

had to go to the doctor and get it dressed. Then he thought of something and said to himself, "I haven't cursed in three days." God saved him and gave him a new heart. All the drinking and cursing became a thing of the past. He became a new man in Christ Jesus. The child of God, the Christian, a saved Christian is a changed person. He's a different man, a different individual. I expound this question to you - Are you a saved Christian

I. Separated Person +

A saved Christian is one who is separated from the things of this world. We ought to be able to see in a saved person a different kind of life. He ought to be different from the rest of the world.

Why is it today that the church doesn't have the power she ought to have? It is because our church members are not separated from the world. You can't tell them from anybody else. They go to the same places that the sinners do; they do the same things; and they talk the same way. And the world will never know that they belong to Christ until the world comes to see a difference in their lives.

Jesus said that we are to be in the world but (not of) the world. And walking along one day he pointed his finger at a lily and said, "Solomon in all his glory was never arrayed like one of these." You've seen a lily growing in the milk and the mire of the swamp. But it lifts its head above its environment

Introduction

I think today a companion sermon to the question we expounded last Sunday - Are you a Nominal Christian? Today we come to expound the subject are you a saved Christian? Which brings us to the heart of the subject. Who really is a child of God? Who are the children of God? Too many people today talk about the (fatherhood) of God. They declare that every person in the world is a child of God. Now the Bible doesn't teach that. It plainly tells us that some people are the children of the devil. It also plainly tells us how to become children of God. It is true that all of us are (creatures of God) He created us. But that doesn't make us his children. Because God created cows and horses and dogs but they are not his children.

We must see the outset of this message that Jesus was talking to a group of unbelievers in John 8:44 and he tells them that they are children of the devil. But when he speaks in John 1:12, "As many as received Him to them gave He power to become the sons of God." Now if everyone is already a child of God, it would not be necessary for them to do something to become the children of God. So the Bible teaches us that we must receive Christ Jesus as Saviour.

When Jesus came into the world, the world was lost. And if the world had continued on that course it would be in the

same state today. When a man comes into this world today he is lost. He is on his way to eternal death. But something happens. He meets Christ and has apersonal experience. He is repented of his sins and trusts Christ for time and eternity.

You remember when the prominent man, Nicodemus, a man of position, a man of power, a man of the Sanhedren. But he was not happy. Life held no joy and no peace for him. He was reaching out for something that satisfied and never finding it. Then he heard some wonderful thing about Jesus. So when he learned that Jesus was in town, he slipped to see him under the cover of darkness and poured out his heart to the Saviour. And Jesus looked deep down into that heart and said to him, "Nicodemus, you must be born again. You cannot see the kingdom of God unless you have been born again."

After the conversation, a few verses down, you learn how to be born again. For you read, "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness even so must the son of man be lifted up. And whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have eternal life." And then you read those wonderful words, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Jesus then said, "He that believeth on Him is not condemned but he that believeth not is condemned already because he hath

not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

Paul and Silas sang and prayed in the jail at Phillippi. God sent an earthquake to shake the world and they were released from their bonds. The Philippian jailer, falling before them, cried out, "What must I do to be saved?" Paul answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved," The children of God has done that. Therefore he is a saved individual.

A saved man, the child of God, is a (different man). As was illustrated in the life of a man in Springfield, Missouri. Who was a cursing, wiskey-drinking, unconverted church member. He was in the feed business. A good Christian man came and bought feed for his cattle from this man so that he could talk to him about his soul. Instead of buying enough feed for a week, he bought just enough for a day or two at a time. Which gave him an extra opportunity to talk to this man. The man who owned the store business of course wanted the business and he let the Christian man come every day. For three months and talk to him. Finally the lost man got under conviction and at 5:00 in the morning in his store, he fell on (his knees) and prayed, "Lord, I can't promise you anything. I promised my wife that I would quit drinking and quit cursing but I couldn't quit. However, my friend tells me that you can give a man a new heart. I certainly need one. This old heart of mine is full of sin. Please give me a new heart." (three days) later he mashed his finger and

confidence in God's word, we need to put emphasis on the fact that if we are saved Christians we are going to be separated men and women unto God.

