

“Sanctify the Lord God in Your Hearts”

1 Pet. 3:15-17

Introduction

- I. Although written almost two thousand years ago, the need to sanctify God in our hearts is just as important now as it was then.
- II. What does it mean to sanctify God in our hearts?

Discussion

- I. What is sanctification?
 - A. To sanctify is to set apart from the ordinary/consecrate (Exo. 13:12).
 - B. Our hearts should be set on serving and pleasing God before anything else.
 - C. Paul struggled with being with the Lord or staying with earthly brethren (Phil. 1:19-26).
- II. In order for sanctification to exist, some things must happen.
 - A. The separation that is required involves actions on our part.
 1. Separated from the world (2 Cor. 6:17-18).
 2. Turned to God (1 Pet. 2:9).
 3. Accomplished by the blood of Christ (Heb. 10:10, 29).
 4. How can the church live in worldliness and sanctify God in our hearts?
 - B. We must consecrate ourselves to God above all else.
 1. Those in Macedonia are a good example of this (2 Cor. 8:4).
 2. There is an example of a congregation that did not do such (Rev. 3:15-16).
 3. Too many times, the church puts worldly things before God and His church (Matt. 12:43-45)!
 - C. We must live holy lives.
 1. This is a challenge, but one that we must win (1 Pet. 1:16).
 2. There is the constant need to make sure that sin does not have dominion over us (Rom. 7:13-25; 6:14).
 3. God's grace does not give us license to sin (Rom. 8:29).

Conclusion

- I. We can never fully please God without sanctification.
- II. If we see areas that need to be improved, then let us have the courage and drive to do such while we can