

**Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Spring Term of 2026**

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
THE CRUCIAL POINTS OF THE TRUTH IN PAUL'S EPISTLES—
FIRST AND SECOND THESSALONIANS**

Message Nine

Salvation in Sanctification of the Spirit

Scripture Reading: 1 Thes. 4:3-5; 5:23; 2 Thes. 2:13

1 Thes. 4:3-5—For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from fornication; ⁴That each one of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, ⁵Not in the passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;

1 Thes. 5:23—And the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thes. 2:13—But we ought to thank God always concerning you, brothers beloved of the Lord, because God chose you from the beginning unto salvation in sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth,

I. We all need to have a deep impression concerning the expression *salvation in sanctification*—1 Thes. 4:3-5; 5:23; 2 Thes. 2:13:

1 Thes. 4:3-5—For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from fornication; ⁴That each one of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, ⁵Not in the passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;

1 Thes. 5:23—And the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thes. 2:13—But we ought to thank God always concerning you, brothers beloved of the Lord, because God chose you from the beginning unto salvation in sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth,

- A. This is one of the strongest expressions in the entire New Testament.
- B. Since Paul uses this term, we need a revelation and realization of the truth embodied in it.

II. There are crucial verses that speak of sanctification:

- A. “It was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in leading many sons into glory, to make the Author of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of One, for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brothers”—Heb. 2:10-11.
- B. “Chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father in the sanctification of the Spirit unto the obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ”—1 Pet. 1:2.

- C. “Now present your members as slaves to righteousness unto sanctification”—Rom. 6:19b.
- D. “You have your fruit unto sanctification, and the end, eternal life”—v. 22b.
- E. “Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth”—John 17:17.

III. There is only one sanctification, but there are three aspects; we need to see the three aspects of sanctification in the Scriptures:

- A. First, there is the Spirit’s sanctification in seeking the God-chosen people before their repentance—1 Pet. 1:2.

1 Pet. 1:2—Chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father in the sanctification of the Spirit unto the obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

- B. Second, there is the sanctification by the blood of Christ at the time of the believers’ believing—Heb. 13:12; 9:13-14; 10:29.

Heb. 13:12—Therefore also Jesus, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate.

Heb. 9:13-14—For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who are defiled sanctify to the purity of the flesh, ¹⁴How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Heb. 10:29—By how much do you think he will be thought worthy of worse punishment who has trampled underfoot the Son of God and has considered the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing and has insulted the Spirit of grace?

- C. Third, there is the Spirit’s dispositional sanctification in the believers’ full course of their Christian life—Rom. 15:16b; 6:19, 22.

Rom. 15:16—That I might be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, a laboring priest of the gospel of God, in order that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, having been sanctified in the Holy Spirit.

Rom. 6:19—I speak in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to uncleanness and lawlessness unto lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness unto sanctification.

Rom. 6:22—But now, having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you have your fruit unto sanctification, and the end, eternal life.

IV. From the time we were called, the sanctifying Spirit started to work for God’s “sonizing,” for God’s sonship—8:15, 23; Gal. 4:5; Eph. 1:5:

Rom. 8:15—For you have not received a spirit of slavery *bringing you* into fear again, but you have received a spirit of sonship in which we cry, Abba, Father!

Rom. 8:23—And not only *so*, but we ourselves also, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan in ourselves, eagerly awaiting sonship, the redemption of our body.

Gal. 4:5—That He might redeem those under law that we might receive the sonship.

Eph. 1:5—Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

- A. Sanctification is something that goes on and on continually to sonize God's chosen people.
- B. The word *sonize* was invented by us to describe the process of God's sanctifying work to make us His sons in a full way.

C. Sanctification is God's sonizing:

- 1. When we are sanctified, we are sonized.
- 2. This is based upon Ephesians 1:4-5 and Hebrews 2:10-11.

Eph. 1:4-5—Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love, ⁵Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Heb. 2:10-11—For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in leading many sons into glory, to make the Author of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of One, for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brothers,

D. Sonship is greatly dependent upon sanctification.

E. God brings His many sons into glory by Christ's sanctifying us dispositionally, beginning from our regeneration throughout the full course of our Christian life—Rev. 1:6; 4:11:

Rev. 1:6—And made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be the glory and the might forever and ever. Amen.

Rev. 4:11—You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, for You have created all things, and because of Your will they were, and were created.

- 1. Sanctification is still going on because we have not yet entered into glory in full.
- 2. One day we will be fully in glory; that fullness of entering into glory will be the fullness of God's sanctification—Rom. 6:19, 22; Heb. 12:14; 1 Pet. 1:2.