II. Serving Persons +

A saved Christian is one who is a servant person and who is situated in his church. Just saying I am a Christian and that settles it. But Christ saved me, therefore, I will go into his church and go to work for him. Now that church that takes the Bible and practices belief of the New Testament is the one that I want to be attached to. And a saved Christian is one who is a servant Christian. Too many times we have been busy with this and that and the disciples of Christ have paid little attention to the church membership. Salvation is a word of action. And being a Christian is something that ought to be progressive action. Which will continue indefinitely. Every Christian has been saved to work and to serve. And you should continue to serve. That is somebody has said that every time a new convert is made, there should be a new church member, there ought to be a new tither, a new Sunday school member, a new Training Union member, Brotherhood or WMU member, and a nother person to attend all the worship service of the church.

The membership of most churches could be analyzed under several classifications. There are three kinds: the self-conscious who have no clothes, the self-sufficient who have

and shines forth in all the glory and beauty of a wonderful flower. It must be that way with a Christian. They must lift their heads and their hearts and their lives above the world.

A man said to Mr. Moody "Now that I am converted, do I have to give up the world?" And Mr. Moody answered, "No, you give a winning testimony for Christ and the world will give you up." They will not want you.

Many people have an idea that if they are separated from dancing or playing cards, going to shows that they can boast of their separation. But this separation goes a little deeper than that. It means not only physical separation but it means spiritual separation. There are people who will shout and say amen when you preach on worldly practices. But yet some of them will show a mean and ugly spirit in their lives. That means their separation is more physical than it is spiritual. A child of God is one who lives a separated life. Are you a saved Christian?

We are thinking together of the place of the word of God in the life of holiness. Let us consider a word from the lips of our Lord on the sanctifying power of the word, of God in John 17. Jesus spoke of sanctification. He did say that the temple sanctified the gift. And so on. But in this great prayer, he says, "Father, sanctify them in the truth. Thy word is truth." (17:17). In the passage "Be ye holy for I am

holy, saith the Lord", the great word for holy is the adjective of which this word sanctify is the verb. So we can really say that our Lord prayed, "Make them holy in thy truth. Thy word is truth."

And if we get the truth of what it means to be sanctified or holy, it means exactly what we're talking about. In the Old Testament the word translated to sanctified means to cut off, to separate. And thus to dedicate for a solemn purpose. In Leviticus 27, we get an understanding of this word because we can be so vague on this matter of sanctification which some may think that it means just to give up, eliminate strong drink, or to be pious or something of that sort. In verse 14 it says, "And when a man shall sanctify his (house) to be holy unto the Lord, then the priest shall estimate it whether it be good or bad." In verse 16, "And if a man shall sanctify unto the Lord some part of his (field) or his possession! Or in verse 26, "Only the first things of the (beast)" and in verse 28 "that he shall give the devoted thing unto God." This means to dedicate or to separate a house, a field, a beast, and last to separate men unto the Lord. That is the first meaning. (It belongs to him.) Then that which was common, a field was common, a house was just an ordinary house, a beast was just an ordinary beast. That which was common and is then devoted and yielded to God as a man or a woman partakes of a new life. That to which the

man or woman is dedicated. That is he is not only separated but he is living a new kind of life.

1 Peter 2:9 gives a definition, "Ye are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession." "Separate, that ye may show forth the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light, who in times past were not a people; but are now the people of God."

The message would be "I beseech you as pilgrims, separated to God, to abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." We are separated, we are partakers of the new life. We belong to God. Thus, we are to live for God. Sanctification is setting apart and something more. It means that the washing by sacrifice, by sprinkling with blood, a thing loses its common character. A thing or a man loses its common character which it possesses in common with other things or men. And has been given a new character so that it now lives in this new condition.

Not only are we to be (separated) that is, (positional). But there is also something (experimental) here. We have the basis for this word in the prayer of our Lord, "Sanctify them through thy truth." The need of separation can be found here in John 17:11 "I am no more in the world, and those who are in the world and I came to thee." In this day when there are so many compromises and a weakening of our Christian faith, and a loss of

reasonable responsibilities as church members. But God threw a block in our way and made it impossible for us to do what we know he wanted us to do and is pleading with us to do. The whole situation adds up to exactly nothing.

