

February 18, 2001

## 1 Samuel 7

This chapter picks up right in the middle of the account, which actually runs from 6:19-7:2. (A bad place to put a chapter break, in my opinion.)

Let me go back for a point. 6:19, why did God only kill 50,070 men? I believe God gave everyone a chance to look into the ark who wanted to look into the ark. And I would say that people came from far and wide to look into the ark. That is a lot of people for a city of that day. It seems here that the Lord gave all who wanted to look a chance to look. And thus He purged out the ones who had in their hearts the desire to violate the clear law of God.

Vv. 1, 2

5) *the men of Kirjathjearim...* Serving the Lord is men's work. They did not send their wives and children to get the ark. But that certainly does not mean that women children are exempt from serving the Lord. When Pharaoh started to compromise with Moses, he said,

**Exodus 10:11** *Not so: go now ye that are men, and serve the LORD; for that ye did desire. And they were driven out from Pharaoh's presence.*

But the Lord demanded that the husbands and fathers bring their families with them. Over the years, I have noticed that women can serve the Lord without their husbands, but men cannot serve the Lord without their wives. It is a matter of authority, and the men having their wives and families in subjection.

6) *came, and fetched up the ark of the Lord...* The men of Bethshemesh were glad to get rid of the ark, while the men of Kirjathjearim could not have been happier to have the ark among them. Though the Lord had killed the presumptuous people of Bethshemesh, the men of Kirjathjearim were not at all afraid of the ark.

Notice here that **it is the same Lord who acted differently** to different people. The Lord is a burden, even death, to those who are **not willing to sanctify** themselves—that is, set themselves apart **from the world and to Him**. On the other hand, the Lord is a **great blessing** to those who are willing to do things His way.

There are many of even professed Christians who do not want a harsh, dogmatic God of Justice among them, nor do they want to be in His presence; rather, they want a god who will conform to their ideas of what that god should be and how he should act. Though the Lord God may be slow in acting, He is death to those people

Hebrews 12:23-29 tell us that even under the new covenant with Jesus Christ as our mediator, our God is to be feared as a **consuming fire** to those who do not **serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear**. On the other hand, those who do serve God acceptably have no reason to fear Him.

7) *and sanctified the son of Abinadab...* Not the dad, but the son. Though old men are required to serve God, it is work for young men, especially those who are trying to get established in their occupations and families.

They placed the ark in a **common house**, and probably sanctified a **non Levite** to watch after it, to keep it clean and keep its place clean, and no doubt protect it from **prying** eyes. In the Old Testament, this was **not its proper** place, though the Lord allowed this in this **particular time of distress**.

However, in the New Testament, the proper dwelling place for the Lord is **among His people**:

**1 Corinthians 6:19** *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*

Thus now the proper dwelling place of the Lord is in the common houses of His people.

8) *sanctified*... The men of Bethshemesh, though they were Israelites, were **fearful** of the ark of God, for the Lord smote many of them for looking into the ark. So they *sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kirjathjearim*, asking them to come get the ark. The men of Kirjathjearim came, and took the ark **into the house of Abinadad**. They **sanctified Eleazar his son** to watch after the ark. The ark stayed there for twenty years, while Israel *lamented* (grieved) over the Lord not being with them.

The men of Kirjathjearim (city of forests) came and got the ark. We do not know why they were **wiling** to do what the men of Bethshemesh (6:20) were unwilling to do, **clean** up their lives. Do we want God to bless us? We must be sanctified.

Observe:

1) If the men of Bethshemesh had done what the men of Kirjathjearim did, **sanctified** themselves to care for the ark, they would have been able to keep the ark. **Sanctify** prepare, set apart, separate, dedicate, &c. Which raises this question why would not the men of Bethshemesh sanctify themselves?

The word **sanctify** is used many times in the Old Testament (59) and a few in the New (6).

### Sanctification

Involves more than a mere moral reformation of character, brought about by the power of the truth: it is the work of the Holy Spirit bringing the whole nature more and more under the influences of the new gracious principles implanted in the soul in regeneration. In other words, sanctification is the carrying on to perfection the work begun in regeneration, and it extends to the whole man #Ro 6:13 #2Co 4:6 Col 3:10 1Jo 4:7 1Co 6:19 It is the special office of the Holy Spirit in the plan of redemption to carry on this work #1Co 6:11 2Th 2:13 **Faith** is instrumental in securing sanctification, inasmuch as it

1. secures union to Christ #Ga 2:20 and
2. **brings** the believer into living contact with the truth, whereby he is led to yield obedience "to the commands, trembling at the threatenings, and embracing the promises of God for this life and that which is to come."