Rom. 6:19—I speak in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to uncleanness and lawlessness unto lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness unto sanctification.

Rom. 6:22—But now, having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you have your fruit unto sanctification, and the end, eternal life.

Heb. 12:14—Pursue peace with all men and sanctification, without which no one will see the Lord;

1 Pet. 1:2—Chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father in the sanctification of the Spirit unto the obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

**V. The final aspect of sanctification is the Spirit's dispositional sanctification—
1 Cor. 1:30; 1 Thes. 4:3-4, 7; 2 Thes. 2:13:**

1 Cor. 1:30—But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

1 Thes. 4:3-4—For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from fornication; ⁴That each one of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,

1 Thes. 4:7—For God has not called us for uncleanness but in sanctification.

2 Thes. 2:13—But we ought to thank God always concerning you, brothers beloved of the Lord, because God chose you from the beginning unto salvation in sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth,

A. Our being sanctified through the blood of Christ was a positional matter:

1. The blood of Christ changed our position to sanctify us.
2. That is the positional aspect of God's sanctification.

B. Our being made a new creation continues from regeneration throughout our entire Christian life by the Spirit's dispositional sanctification—2 Cor. 5:17; Rev. 3:14; 1 Pet. 1:3, 23.

2 Cor. 5:17—So then if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creation. The old things have passed away; behold, they have become new.

Rev. 3:14—And to the messenger of the church in Laodicea write: These things says the Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the beginning of the creation of God:

1 Pet. 1:3—Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has regenerated us unto a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1 Pet. 1:23—Having been regenerated not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible, through *the* living and abiding word of God.

C. Dispositional sanctification is a continuation of the ongoing work of the believers' regeneration—Titus 3:5:

Titus 3:5—Not out of works in righteousness which we did but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit,

1. Our birth is our regeneration, and our growing is our dispositional sanctification.
2. God is now sanctifying what He has begotten.
3. The Spirit continues to renew us by sanctifying us for our growth in life.
4. The Spirit does not just correct us, but He constitutes us:
 - a. The Spirit first outwardly corrects us and then inwardly supplies us with the divine element, infusing us with the riches of Christ and constituting us with Christ's riches as the constituents.
 - b. The real sanctification is correcting plus constituting.
 - c. The Spirit sanctifies us not just by correcting us but by supplying us with His constituents, with His riches, with His divine element.

D. The Spirit sanctifies us dispositionally to carry out the renewing of the believers as God's new creation—v. 5; Rom. 12:2b; 2 Cor. 4:16:

Titus 3:5—Not out of works in righteousness which we did but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit,

Rom. 12:2—And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

2 Cor. 4:16—Therefore we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner *man* is being renewed day by day.

1. To renew requires the addition of a new element.
 2. Renewing is a synonym for sanctification.
- E. The dispositional sanctification of the Spirit is to perform the Lord's transformation of the believers—3:18; Rom. 12:2:
- 2 Cor. 3:18**—But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

Rom. 12:2—And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

1. Renewing is a continuation of regeneration, and transformation is an issue of renewing.
 2. This shows us that transformation is also related to sanctification:
 - a. The dispositional sanctification of the Spirit is carried out by renewing, resulting in transformation.
 - b. Both renewing and transformation are part of the process of sanctification.
- F. The Spirit's dispositional sanctification consummates in the believers' glorification:
1. In 1 Thessalonians 5:23 Paul expresses the desire for our whole being to be sanctified, that is, to be brought into glory.

1 Thes. 5:23—And the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 2. How much we are in glory depends upon how much we have been sanctified:
 - a. We are on the way of being brought into glory by the sanctifying work of the Spirit.
 - b. The more we are sanctified, the more we enter into glory.
 - c. Our being fully sanctified, not only in our spirit but also in our soul and even in our body, means that our whole being has been reconstituted with the divine element.
 - d. Our spirit, soul, and body will be reconstituted, sanctified wholly, and that will be our glorification.
 3. Sanctification is the gradual process of glorification:
 - a. The more we are sanctified, the more we will be made holy and the more we will feel that we are in glory.
 - b. Sanctification consummates in the believers' glorification.
- G. The Spirit's dispositional sanctification is to complete God's sonship in choosing the believers; Ephesians 1:4-5 proves this:

Eph. 1:4-5—Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love, ⁵Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

1. Sanctifying is “sonizing.”
2. Sanctification is for God’s making of sons.
3. Sanctification issues in sonship, results in sonship.
4. The sanctification that we enjoy is not only a change of our position but also a constitution of our disposition to “sonize” our entire being.

