

SPRING 2024

TIDINGS

CHRIST'S SANCTIFIED HOLY CHURCH

Value in Relationship

There are a lot of people who have no relationship with God yet their lives seem successful and fulfilling. They have good jobs, good health, nice homes, nice cars, take wonderful vacations (that they are sure to brag about on IG and FB) and seemingly have no cares in the world.

It would be easy for anyone in that kind of situation to feel like they are elite, that they are special. The world refers to some folks as "top 1%" or "top 5%", referring to their wealth and assets.

But Jesus said *"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"* (Matthew 16:26)

There is no situation in life that is not improved by you being sanctified. Good times or trying times. In blessings or in loss. With worldly gain or with poverty. In robust health or with sickness and disease. With family blessings or with family tensions. Whatever situation you are in, it's better to be sanctified! The Bible says *"The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it."* (Proverbs 10:22)

If you have been sanctified by the Holy Ghost (Romans 15:16), you are among the most blessed people on the face of the earth. You are God's called child. You are living for Him and are working to fulfill His purpose for your life. Blessings will come on you and overtake you (Deuteronomy 28:2) in everything that you do.

If you have been sanctified by the Holy Ghost, you have also been called to be an active part of the church. Christ didn't suffer, die and rise from the dead so you can serve Him in a vacuum, all alone. Christ *"loved the church, and gave himself for it."* (Ephesians 5:25) This same passage of scripture explains how a man leaves his parents and is joined unto his wife and *"they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church."* (Eph. 5:31-32)

This is telling us that we leave the world behind and become joined to the church, the bride of Christ, when we become sanctified. We're not allowed to love Christ, the groom, and ignore his wife, the church. There may be things that God calls us to do as individuals that are outside the walls of the church - that's evangelism! But wherever God sends you, whatever He asks or calls you to do, when it's over the church is still there, waiting for you to give yourself to it. Jesus said *"It is more blessed to give than to receive."* (Acts 20:35)

Your church attendance is vital to your spiritual health. In fact, often it's a barometer of how healthy you are in Christ. If your prayer life and Bible reading and personal evangelism are strong, your desire to meet together with God's saints will be as natural as breathing.

The church needs you. It needs "your presence and your presents", as Bro. Dorris Dameron used to say. It needs your enthusiasm. It needs your encouragement. It needs your input. It needs your fellowship.

"Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you."

John 5:15

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"I have set the Lord always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope. For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."

Psalms 16:8 - 11

When you isolate or stay away from church, you are robbing yourself of blessings, you are robbing your brothers and sisters of blessings, and you are robbing God. *"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings."* (Malachi 3:8)

Your attendance and participation in church is an offering to God. You are giving of your time, your energy, your mind and your help. Anything less is robbing God - He says so!

The answer is in the 10th verse of Malachi 3 - *"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in my house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."*

If we want revival, we need to be revived inwardly first. David said *"Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?"* (Psalm 85:6) Revival can only come with committed souls.

Look inwardly - be honest with yourself - it's time to commit yourself to the bride of Christ, His church. Shake off everything that is keeping you away. Career, hobbies, family commitments, past hurt feelings, spiritual complacency - put them in their proper priority - put them after God's call for you to be an active part of His church - and you will experience Malachi 3:10!

Bro. Gary Collier



From the Archives:



This excerpt is from a sermon preached by Bro. John Miller at the 1944 Campmeeting. Full sermon available here:
(<https://www.tidingsnewsletter.org/s/JohnMillerSermonSecondComing.pdf>)

He came into the world that the people might have eternal life. Did He finish His work or does He have to come back to do something over again? What is the object in coming back? Is it unfinished? No. He said it was finished. If it's finished, He doesn't have to come back to finish it then! This coming of Jesus was told by the angels, spoken of by prophets, and recorded in the Bible. It tells us what's going to happen. In that day there was to be a fountain opened in the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness. Is it opened? Yes, sinner friend, if you're here tonight, the fountain lies open. It was for sin and uncleanness. The way to get rid of sin is to get rid of uncleanness. *"Behold the Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world"* (John 1:29). The reason today that professed people are making a failure of serving God is that they're trying to do away with sin without doing away with sins! But the gospel of holiness tells us that the bad tree is to be taken out of way, burned, destroyed. Sin is a nature that we inherit from the fall of our foreparents. People have made a failure by trying to hold it down; but Paul says it must be destroyed, crucified! One prophet told how that *"in that day He will pour out His spirit upon all flesh..."* (Joel 2:28). We've caught up with that day!

When we feel the need of Christ, that's when we get Him. You won't get Him until you feel the need of Him! *"Yet a little while and the world seeth me no more"* (John 14:19). Can we believe that?

"Because I live, ye shall live also. I am in my Father, and Ye in me and I in you" (John 14:19-20). I want to say, if you ever get Christ, it will be when you're looking for Him to come in the spirit! He said, "I am standing at the door, I am knocking." He's not where He wants to be, He wants you to let Him in.

-Bro. John Miller

Invisible Fence

About a month or so ago we took a family walk in the neighborhood, we were all getting over being sick and the kids were eager to get out of the house. As we headed out we walked by a house with a pretty large dog and an invisible fence. My son Ezra was walking ahead with me and as we approached the dog came running up to us. Immediately Ezra retreated. At that moment I made an unhelpful comment, to the likes of "It is fine buddy, there is an invisible fence it won't get you". That didn't work as he remained skeptical, but then after some coaching he was fine. When the walk ended, I thought about it more. My first instinct was to tell him about the invisible fence, but explaining that to a 3 year old is a little difficult. He trusted me to keep him from that dog and he knew if he stood

close to me he would be fine, what faith he had in that situation. It reminded me of several scriptures; one that came to mind is the story when there was a great storm and Jesus was asleep on the ship. The scripture said "*And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?*" (Matthew 8:24-26) The disciples showed great doubt and even questioned Jesus, though I am not too surprised by that. In that moment, just like the disciples, my son had to trust me with something that was invisible. We also read

when Peter was walking on the water and took his eyes off of Jesus for a minute and began to sink. When reading these passages the question arises, do you trust Jesus enough where you can't see, regardless whether the situation may be good or bad? Even if things don't make sense, will you keep your eyes on Him? Why not trust the man who speaks and the winds and sea obey Him? A song that comes to mind says "You won't leave me in the shadows, won't forsake me in the hurt, you might walk me through the valley but you won't leave me in the dirt. When you're the God who got me this far you won't leave me half-way there." (from the song "So Help Me God by writers Benjamin William Hastings and Hank Bentley)

We serve an awesome God, the creator of the universe. Trusting in Him where we cannot see is necessary to continue our walk with Him. If we continue to follow him and be obedient to His will He won't forsake us and He will lead us through.

-Bro. Matt Collins



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“Thou gavest also thy good spirit to instruct them, and withheldest not thy manna from their mouth, and gavest them water for their thirst.”

Nehemiah 9:20