

G R O W

Get focused, Read, Observation, Worship

Your Sanctification – Romans 6:22

Do you or your family have special dish sets? Maybe it's a China set that's only used for special occasions or maybe it's Christmas plates. The idea is that those plates, bowls, etc. are special; they are different from other dish sets. They have a special use and special purpose. The Bible calls us to sanctification, where our lives are meant to be set apart for divine use and purpose. It's not about being perfect, but it's about being consecrated to the Lord.

GET FOCUSED

What helps you focus? Remember our goal is to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (**2 Peter 3:18**). So, take a few moments to quiet your heart and mind, to silence any distractions, and to focus in on this time with God.

READ

Devotionals like this can be helpful for our growth. They help guide us through the scripture and teach us how to study the Word. But don't just rely on the commentary or summary of Bible verses; take time to look them up and read them to let God's Word do its work.

OBSERVATION (COMB through the text)

In addition to reading our main verse, read the verses around it to understand the **context**, to understand how it fits within the larger narrative. We see that everyone is a slave to something (**v16**), what we give our lives to and obey is our master. Being a slave to sin only leads to death (**v21**). But God gives us a way to eternal life through Jesus (**v23**), so we must be a slave to God, which is seen in sanctification.

Now, let's **observe** the key words and phrases, what stands out to you? What words are important to understanding the message? Some key words/phrases are: set free from sin, slaves of God, fruit, leads to sanctification, and eternal life.

Next we want to study these words and phrase to understand their **meaning**. There are many tools that help us understand meaning: study Bibles, Bible dictionaries, commentaries, and more. One free online resource is net.bible.org; it's an online study Bible and more.

It is important to understand that we have been set free from sin. Sin was our master and its end was death, but Jesus free us from the penalty and power of sin. Jesus' death on the cross was sufficient to pay for the penalty of sin, so that we can be completely forgiven. And when we give our lives to Jesus, dying to sin and self, we are freed from the power of sin (**v5-11**). And now we are slaves to God, where God is our master. Instead of death, we now have eternal life. But the other reality of being a slave to God is sanctification.

Fruit is the outward evidence of an inward reality. If we are slaves to sin, this is seen in our disobedience to God. If we are slaves to God, this will be seen in sanctification. Sanctification means to be consecrated, set apart and dedicated for special purpose. Just like fine china is set apart for special occasions, our lives are set apart for God's use. Sanctification means that we look at our lives differently. We now ask ourselves how we can glorify God and advance God's purposes in all aspects of our lives: family, work, social, etc. To know God's purposes for our lives, we must spend time in His Word; this is what Jesus prayed for us in **John 17:17**, that we would be sanctified by God's Word. Sanctification also involves purifying ourselves (**2 Cor. 7:1**). In fact, **1 Thess. 4:3** makes it clear that it's God will that we sanctify ourselves and avoid impurities. If our lives are consecrated to God, if we want our lives to count for God's kingdom, then we must be careful to deal with sin and anything else that would inhibit us (**Hebrews 12:1**). Remember, this is not about meriting ourselves before God or earning God's favor. All in Christ are already made righteous (**2 Cor. 5:21**). Rather, we know that sin gets in the way of God's purpose for our lives, so we deal with it so that we can make the most of our lives for God. Of course, this is a lifelong pursuit, where we continually grow in our sanctification.

So, what's the **bottom-line**, how would you sum all this up? We could say, "because of Jesus' saving work, my life is consecrated for Him."

WORSHIP

To grow, we must end with worship, where we consider how to live all this out. What we worship is more clearly seen in how we live than what we sing. So, take a few moments to start meditating on what this scripture means for your life. Perhaps there is some sin that needs to be dealt with, so that it would get in the way of your sanctification. Perhaps you need to consider how to use the various parts of your life for the Lord: work, family, social, etc. Certainly spend some time thanking God for freeing you from sin, both its penalty and its power.