

WOVEN LADIES' MINISTRY



the God

JESUS

who is to come

SPRING 2022 LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

Jesus Christ

He Who Sanctifies

Lesson 7

Be holy, as I AM holy

Have you ever wished you could know the exact will of God for your life? There have been certain decisions, important crossroads in my life, when seeking the Lord for His answer became such a central focus, that I was sure I would not survive unless He showed me what to do. I remember one time sitting at the beach and watching one of those for-hire planes with a giant banner advertising some phone number just above the sea. The thought came in, "If only God's direction for my life was that clear." Just like the waves on the shore, this longing seemed to come out of nowhere and was gone just as quickly at His kind correction: "My Word is that clear." His simple redirection of my thoughts led me to pray and to ask forgiveness for doubting whether He could reveal Himself to me personally. It was a realization that I needed to seek His face more diligently through daily Bible reading.

How clear is His word? Scripture records three specific instances where we're told "this is the will of God:" a) that by *doing good* you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men (1 Peter 2:15), b) to *give thanks* in everything (1 Thessalonians 5:18), and c) your *sanctification* (1 Thessalonians 4:3)

God cares about you! His Word continually assures that He has a plan and a purpose for your life. Don't know where to start? Pray and commit to be who He has called you to be, and that is *holy*. (1 Peter 1:15-16)

Day 1 of 3

Pray and Read Acts 20:17-38

1. Paul's addresses the Ephesian elders summarizing the work that the Lord has done through his ministry to be an example and to exhort the believers after his departure. What was Paul's example? (vs 18-21)? How might it serve as an exhortation for the believers?
2. The Spirit impressed upon Paul warning of what was to take place after his departure. What was Paul's concern for the church (vs 28-30)?

What did the Lord call the elders to do as a result of this impending danger?

3. The last lesson focused on Christ as the Head of the Body, the church. How should the truth that Christ purchased the church with His blood result in a believer desiring sanctification?

Personal Application: Reread verse 32. Paul commends the church to God and to the word of grace. How are you allowing the word of grace to grow you in sanctification?

Day 2 of 3

Pray and Read 2 Peter 3:10-18

1. As Peter writes to the church about the coming of Christ, he addresses the believers' character. "What manner" in the original Greek is one word, meaning: "from what country, nation or tribe" or "of what sort or quality." As His return draws near, the very core of a believer's identity is affected. Why should a believer allow the promise of Christ's return to shape her character and identity?

The same word "what manner" is also found in 1 John 3:1. Read this verse. How does knowing God's love for us strengthen us to live in this fallen world?

2. Peter goes on to remind the church of the sufferings of Christ. What are some of the sufferings of Christ? How should His sufferings cause a believer to desire the work of sanctification in her life?
3. With what warning does this chapter end? (vs. 17) How is this prevented? (vs. 18)

Personal Application: Grace and knowledge of God grow together in sanctification. Allow the Lord to examine your heart. How can you grow in grace? How can you grow in the knowledge of God?

Day 3 of 3

Pray and Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-18

1. What is the first command in this chapter?

This means that Christian maturity is never finished on this side of eternity. No matter how far a Christian has come in love and holiness, he or she can still abound more and more.
-David Guzik

What dangers does a believer face if she does not continue to abound more and more?

2. The Lord has called every believer to a life of holiness. Paul continues this thought by speaking of the believers' love for one another. How is a life of holiness the most loving way a person can live?

The world lies saying that a loving person must tolerate and accept another's view and behaviors regardless of how immoral they may be. How do verses 3-8 combat that lie?

3. Reread verses 11-12. What are the commands? What is the promise?

Commands				
Promise				

4. Paul addresses that sorrowing without hope for a believer is the result of ignorance. How does knowing the Lord lead to hope even in sorrow?
5. When a believer holds onto the promise of the rapture she grows in her desire to be sanctified, hopes in the Lord even through sorrow, and comforts other believers with the truth. How does knowing Christ may return at any moment stir up sanctification, hope, and comfort?

Personal Application: The sanctification of the disciple is a preparation for the coming of the Lord. Paul closes this first epistles to the Thessalonians: "The very God of peace sanctify you wholly, and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (5:23). Sanctification is a spiritual work that affects the whole person including the soul (emotions, thoughts) and the body (impulses, behaviors). Ponder upon these areas in your life. What do you sense the Lord is asking you to surrender to His sanctification in your spirit? In your soul? In your body?

Worship the Lord as His grace washes over you. Entrust all these things to Jesus!

When I pray, "Lord, show me what sanctification means for me," He will show me. It means being made one with Jesus. Sanctification is not something Jesus puts in me— it is Himself in me.

-Oswald Chambers

Jesus Christ

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Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.