**Sanctification** is more than simply a moral change in our lives as we seek to line up with the truth of the Scripture. It is a work of the Holy Spirit Who brings our whole nature into conformity with the word of God, as that word was placed within us at regeneration. Simply put, **sanctification** is more than us gritting our teeth and trying to line up with God's definition of good and evil. It **can be defined** as the power of God working in His covenant people, the redeemed; He then **gives them the desire** and the **power** to depart from sin and follow after righteousness.

Though a person can will himself to separate from sin, **godly sanctification** is the Spirit of God working in us to make the things we used to love, hateful to us now. Sanctification is God working in us to **change our will** and desires, giving us the desire to please him.

The **spirit of Sanctification**, that is, the Holy Spirit, causes us to **fear God**, and godly fear causes us to depart from evil:

**Proverbs 16:6** *By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.*

The New Testament doctrine of **sanctification** is not new. Though it was hidden in the Old Testament, it was there:

**Psalms 51:10** *Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.*

The Old Testament clearly spoke of the day when the Holy Spirit would indwell His people, giving them the desire and power to depart from evil and cleave to that which is good:

**Ezekiel 36:25** ¶ *Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. 26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. 37 Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will yet for this be enquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them; I will increase them with men like a flock.*

Ezekiel told us that sanctification would be a result of conversion; it is a result of God sending His Spirit, and that Spirit causing us to want to **walk in His statutes**, and causing us to **keep His judgments, and do them**.

Paul spoke a lot about **sanctification** without calling it sanctification:

**Romans 12:9** *Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.*

**Colossians 3:8** ¶ *But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. 9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; 10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: 11 Where there is **neither** Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.*

Paul sounds here like it is our responsibility do grit our teeth, and depart from evil and draw near to the Lord. Yet Paul tells us continually that sanctification is **the work of the Spirit** of God's grace. It is the Holy Spirit who must bring our nature into conformity to the principles of the **new nature** given to us by our conversion. And He works according to His Sovereign will, not according to one's birth, for **there is neither Greek nor Jew...**

**2 Corinthians 4:6** *For [it is] God, who [must] commanded the light to shine out of darkness, [and He] hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.*

And again,

**Philippians 2:12** ¶ *Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. 13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*

The Spirit of God presents us with a paradox, or what **clearly seems to be a contradiction**. Paul tells us to **work out our own salvation** with fear and trembling, and then he tell us that **it is God who does** the work:

**1 Corinthians 6:11** *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.*

**1 Peter 1:14** *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.*

First, Peter tells us that before our salvation, we DID NOT KNOW WHAT PLEASED AND DISPLEASED THE LORD. Now we do.

Second, he goes on to tell us that GOD CHOSE US FROM BEFORE THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE WORLD TO BE HOLY

Third, he also tells us that OUR STANDARD of living IS THE LORD GOD, NOT WHAT OTHERS THINK OF US, NOR HOW OTHERS ACT.

Though *sanctification* is the work of God, we as individuals will be held accountable for *sanctifying* ourselves. (Romans 6:13, Colossians 3:10, 1 John 4:7, 1 Corinthians 6:19.) The Word of God clearly lays the responsibility of holy living on the individual. Yet God must do the work. This is just one of the many mysteries that is far above man's understanding. Along with many other things, in this matter, I can only give to you what God's word says. I cannot put God's Sovereign work, man's free will and man's responsibility together. All I can say is,

**1 Peter 1:17** *And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:*

God called us to set us aside for Himself. He called us to be holy even as He is holy. His work of setting us aside unto holiness is HIS WORK, the work of His Spirit of Grace. But notice what He said ***He will judge us every man according to how much we are like Him in separation from the lusts of this world, and how much we are like Him in holiness.***

*Sanctification* is part of our salvation.

**2 Thessalonians 2:13** ¶ *But we are bound to give thanks alway 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: 14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.*

Paul tells us here that God's choice for His people is **first** to holiness, and then to salvation. This is a hard saying, but we can be DOGMATIC. We can say that no one is chosen to salvation who does not have evidence of being sanctified by the Spirit. Those who do not have the strong desire to be sanctified and the **physical evidence** in their lives that they are in the process of being sanctified—that is, set apart from the evils of the world and being made HOLY by the Spirit—are NOT SAVED. (Converted, Acts 15:3, or transformed.)

Sanctification, which can be interchanged with holiness, is defined by Paul:

**Ephesians 2:3** *Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*  
**Ephesians 4:22** *That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;*

The word **conversation** is never used Scripturally to mean verbal communication. It always refers to one's manner of life as seen by others. Conversation means one's **relations to the surrounding community** as a citizen of that community.

Paul tells us that the purpose of God's choosing us is our **sanctification**.

**Ephesians 1:4** *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:*

Note two things: we are to live **without blame before him**. But living such a life will many times place us with blame before the world. **Second**, we were not an afterthought in God's plan, but we were chosen by God *before the foundation of the world*. We were not chosen so we can go about our life in a way pleasing to the flesh, but we were chosen to be holy BEFORE WE WERE BORN.