The plain fact is, that we once asked a congregation of church members to receive us into membership and they did. That very action implied a recognition of and pledge to accept a definite responsibility in the life of the church. The weather has nothing to do with it. It neither cancels nor reduces the responsibility. We are as much members of our church in foul weather as in fair. On hot Sundays, as well as on cold. During the week as well as on Sunday. We are members in the day time as well as at night.

The responsibilities of church members are never to be measured by the calendar or by a thermometer.

One of the laws of God which many of us overlook is the fact that those gifts of God which we do not use we lose. A visitor in a workshop noticed a magnet hanging over a work-bench which was loaded with various tools and weights. Looking at the owner of the shop, he asked, "What in the world are you doing with that magnet?" The owner replied, "I am loading it up." He added that so long as it was merely lying on the table doing nothing, it was losing its power. But that when he gave it something to do, it began to gain strength. The more work that

plenty of money and do not need the church; the self-deceived, who think that they are too busy to become active members of the church. Someone else has classified the division of church members in reference to their service in these terms: first, the growing in grace member who is faithful, dependable and loyal to the total program of the church. Daily he is becoming a stronger Christian as he grows in grace.

Second, the contemporary member who lives by the standards of his associates. He lives on no lower and yet no higher than the crowd with whom he associates. He drifts with what is current and popular. *No Back Bone of his own*

Third, the difficult group which contains those who are Flagrant sinners who seek to hide their true nature and conduct from the church. They attempt to work themselves into responsible positions of the church. Not in order to serve but to sever the fellowship of the church. It is this group which causes most of our problems and its members are perpetually hindering the program of God.

The fourth group is a problem group. They're sinners and know it. They want to find the solution to their problem and find the power to victorious living.

Fifth, there is a group that consists of the troubled, the economic, social and domestic problems of divorce and discouragement which plagues them.

Sixth, there is a group that consists of the down and out. And they have no interest in the community.

Some pastor has said that a businessman told him that there was every businessman was supposed to have at least one ulcer because of the labor problem, the keen competition, the high overhead and several other things. Then he said if that be true, suppose that man had to oversee of a thousand workers (about the membership of a church). And suppose that only 50% of them every showed up for work at any one time. And of the other 50% only about half of them with any degree of regularity. And suppose that only one out of every 5 of your workers showed up after lunch, like the evening service. And every time one of them had a slight headache or company to visit them, they took off that day. And every time it thundered or even a slight flash of lightning appeared in the sky, 75% of your workers pulled the cover over their heads and never appeared for duty that day. Suppose your workers only worked when they felt like it. And still you must be sweet and never fire one of them. To get them to work, you beg them, plead with them, pat them on the head, pet them, tickle them under the chin, and use every means under the sun to try to get them to do the work. And suppose you were in (competition) with a notorious rascal, the devil, who had no scruples and was far more clever than you were and used such attractions as a fishing rod, a soft pillow, TV

programs, carnivals, movies, ballgames, parties, pleasure-driving and a thousand and one other things to hurt your business. Suppose your firm was heavily obligated to meet certain financial responsibilities and you had to depend upon your people to give as they felt led to carry out the biggest business in the world. So you think you have ulcers, Mr. Businessman, you ought to be in the shoes of a preacher for awhile. And he said that Southern Baptists are undertaking a tragic loss of human manpower that could be used for the glory of God.

It was Lawson Cook who said, "We talk a lot about water, but stay at home when it rains. We sing, let the blessed sunshine in, but do not go to church because it is too hot. Many of us are not even fair-weather Baptists because we are called because when the weather is fair, we go fishing or golfing. On a rainy Sunday when the congregation is somewhat thin, the preacher will thank us for coming to church and then will alibi thusly: This is splendid congregation considering the weather." Now what's the connection here? We will all go to work Monday morning through the pouring rain and the boss isn't going to thank us for coming. He will fire us if we don't.

