

Volume 5, Day 21: Declared 'HOLY' and Set Apart by God.

The call of God for all Christians is to preach the gospel. But remember what "the gospel" is. It is Redemption by grace through faith in the Son of God, Jesus Christ. Redemption is having the consequences of our sins (all of them) paid by Jesus Christ. Unfortunately we often think of the Gospel as sanctification, which is: **being set apart for God's purposes with His declaration that we are Holy because our faith (not our works) has made us so.** The purpose of redemption is to know God in personal experience. The "gospel" is the acceptance of God's offer of a personal relationship with Himself which comes by faith in Jesus Christ.

Our testimony of redemption is that our desires become like God's. That is, we desire that "none should perish but that all should come to repentance." Repentance is not groveling in guilt, shame and fear for our wrong doing. It is **turning from** living apart from God and **turning to** living in a vibrant, intimate personal relationship with Him. True redemption (salvation) is demonstrated by dispensing the unconditional love of God to all people. In other words, it is to "Love Like Jesus (God) Loves." Only the Holy Spirit within us can do this. The essential requirement in establishing this personal relationship with God is the declaration of belief that Jesus is God Himself manifest in the flesh on earth.

It would be a shame to say that Jesus Christ suffered the anguish of the Cross just to make me a saint. The one passion of a true Christian is to proclaim the Gospel of God so that others can experience redemption. We can welcome heart-breaks, disappointments, hardships, and ruin when, and only when, we are abandoned to God because of our love for God and love for the Gospel of God.

My Confirming Scriptures:

Aligning Experiences:

DEEPER Every Day -- John Henry Alan