God chose a new nation of people. His purpose in choosing that nation is that He, through the working of His

indwelling Spirit, might show His wisdom and power. He shows that wisdom and power by giving them the power to do what Adam failed to do in the Garden that is, obey His word, and that holy living is now in the midst of a corrupt and evil world.

Paul said it like this:

**Ephesians 3:1-13** ¶ *For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, 2 If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: 3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, 4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) 5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; 6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: 7 Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. 8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; 9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: 10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, 11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: 12 In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him. 13 Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.*

God's Holy Spirit of sanctification shows God's wisdom in providing the means for the citizens of His new nation to do what Adam failed to do in his perfect environment that is, live a holy life before God and before man.

Let me say again, those who do not have the **physical evidence** in their lives that they are in the process of being sanctified that is, set apart from the evils of the world and being made HOLY by the Spirit are NOT SAVED.

Clearly, the work of sanctification is God's work. Why does God Spirit sanctify some and seemingly ignore others? Carol and I discussed this question more times than I can count, and we always came to the same conclusion I have no idea, for that is one of many mysteries that God has chosen to keep to Himself. I can only give you the facts about many of these things, and we must leave it up to God to work it all out.

Perfect sanctification is not attainable in this life #1Ki 8:46 #Pr 20:9 Ec 7:20 Jas 3:2 1Jo 1:8 See Paul's account of himself in #Ro 7:14-25 Php 3:12-14 1Ti 1:15 also the confessions of David #Ps 19:12,13 51:1ff. of Moses #Ps 90:8 of Job #Job 42:5,6 and of Daniel #Da 9:3-20 "The more holy a man is, the more humble, self-renouncing, self-abhorring, and the more sensitive to every sin he becomes, and the more closely he clings to Christ. The moral imperfections which cling to him he feels to be sins, which he laments and strives to overcome. Believers find that their life is a constant warfare, and they need to take the kingdom of heaven by storm, and watch while they pray. They are always subject to the constant chastisement of their Father's loving hand, which can only be designed to correct their imperfections and to confirm their graces. And it has been notoriously the fact that the best Christians have been those who have been the least prone to claim the attainment of perfection for themselves.", Hodge's Outlines. (Easton's Revised Bible Dictionary.)

We are told that perfect sanctification is not possible in this life that is, though we have the Spirit's desire to live holy as the Lord is holy, we will not obtain the Lord's holiness. Sanctification is a continual warfare between what the old nature desires and what the new nature given by the Holy Spirit desires. Paul describes the warfare in Romans chapters **seven** and **eight**.

And it has been notoriously the fact that the best Christians have been those who have been the least prone to claim the attainment of perfection for themselves. Charles Hodge.

Even the great Apostle Paul realized he could not obtain to **perfect sanctification**, but he left his failures behind, and continued pressing on to what was required of him by the word of God.

**Philippians 3:12** *Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. 13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

And then we are told that there are no perfectly sanctified people,

**1 John 1:8** ¶ *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*  
**1 Peter 1:18** *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:*

Then He leaves us without excuse. God's spirit of conversion gives us the desire and power to live holy lives. And we will be judged accordingly.

**1 Peter 1:20** *Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, 21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God. 22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: 23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*

**Sanctification** or **holiness** means that we are separated from our past loves and desires that we now know displease the Lord as revealed in His word. **Philippians 1:27**, unified together for the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ. **1 Timothy 4:12**, our words reflect a spirit that is under the control of the Spirit of God? **Hebrews 13:5**, certainly, money is needed to survive in this world, but do others see our motivation as being the love of money? **James 3:13**, does our attitude reflect meekness and wisdom?

And then we are told in **Psalms 37:14** that a godly conversation brings hatred from the wicked:

**Psalms 37:14** *The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, and to slay such as be of upright conversation.*  
**2 Timothy 3:12** *Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*

And finally, we are told several times throughout God's word that it is our **manner of life** that is used by God's Spirit to reach the ungodly around us:

**1 Peter 2:12** *Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your **good works**, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.*  
**1 Peter 3:1** *Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be **won by the conversation** of the wives; 2 While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.*  
**1 Peter 3:16** *Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.*

**1 Corinthians 15:34** *Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.*

Conclusion:

First, sanctification is simply God's Holy Spirit working in His people to give them the desire and the power to depart from evil and to cling to that which is good and pleasing in God's sight.

Second, though it is commanded of His people, and though we will be held responsible, it is God's eternal Spirit who must do the work.

Third, though the Spirit places in us the desire to be holy even as God is holy, we will not obtain that goal this side of death.

Fourth, we cannot avoid the fact that salvation and the desire to be holy must always go together. We cannot have one without the other. Those who lack the desire and the works of sanctification are not saved!! And I cannot say that strong enough.