We have made (church attendance) too much a matter of comfort and convenience. We excuse ourselves and others through providential hinderances. The (implication) being that God deliberately hinders us. We really wanted to go to church and accept our

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And again the reply, "It is not there." That is funny - where is the Bible? After several of the children had sought in different directions one chipped in with a word of knowledge and said, "It is in the tool box in the workshed." And the Bible was found there along with linaments and things used for beasts and lambs. The book that could save their souls and that came from God was in a woodshed in a tool box and that is what modern man is doing with the word of God. And some Christians. We're keeping the Bible closed and locked in a woodshed or someplace. And without it, we shall not have the separated life and serving life and sacrificing life that we ought to have.

Uncounted numbers of early Christians paid with their lives for this privilege. Ignatius of Antioch, on his way to Rome to be devoured by wild beasts, wrote a letter from Smyrna, "Now I begin to be a disciple. Let fire and the cross; let the company of wild beasts; let breaking of bones and tearing of limbs; let the grinding of the whole body; and all the malice of the devil come upon me. Be it so only may I win Christ." Even as he heard the roaring of the lions he said, "I am the wheat of Christ. I am going to be ground with the teeth of wild beasts that I may be found pure bread."

Must I be carried to the skies on flowery beds of ease?

While others fought to win the prize, and sailed through

bloody seas.

was added, the stronger it became.

False Christians of today need to learn that if they're saved it will never be a test of their strength. They must face the struggle, the difficulty, the hardship, and work.

Dr. George W. Truitt told of the father who kept giving his son increasingly difficult tasks. When the boy asked the father why, he kept giving him harder things to do, the father reportedly replied, "Son, life is like that. Life is like that."

Saved Christians ought to be serving Christians through the church.

However, there are some who remind us of the letter of recommendation written by a certain man. Another man wanted a gardener and asked this man to write him a recommendation of John Smith. And here's what the man wrote. "John Smith has an excellent knowledge of gardening. He knows about the chemistry of the soil. He knows just what and when to plant. He knows how to cultivate the finest flowers. And make the garden a thing of beauty." When the man read this letter, he said "Why, that's just the man I want." However, at the bottom of the page it ruined everything. He had written at the bottom of the page, "But he won't." Now we have hundreds of church members who could do a mighty work for the Lord. The trouble is that they won't. They're either too lazy, too indifferent, too worldly or too disinterested. But the saved child of God ought

to be one who is serving through his church.

III. Sacrificing

A saved Christian is one who will have a conviction under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Dare to be a Daniel, dare to stand alone, dare to have a purpose true, and dare to make it known. The functions of the church on Sunday. There should be a conviction that my church needs me and that I can't be without it. I must be sacrificing to attend the services of my church.

I must be sacrificing to make a contribution to my church. When you learn to practice God's way of giving, you don't have to worry about the matter anymore. Just give God his tithe, the tenth and if possible, an offering over and above. Then everything is settled. Then, as a child of God, you have come to the place when you go beyond a sacrificial giving for the cause of Jesus Christ.

As a businessman once summed it up for a newspaper, "If I allow my payments to the church to lapse for four or more Sundays, I began to question the sincerity of the men in the front pews. If I permit my payments to get three months in arrears I find fault with the preacher. If I neglect my obligation to the extent that I owe on my pledge for a large part of the year, I begin to suspect that the church spends too much money. Its officials are hypocrites and everything is wrong in proportion

It all brings to mind the saying of an old deacon,

"Preaching that ain't paid for don't sound good."

That may seem strange, but how true it is. People who fail to pay God his rightful proportion are people who can find the biggest flaws in the church. We need to come and sacrifice and be sincere about this.

