

SALVATION CALLS FOR SANCTIFICATION

Man's eyes need to be opened so that he sees himself through the penetrating viewpoint of God, through the lenses of the Gospel. God sent His Lamb, His Son Jesus to take away *"the sin of the world"* (John 1:36). He is the Savior of all men (John 4:42). You and I need saving because we are lost due to our sins.

There is a dangerous lie that many people believe about themselves, and that is: they are not lost. They don't see themselves as lost; they don't know they are lost. Many admit they are sinners, but go on believing the lie that they can be saved and continue to practice their sins. This spiritual blindness inflicts both unbelievers and believers. For example, the Christians composing the church in Laodicea failed to see that they were *"wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked"* and thus needed to *"be zealous and repent"* (Revelation 3:17, 19).

Jesus' gift of salvation is also a call to be sanctified in Christ. Sanctification is a determination to live in such a manner that reflects a changed life that is consecrated and devoted to Christ's way, to His teaching. A Christian's daily behavior ought to show that he set himself apart from the world with its sin for his Savior. The believer who calls on the name of the Lord to be saved is sanctified in Christ, and his new calling is to be a saint (1 Corinthians 1:2).

A spiritual death and burial occurs when a believer is baptized into Christ and raised to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4). That new life is to be one of a saint. What does that entail? No longer continue in deeds of unrighteousness. *"Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God."* (1 Corinthians 6:9-10). Refrain from talking improperly – *"... there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting"* (Ephesians 5:3). Do not engage in lustful passions. *"For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passion"* (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5). You cannot be saved without also answering and implementing the Lord's call to walk in the sphere of God-purposed sanctification.