

Special Message

Salvation & Sanctification Essentials

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This special message is an explanation of essential Biblical doctrines embraced by the Christian and Missionary Alliance and taught locally by the Reverend Paul R. Martin of the Alliance Bible Church of McHenry. These Biblical doctrines include the Gospel message of how to come to the new birth in Christ Jesus and what that means in faith and practice. These doctrines as presented include the tenants of the Christian & Missionary Alliance, the Licensing, Ordaining, & Consecration Council of the Midwest District, and Pastor Martin who has been a member of that Council for the last 30 years.

- I. **What is Required for Salvation (restoring fellowship with God and receiving eternal life):**
 - A. There are two essential elements required—repentance and faith (belief) in Christ
 - B. Repentance means to change the mind, to go in the opposite direction. In context of the Gospel it means to express sorrow for one's sin, to acknowledge that God is right and I am wrong, and to embrace a life of purposing to follow Jesus Christ in obedience. It is an essential first step. (Eze14:6, 18:30, 18:32, Matt 14:17, Mk 6:12, Lk 13:3 & 5, Acts 2:38, 3:19, 8:22, 17:30, 26:20, Rev 2:5)
 - C. Faith/Belief in Jesus Christ, that He has paid the price for our sins and risen from the grave to give us eternal life. It is NOT merely intellectual acknowledgement of the facts (James 2:19-20), but a wholehearted commitment to following Jesus as both Lord and Savior for the rest of one's life.
 - D. One cannot separate Jesus as Savior from Jesus as Lord. Repent and believe means both a change of allegiance from my way to God's way and full trust in Jesus Christ as my new Master.

- II. **How Does the New Birth Relate to Sanctification?**
 - A. There are multiple stages in sanctification which includes two concepts: to set apart and to make holy
 - B. At the moment of salvation many things simultaneously occur, at least two of which include Justification and Sanctification:
 1. Justification is a legal (judicial) term which means that we are forgiven, freed from, and absolved of all sin before God and He no longer lays it to our account (Romans 3:23-28)
 2. Initial Sanctification is an act of God whereby we are set apart for His purpose and use for His glory and to discover the real meaning for our life (Acts 26:16-18, I Cor 1:2, 6:11, Heb 2:11, 10:10, 10:14, 10:29)
 - C. It is also at this moment that progressive sanctification begins
 1. Initial sanctification has mostly to do with being set apart unto God, while progressive sanctification is the daily experience of being made over into the image of Jesus Christ
 2. Progressive sanctification includes both a desire to live a godly life in obedience to Christ and daily growth into more of His likeness in attitude and behavior
 - D. The crisis of sanctification (see Romans 6:12-8:4)
 1. At some point in our Christian walk, as we pursue holiness we become become frustrated that no matter how hard we try, we often fail (see Paul's experience in Romans 7). We learn that we cannot please God consistently in our own effort, no matter how sincere
 2. It is at this crucial realization that we cry to God for help and finally allow the Holy Spirit to live through us producing the Christ life by faith rather than our own best efforts

- III. **What is a Carnal Christian?**
 - A. The word carnal has many meanings/applications in the New Testament. Essentially it refers to our body or the flesh. As applied to a believer's walk, it refers to self-effort as carnal or fleshly.
 - B. Paul explains this quite thoroughly in Galatians 3 and 4, especially 3:1-5 & 4:22-31. Ishmael was the best Abraham could do in his own strength, but Isaac was what God could do by His power.
 - C. A carnal Christian is
 1. NOT a person who claims salvation but lives life in sinful, wanton pleasures (this person needs to become born again!)
 2. A SINCERE BELIEVER who wants more than anything to please God but tries to do so in the power of his own flesh—by his own effort and resources, because he does not understand the work of the Holy Spirit in his life.