If its in your heart then there is (no mixture) of hypocrisy in your soul. Many times we find that older people will be saying, "Oh, you get somebody else. You get somebody younger in that place," And they're not sincere about it at all. They just waiting the chance to sit down and drop out of church. Or either to say, "Oh, isn't it a shame to take so and so out of that job. He's served so faithfully and for so many years." Saved Christians sacrifice, not only in contributing but in preserving the word of God. The Bible is a real book to them to live by. Which reminds me of what Dr. Robert Lee once said when he was president of the Baptist World Alliance. And he said that when he was a young preacher up in the mountains of Tennessee one night he stopped by a log cabin where there were 12 children. After supper he said, "Before we go to bed we should have family prayer and read the Bible. Would you get a Bible?" The mother said sonny go to the living room and get the Bible. The boy returned and said, "Mother it is not there." "Sylvia, go upstairs to the bedroom and bring down the Bible."

solid as heaven itself. You and I are not very much or very good or very strong but Christ is such a great Saviour that he is able to save us and to give us security. Chaplain in World War II went through many hardships. And he rejoiced greatly when the war was over. He said that he boarded a plane in France and immediately went to sleep. When he waked up he was back in America. When a Christian goes to sleep in death, he is safe in the arms of Jesus and he wakes up in heaven.

Are you a child of God? If not, you can become a child and a saved Christian. Even today, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Tomorrow could be too late.

A Christian man once stopped in Dallas for a stop-over of a couple hours. He went to see a friend in the hospital who was sick. He urged his friend to receive Christ. "No", he says.

"Come back by on your return trip and I will settle the matter."

"But you are a very sick man," said the Christian. "Why not take my Saviour now?" "Oh," said the man, "I'll be alright in

a few days." The Christian man saw that he could not do anything with his friend so he continued on his journey. And when he reached his destination he recieved a telegram. He died 5 minutes after you left. That could happen to you. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons

of God." Will you not receive him now? Are you a saved Christian? Are all of these characteristics which we have

saved Christian? It means that he is owner and master of your life. A dead Christ is so convenient. But here is a living Christ. And the Lordship of Christ would solve all of our problems. It would solve the problem of church attendance. For the saved Christian who submits himself to the Jesus as Lord will not forsake the assembling of himself together. It will solve the problem of Christian conduct. For whatever is done in word or deed will be done for Christ's glory. It will solve the problem of stewardship. For Jesus will truly be Lord of all. It will solve the problem of missions and evangelism. For the Great Commission will be the marching orders of every Christian. It will solve the problem of cooperation. For we shall truly be fellow-laborers belonging to God. Should we not rather speak of every church acting in this way?

IV. Sweet +

A converted and saved Christian is one that is known as a sweet person. I wonder if you are surprised that I should say this. Some people are fine church members. They attend church regularly, they serve in some position, they pay their tithe, but they lack the sweetness of the spirit which Jesus had and which they ought to have.

When the writers set about to describe the Christians of the first century, what did they say about them? We read that

first of all they took note of them that they had been with Jesus. Now if you are grouchy and irritable, I wonder if you think you are going to cause somebody else to think of Jesus Christ. Of course not.

Inside the capital dome are a number of angels were painted. And when the artist first painted these angels the committee said to him, "Your form and color are alright. But the faces of the angels lack spirituality." He painted the angel agains and again and he received the same criticism. Finally it began to dawn on him that in order to get spirituality into the faces of the angels, he must first have it in his own heart. He sought the Lord with all of his heart and God saved him. He became a new man in Christ Jesus. Only then could he put spirituality into the faces of the angels. And the only way we can be sweet Christians, we ought to be, is by having the spirit of Christ in our hearts. We must live very close to him and learn to love with all for whom he died and as he loved.

You have but to look at some of the Bible characters. For example John, when he was a young man, was called a son of thunder. And on a certain day when a city was unkind to Jesus, John said, Lord let's burn up the city and everything in it. Now that's pretty rough desperation. But when John lived to be 70 years old or more, and in close fellowship with Jesus, he listened to the old man speak again and all that he can talk

about is love. And instead of wanting to destroy some people, he talks to my little children. And it really takes a close walk with Jesus for a person to have a sweet disposition as Jesus would have saved Christians to have.

V. Steadfast +

"Therefore my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. For as much as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." This means that the saved Christian is a steady person. He is steady. He is dependable.

He is consistent in his prayer life. How much do you pray? Do you live in the atmosphere of prayer? Philips Brooks said, "Prayer is a wish turned heavenward". The Westminister Catechism says, "Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God for things agreeable to his will in the name of Christ for confession of our sins and with thankful acknowledgement of all of his mercies."

