

III. THE HOPE OF GLORY!

1st John 3:2-3 (NIV) “Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when He appears, *we shall be like Him*, for we shall see Him as He is.
3 Everyone who has this hope in Him *purifies himself*, just as He is pure.”

Folks, this **IS NOT** all there is!

God has **SOMETHING BETTER** for us!

Hebrews 11:40 (NIV) “God had planned *something better* for us so that only together with us would they (the Old Testament Saints) be made perfect.”

Beloved, God’s Holy Heros of old **ARE COUNTING ON US!** Only in us will they be made perfect!

Hebrews 12:1-3 (NIV) “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

Herein lies our victory.

When sin comes calling, we **ARE NOT** to succumb, but rather to consider.

We are to *consider Jesus*, the author, the one who sustains and the one who will finish of our faith!

“God’s Provision For Holiness!”

1st Corinthians 6:9-11 (NIV) “Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders

10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”

I call your attention to verse 11. Note the words “*washed*,” “*sanctified*” and “*justified*.”

People who want to wholly follow the Lord often asked the question, “*How may I live a life of holiness?*”

The answer is simple—**YOU CAN’T**—apart from the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit, brought about by the new birth!

Christianity **IS NOT** a life *we maintain*; rather it is a life that *God sustains* in us by the Holy Spirit in order that we might be acceptable to Him.

Ephesians 5:25-27 (NIV) “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her

26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,

27 and to present her to Himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.”

Did the church make herself holy? Did the church wash herself with the Word? Did the church make herself without stain, wrinkle or blemish?

The answer is a resounding **NO!** God did all this through the sacrifice of Christ on Calvary’s tree!

The Holy Spirit uses three means of Grace to keep us Holy before God and righteous before our fellow man: He uses the *Word of God*, *The Blood of Christ* and *The Hope of Glory!* First, let's look at:

I. THE WORD OF GOD!

John 17:17-19 (NIV) “Sanctify (Greek *hagiazō*—set apart for sacred use or make holy); **them by the truth; your Word is truth.**

18 As you sent Me into the world, I have sent them into the world.

19 For them I sanctify Myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.”

According to verse 19, who causes us to be sanctified, set apart and holy? That's right! *Jesus!*

So, we are *washed* by the Word. We are *sanctified* by the Word. We are *made holy*, or justified by the Word!

We are sanctified *because Jesus is sanctified!* (Verse 19)

2nd Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV) “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

We **ARE NOT** washed, sanctified and made holy *because we deserve to be or because we have worked for it!*

We **ARE washed**, sanctified and made holy **SO WE CAN DO THE WORK OF GOD!**

As we read, study and hear the Bible preached, *and obey it's teachings*, the Holy Spirit uses the Word *to continue* our sanctification!

Sanctification is then *a process* wrought solely by God and is *past, present and future!*

Titus 2:11-13 (NIV) “For the grace of God that brings salvation *has appeared* (past) to all men.

12 It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, (present)

13 while we wait for the blessed hope--the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, (future)”

So, we **HAVE BEEN** saved, **ARE BEING** saved and **WILL BE** saved!

Somebody needs to shout! Now let's look at:

II. THE BLOOD OF CHRIST!

1st John 1:7 (NIV) “But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, *purifies* (washes, sanctifies and justifies) us from all sin.”

The Spirit of God that lives in every believer *witnesses to the Blood and applies its cleansing power* to our lives moment by moment as we live for Him!

The Blood even *makes allowance* for us because we are still housed in this body of clay! Watch this:

1st John 1:9 (NIV) “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and *will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*”

I tell you today, God **HAS PROVIDED** all we need, past present and future!

1st Peter 1:16 (NIV) for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”

This brings us to God's last provision for us to be Holy:

