Victory in Jesus,” or “Bringing in the Sheaves,” or “Rock of Ages.” Songs, Psalms are very effective against Satan. If he bothers you more, sing louder. These are tools we can use. And, be conscious that God is watching your every move and listening to your every thought, pray on the spot, ask him to help you maintain your boundaries.

What changes there are in a man stem directly from the apprehension of the sacrifice of God in the person of Christ. When you realize how despicable you really are, you begin to approach the depth of that sacrifice. The more you know your own wickedness the more you will appreciate the enormous, enormous, thing Christ did for us. Only the awareness of your own worthlessness and the punishment you are escaping can bring you to the point of worshiping him in spirit and in truth.