A Christian, a saved Christian, is steady, in his prayer life. He is steady in his devotion to the word of God. He loves it. He loves to read it. He believes it. It's God's truth to his heart and he stands by it steadfastly.

Trouble may sweep over the saved Christian's soul. Temptation may beset him. Death may come. But he is as safe and

mentioned this morning true in your life? Are you separated?
Are you serving Jesus Christ? Do you sacrifice for him? Is
your life in line with his? Are you loyal?

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shall they that put their trust in riches enter into the kingdom of heaven. Easier is it for a thick cable to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of heaven.

The danger of drugging the conscience. They felt they were alright. They not only robbed God with a clear conscience but they committed other sins and yet were unmoved.

A man who makes a reasonable amount of money is like a man exchanging a bicycle for a powerful car. You can do a lot more good with a car than with a bicycle. You can give your friends a lift along a dusty road. But you are a far more dangerous person. You can injure others and land yourself in the ditch--even kill yourself.

So it is with money, you lose your head over it, you lower your moral standards because of it. You even hurt your loved ones because of it.

When you die, someone will ask, how much did you leave? They will say, so much money, etc. What did he take with him?

God said you are going to be cursed with a curse. They were not paying God! God knows how to collect it in other ways. But there is no joy if he must take it away through trouble, hospital bills, soul anguish.

Do you think God had anything to do with this curse?

Do you think that you are greater than God? Do you think you can do as you please with his money? It will cost you something not to tithe. It is expensive to disobey the Lord.

Maybe you are having a hard time right now. Maybe you can't pay your debts. This is your chance to allow God to bless you by being obedient to Him.

A farmer had been tithing. When he harvested his crop, he paid his grocery bill, seed bill, fertilizer bill and other and other debts. He did not pay God. One night his barn burned to the ground causing the loss of two horses and much grain. The next day he went to the bank, borrowed some money and paid to his church what was due the Lord. He felt God was punishing him for his disobedience.

III A definite challenge v. 10

1. That God claimed a definite portion of the income of his people.

2. Bring all of God's money to his house.

Look at the first part of the challenge... God claims

"PROVE ME" Mal. 3:10

Intro: Paul said in writing to the Corinthians "I fear that I have sinned against you by not preaching about giving."

Money is a vital part of human life. It represents our brain, time, talents. Money does a lot of good in this world. Money also does a lot of harm.

The love of money is the root of a multitude of evils. Many troubles come up in churches over money. If the money is not spent to their liking, or upon projects of keen interest there are those who feel ruffled and in some cases they are like a little boy, "I'll take my marbles and go home." Just count me out. I have actually heard some people say, if that's the way the church wants to spend the money, I'll give mine somewhere else, or cut my giving down. There is something wrong with our giving if it is controlled like a thermometer according to our personal temperature. I'll go one step further, something is wrong with our hearts,--there may be some unconfessed sin there.

It is impossible to adjust the budget to the idea of 1500 people,--and if there is any unchristian item in it, let's cut it out right now!

When some of you die and head for glory land, one angel will nudge another and say, "Here comes old Jones. By slaving hard all his life he saved a small fortune. He was tight with his Lord's money, and he didn't lay up his treasures in heaven."

Most of us forget that a shroud has no pockets in it.

I. A definite charge v. 8

1. God knows what's going on!

One Sunday morning Dr. John A. Broadus walked down out of the pulpit when the ushers were about to take the offering. He walked along with one usher and looked at every penny, nickel, dime, quarter, and dollar that went in the plate. You may well imagine that some of the people were angry. Some were confused. Others were shamefaced. Others filled with amazement. All were evidently surprised.

When Dr. Broadus went back to his pulpit to speak his morning's text, he said to his congregation, "My people, if you take it to heart that I have seen your offerings this day and I know what sacrifices you have made and what sacrifices you have not made, remember that the Son of God, your Saviour, goes about the aisles with every usher and sees with His sleepless eye every cent put into the collection by His people!"

A man usually can do more than he thinks he can, but he