

Lesson 6

The Holy Spirit Sanctifies

Bible Lesson: Romans 7:15-25

Memory Verse: "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth." *John 17:17*

Enrichment Memory Verse: For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus. *Philippians 1:6*

Catechism Memory Work: I believe in the Holy Spirit;...

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to Him; But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in the true faith; in like manner as He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth,...

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach:

✝ *To be added later*

Prepare Materials:

Along with the regular materials needed for class, you will need the following items for this lesson:

◆ *to be added later*

1. Pray that the Holy Spirit may have His way in your heart, so that you will be a testimony to your students of His sanctifying work.
2. Pray that your students will see that God wants to do a work of grace in their lives too, that they may become more Christ-like by His grace.
3. Pray that daily confession of sin, forgiveness, and cleansing may be a reality in their lives.

Prayer Preparation

BIBLE BACKGROUND

A. Bible Study

A young couple about to get married will often register for gifts they would like to receive for their wedding. Among those items are often dishes to be used in the new home. The dishes are special because they have been chosen for use by the couple as husband and wife. The dishes are purchased by some friend or family member and given so that they might be enjoyed. In many homes such dishes end up being only used for special occasions.

They are set aside for special use. This is the idea behind the Holy Spirit's work of calling us and making us holy. We are called and set apart for special use. But we should realize that special use doesn't mean that regular or consistent use is excluded. The work of the Holy Spirit is to use us for a special purpose day after day.

We are not set apart and forgotten in some cupboard. The Holy Spirit sets us apart day after day as He does His work of showing us our sins and leading us to repentance. The Holy Spirit uses us who have been set apart to be a blessing and help to those around us.

We live in a day and age in which everything is measured and quantified. Think of the various statistics we find when we explore the world of sports. We track averages and totals, speed and distance, and various goals of all sorts. This is true with the world of finance and investments as well. We can chart accounts as they grow or shrink over time and ratios of price to earnings are scrupulously studied by many.

So then there comes to us this desire to do the same measuring and charting in the Christian life. We try to see how holy we are. We set out to check our rate of growth this year over last year or compare this month's

growth to our neighbors. Such attempts are folly. With all these things comes the regular destinations of despair or pride.

In Matthew 25:37-39 it says, “**Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You *something* to drink? ‘And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? ‘When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’”**

Notice what Jesus says to the believers who have been told that they provided a cup of water when Jesus was thirsty? Food to the hungry? And clothing to the naked? They didn’t know when they did it.

This shows us that we who are trusting in Christ will walk in the good works that Christ has prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:10). We also see that there is no thought to measuring or quantifying the good works. They are done solely for the benefit of those in need; not so that someone can place another notch in their belt or mark another tally on the board. Our Gracious Redeemer, Jesus Christ, sanctifies us that we might be used of Him to bring help, hope, and peace to those around us. Thanks be to God!

B. Creed Study

Jesus had reached a very critical time in His ministry. He realized that His time of suffering and death was very near. Thus He gathered His disciples and He wanted to make sure they knew exactly *who* and *what* He was.

In response to the question of Christ, "Who do *you* say I am?" Peter replied, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Clearly Peter understood who Christ was. That understanding came as a result of the work of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 16:17).

Notice what Jesus said in Matthew 16:18: "I will build My church." Those five short, brief words lay the foundation for understanding what the church is.

1. "I" - When Jesus used that personal pronoun He was declaring that He and He alone is the foundation of the church. The entire fellowship of the church we recognize is built upon the person of Christ.
2. "Will" - Jesus made a prophetic statement when He spoke that word. In the Old Testament, God worked through the nation of Israel. In His new covenant God would work through the church.
3. "Build" - The focus here is upon the *process* involved in Christ building and growing the church. The work of God in calling, establishing and developing the church is a daily, weekly, monthly process. He faithfully works through His Word (even from one generation to the next) to build the kingdom of God.
4. "My" - The church is the personal possession of Jesus Christ. He has purchased the church with His own shed blood on Calvary.
5. "Church" - The basic word for church means "called out ones." We are called out of the world (out of the darkness) and into a personal union with Christ. We are then sent (John 20:19-21) back into the world to represent Christ as Lord and Savior.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome

Enlist the help of early-arriving students in preparing the class space, at the same time visiting with each student to learn what his/her concerns and needs are. If you have cards with memory verses written on them (references on reverse side) invite students to work with others in reviewing memory verses.

Open with Prayer

Briefly discuss with the class what the Holy Spirit does for us, including His work through the means of grace. Ask for sentence prayers of thanks for each of these, one at a time.

Recite Memory Work

Listen to students recite their memory work:

From the Bible: Matthew 26:26-28

And

From the Catechism: I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to Him; But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in the true faith;...

Review

Conduct a quick oral review of last week's lesson. What is a sacrament? (*A sacrament is an act of God in which He uses visible means along with His Word to give invisible gifts.*) What visible means do we use in the Lord's Supper? (*bread and wine*)

More questions to be added later.

Introduce Wall Words

sanctified—
intend—
sanctification—
process—
eventually—
assure—

Introduce the Lesson

To be added later.

Teach the Lesson

To be added later.

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Memory Work

BIBLE VERSE— John 17:17

“Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.”

CATECHISM—READ

I believe in the Holy Spirit...

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to Him; But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in the true faith; in like manner as He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth...

Activity Pages

Activity 1 - Check Your Memory

ANSWERS

REASON, STRENGTH, LORD, HOLY, SPIRIT, GOSPEL, GIFTS, SANCTIFIED, FAITH, CALLS, ENLIGHTENS, CHURCH

Activity 2 - True or False

ANSWERS

1. F (holy)
2. T
3. F (life-time)
4. F (every part)
5. T
6. F (righteous)
7. F (all)
8. T

CLOSING THE LESSON

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You for giving us Your Holy Spirit to sanctify us. Thank You for showing us our sins. We confess them to You now, while we are quiet. Forgive our sins because Jesus died for us and we accept His gift of salvation. Make us more like Jesus. Help those who don't trust You as Savior to see their sins, and confess them to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Assignment

1. Challenge your students to complete any unfinished activities and work on the memory passage.
2. Ask the students to bring finished pages to be checked and acknowledged along with the memory work.