VI. In 2 Thessalonians the most crucial verse is 2:13: “God chose you from the beginning unto salvation in sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth”:

A. God’s salvation includes not only salvation from eternal perdition but God’s full and complete salvation—1 Pet. 1:5:

1 Pet. 1:5—Who are being guarded by the power of God through faith unto a salvation ready to be revealed at the last time;

1. In eternal salvation all the effects, benefits, and issues are of an eternal nature, transcending the conditions and limitations of time—Heb. 5:9.

Heb. 5:9—And having been perfected, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,

2. The full salvation of God is in three stages: the initial stage—the stage of regeneration; the progressing stage—the stage of transformation; and the completing stage—the stage of glorification—1 Cor. 6:11; Rom. 5:10; Phil. 3:21.

1 Cor. 6:11—And these things were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

Rom. 5:10—For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled,

Phil. 3:21—Who will transfigure the body of our humiliation to be conformed to the body of His glory, according to His operation by which He is able even to subject all things to Himself.

3. God’s salvation includes the salvation from many things in our daily life and the salvation of our soul, which will save us from dispensational punishment—1:19, 28; 2:12; Luke 21:36; Rev. 3:10; 1 Thes. 5:9; 1 Pet. 1:9.

Phil. 1:19—For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and *the* bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

Phil. 1:28—And in nothing being frightened by the opposers, which is to them a proof of *their* destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God;

Phil. 2:12—So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only but now much rather in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

Luke 21:36—But be watchful at every time, beseeching that you would prevail to escape all these things which are about to happen and stand before the Son of Man.

Rev. 3:10—Because you have kept the word of My endurance, I also will keep you out of the hour of trial, which is about to come on the whole inhabited earth, to try them who dwell on the earth.

1 Thes. 5:9—For God did not appoint us to wrath but to the obtaining of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Pet. 1:9—Receiving the end of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

B. God's salvation is in sanctification of the Spirit—2 Thes. 2:13:

2 Thes. 2:13—But we ought to thank God always concerning you, brothers beloved of the Lord, because God chose you from the beginning unto salvation in sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth,

1. If we would enjoy and participate in God's complete salvation, we must be in the sanctification of the Spirit.

2. The Spirit dwells in us to sanctify us, to separate us, entirely for God's purpose—1 Thes. 1:6; 4:8; Heb. 12:14.

1 Thes. 1:6—And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction with joy of the Holy Spirit,

1 Thes. 4:8—Consequently, he who rejects, rejects not man but God, who also gives His Holy Spirit to you.

Heb. 12:14—Pursue peace with all men and sanctification, without which no one will see the Lord;

3. God has placed us into the process of sanctification, which is a matter of transformation—1 Thes. 5:23; Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 3:18.

1 Thes. 5:23—And the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rom. 12:2—And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

2 Cor. 3:18—But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

4. "His Holy Spirit" is for making us holy, for making us God in life and nature but not in the Godhead—1 Thes. 4:8; Eph. 1:4.

1 Thes. 4:8—Consequently, he who rejects, rejects not man but God, who also gives His Holy Spirit to you.

Eph. 1:4—Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love,

5. God makes us holy by imparting Himself, the Holy One, into us so that our whole being may be saturated and permeated with His holy nature—1 Pet. 1:15-16.
1 Pet. 1:15-16—But according to the Holy One who called you, you yourselves also be holy in all *your* manner of life; ¹⁶Because it is written, “You shall be holy because I am holy.”
- C. Salvation in sanctification is also in belief of the truth, that is, in the word as the truth; this corresponds to the Lord’s word in John 17:17—cf. 2 Thes. 2:13; Col. 1:5:
John 17:17—Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.
cf. 2 Thes. 2:13—But we ought to thank God always concerning you, brothers beloved of the Lord, because God chose you from the beginning unto salvation in sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth,
Col. 1:5—Because of the hope laid up for you in the heavens, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel,
1. The more we see the truth, the reality, revealed in the New Testament, the more we will experience sanctification—1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Tim. 2:15, 25.
1 Tim. 2:4—Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the full knowledge of the truth.
2 Tim. 2:15—Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, an unashamed workman, cutting straight the word of the truth.
2 Tim. 2:25—In meekness correcting those who oppose, if perhaps God may give them repentance unto the full knowledge of the truth,
 2. To be sanctified in belief of the truth is subjective; this means that God’s salvation in sanctification is carried out in our subjective realization of the truth—John 17:17, 19.
John 17:17—Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.
John 17:19—And for their sake I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.
- D. God has called us in sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth through the gospel “unto the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Thes. 2:14); salvation in sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth is the procedure, and the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ is the goal (Heb. 2:10).
2 Thes. 2:14—To which also He called you through our gospel unto the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Heb. 2:10—For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in leading many sons into glory, to make the Author of their salvation perfect through sufferings.