A Different Take On: Sanctification at the Return of Jesus

The standard theological concept of the sanctification of <u>our whole being</u> (body, soul and spirit) is that it doesn't occur until Jesus returns. Here's where the idea comes from:

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NIV) – May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

That version states that the full sanctification (i.e. finally becoming completely holy) of our being doesn't happen until he returns. In the meantime, the hope is that we keep all our body parts holy. The inference from that being, that if we don't keep <u>our whole self</u> holy, then we'll be sent to Hell following the Great White Throne Judgement.

That message is a supportive foundation for the tenets of Hell, end-time Judgement, end-time Sanctification, and the return of the King, as well as the need to <u>work</u> on ourselves to be holy. It's also a support of the idea that our body is evil and needs to be cleansed sometime 'down the track' so we can enter Heaven.

All those ideas don't fit with what we know about the Kingdom and our life as sons from what Father has been revealing to us. If those ideas didn't come from Father, where did they come from? They've all come from the religious past (Roman Catholicism) and been propagated century after century, right up to today, where they are believed as undeniable spiritual truths by the vast majority of Christians.

However, what we now know is different to all those beliefs because we know Father, his heart of love and what he's taught us over the past 5-10 years.

I want to cover our different perspective on sanctification by using the teaching of others so you can see that it's not just myself who believes differently to Christendom, and why.

The MIRROR translation exposes the error of end-time sanctification very clearly:

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (MIRROR) – There, away from any effort of your own, discover how the God of perfect *peace, who fused you skillfully into oneness - just like a master craftsman would dovetail a carpentry joint - has personally perfected and sanctified the entire harmony of your being without your help. He has restored the detailed default settings. You were re-booted to fully participate in the life of your design, in your spirit, soul and body in blameless innocence in the †immediate presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹

The included commentary to this verse provides some extra information:

"It is not in my "I-used-to-be-ness" or "I'm-trying-to-become-ness", but in my "I-am-ness". The word *eirene, translated peace, refers to the dove-tail joint in carpentry. The word †parousia, suggests immediate presence; see my comment on 1 Thessalonians 2:19."²

Here's the translator's comment on the Greek word parousia which gives us more information:

"The Greek word **parousia**, occurs 24 times in the NT, and 22 times it wrongly implies a 2nd coming or coming judgment. Only twice it is translated as presence.³ Of all the English translations that I have checked, only the Young's Literal has it correct. What a shame that this word has been so dramatically twisted over the years.

In the Greek Septuagint Psalm 138:8 [in the Hebrew Psalm 139] reads, If I make my bed in Hades, your presence already fills it. LXX⁴ - πάρειμι **pareimi** your immediate presence - I am."⁵

His later section in his translation which focuses on parousia is more revealing:

^{1 –} Scripture taken from THE MIRROR. Copyright © 2012. Used by permission of The Author. Mirror Bible www.mirrorword.net

^{2 –} Quote taken from THE MIRROR. Copyright © 2012. Used by permission of The Author. Mirror Bible www.mirrorword.net

^{3 – 2} Corinthians 10:10; Philippians 2:12

^{4 –} Shorthand for Septuagint.

^{5 –} Quote taken from THE MIRROR. Copyright © 2012. Used by permission of The Author. Mirror Bible www.mirrorword.net

"The word parousia speaks of the immediate presence of the Lord. From para, a preposition indicating closest possible proximity; 'Intimate connection', and eimi, 'I am'. There is not even a hint of judgment or punishment in this word. While there are great and accurate definitions in Strongs, please do not believe everything you read there. "G3952 parousia from the Present Participle of G3918 pareimi; a being near, that is, advent; often, return; specifically of Christ to punish Jerusalem, or finally the wicked."!? [This is blatant nonsense. 1"6

That's very different to what we've been taught by Bible teachers and theologians. You see, we're already forgiven from every sin and we're completely holy (sanctified) right NOW. We don't need to wait for the future – such as Jesus supposed return – because he's already done everything. He's even returned already in 70AD and he's currently the King of the cosmos. As it's all been done, we can live in the freedom of the Kingdom every day and enjoy life.8

To provide even more understanding, here's some of what Mike Parsons has taught about the erroneous standard translation of 1 Thessalonians 5:23 that we find in our English Bibles:

"Now this is the problem. If you read this in English in most modern translations it will say, "at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ". But in reality, it doesn't mean 'coming', it means 'presence'. It's not a future thing. It's a present, ongoing thing in our relationship. "A"t the coming is a mistranslation from a futurist perspective. 'At' actually means 'in', 'among' or 'within'. Not at his coming in the future, but in among and within it, now. 'Coming' is better translated (and more accurately translated), 'presence'.

So, our restoration is within the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, now. Not at a future coming event, but now. In the presence of God there is refreshing, according to Acts 3, and that refreshing is so we can breathe easily again. We can take our breath from the spirit, from life."9

When referring to the MIRROR version of 1 Thessalonians 5:23, he states:

"That is relational identity language and that is the language of unconditional love. Amazing." 10

Obviously we've been believing an error. Not only have we been doing it, but countless believers have been doing the same things for millennia.

It's time we understood the Kingdom and spiritual reality from Father's perspective and always according to his heart of grace, mercy and unconditional love. When we do that, we'll live in the knowledge that we're already forgiven and already holy in his sight.

Believe It or Not! The choice is yours

Whatever you choose to believe won't negatively impact Father's relationship with you

Laurence 16-4-2023 (www.CanberraForerunners.org)

COPYRIGHT

This document is **free** to copy, republish and distribute, but only 'as is'. It is free to quote from at length. Cument is **new** to copy, reputition and austribute, but only as is . It is new a quote.

All Canherra Forerunners' documents are licensed under

Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Unported License Quotes are the copyright of their authors.

L.D.Smar

^{6 –} Quote taken from THE MIRROR STUDY BIBLE p:827 Copyright © 2012. Used by permission of The Author.

^{7 –} MESSAGE: "Life in the kingdom now" (21-3-2023) canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/MESSAGE-Life-in-the-kingdom-now-21-3-2023.pdf

^{8 –} MESSAGE: "Life in the kingdom is Fantastic" (7-4-2023) canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/MESSAGE-Life-in-the-kingdom-is-Fantastic-7-4-2023.pdf

^{9 –} TRANSCRIPT: Mike Parsons (16-4-2023) "God-like Beings" youtu.be/bcvkSWIaX0M [2:16-3:13] 10 – TRANSCRIPT: Mike Parsons (16-4-2023) "God-like Beings" youtu.be/bcvkSWIaX0M [4:00-4:07]