

***The Cause of Our Blamelessness in Holiness and the Cause of Our Complete Sanctification in Our Spirit, Soul, and Body*****Monday 12/22****Related Verses****1 Thes. 3:13**

13 So that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

**Prov. 4:23**

23 Keep your heart with all vigilance, For from it are the issues of life.

**Psa. 78:8**

8 That they might not be like their fathers, A stubborn and rebellious generation, A generation that did not set their heart right, And whose spirit was not faithful to God.

**Eph. 3:16-17**

16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,  
17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

**Heb. 2:10-11**

10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in leading many sons into glory, to make the Author of their salvation perfect through sufferings.  
11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of One, for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brothers,

**John 4:24**

24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.

**Rom. 1:9**

9 For God is my witness, whom I serve in my spirit in the gospel of His Son, how unceasingly I make mention of you always in my prayers,

**Phil. 2:1**

1 If there is therefore any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship of spirit, if any tenderheartedness and compassions,

**Related Reading**

The New Testament emphasizes the matter of a pure heart. The Lord Jesus said, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God” (Matt. 5:8). Paul exhorted Timothy to be with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart (2 Tim. 2:22). Furthermore, in Psalm 51:10 David prayed that the Lord would create in him a clean heart. Why, then, [in 1 Thessalonians 3:13] does Paul not say “blameless in purity” or “in cleanness” but instead says “blameless in holiness”? The reason is that the book of 1 Thessalonians is on a holy life for the church life. The conclusion of the first section of this Epistle, composed of chapters 1, 2, and 3, is that the Lord will establish our heart blameless in holiness. (*Life-study of 1 Thessalonians*, pp. 173-174)

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Psalm 78:8 says, “That they might not be like their fathers, / A stubborn and rebellious generation, / A generation that did not set their heart right, / And whose spirit was not faithful to God.”...The spirit is not faithful whenever the heart is not set right. This verse indicates how close the heart is to the spirit.

The soul is the person himself, but the heart is the person in action. This means that whenever you act, you act by your heart. Therefore, we may say that our heart is our representative in action...When a brother says to his wife, “Dear, I love you,” this means that his heart loves her...Whenever we enjoy something or dislike something, it is our heart that enjoys or dislikes. Thus, our heart is our representative, the acting commissioner or ambassador, of our inner being.

Because the heart is our representative, Solomon says in Proverbs 4:23, “Keep your heart with all vigilance, / For from it are the issues of life.” To keep our heart is actually to guard it. The Hebrew word rendered “keep” means “guard.” We should guard our heart above all because from it are the issues of life...The heart is related to the sources of life, the springs of life, and the issues of life. First, we have the source, then the spring, and then the issue.

To be a living believer involves both our spirit and our heart...Many of us can testify that we have exercised our spirit, but still this did not always work to make us living. The reason the exercise of the spirit may not work is that the heart does not act. This means that there is

something wrong in the heart. Perhaps the mind is not renewed, sanctified, transformed; it may not be saturated with the Lord and occupied by Him. Instead, it may be filled with worldly things. We may exercise our spirit and say, “Praise the Lord!” However, this exercise may not work to make us living. The exercise of the spirit works only when our heart is active.

If our heart is dormant or asleep, exercising our spirit to call on the name of the Lord will not be effective...This is the reason we need to deal thoroughly with our heart. This dealing must include our mind, emotion, and will. Our mind must be the mind of Christ, our emotion must be saturated with the love of Christ, and our will must be one with His will. If this is the condition of our heart, our heart will be active and functioning. Then if we call on the Lord when our heart is active, this calling will be very effective.

We need to pray, “Lord, have mercy on me. I want to have my mind renewed. I want to have my emotion filled with Your love. I want to have a will that is truly one with Your will.” If we have such a heart, then the heart as our acting agent will be established blameless in holiness, blameless in the state of being made holy. (*Life-study of 1 Thessalonians*, pp. 181-182, 194-195)

Further Reading: *Life-study of 1 Thessalonians*, msgs. 18—24; *CWWL*, 1988, vol. 1, “Speaking Christ for the Building Up of the Body of Christ,” ch. 3

**Tuesday 12/23****Related Verses****Ezek. 36:26-27**

26 I will also give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take away the heart of stone out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.

27 And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and My ordinances you shall keep and do.

**Psa. 57:7**

7 My heart is steadfast, O God; My heart is steadfast. I will sing, indeed I will sing psalms.

***The Cause of Our Blamelessness in Holiness and the Cause of Our Complete Sanctification in Our Spirit, Soul, and Body*****Psa. 112:7**

7 He will not be afraid of evil tidings; His heart is steadfast, trusting in Jehovah.

**2 Cor. 4:16**

16 Therefore we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

**Titus 3:5**

5 Not out of works in righteousness which we did but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit,

**Rom. 6:19, 22**

19 I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to uncleanness and lawlessness unto lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness unto sanctification.

22 But now, having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you have your fruit unto sanctification, and the end, eternal life.

**2 Tim. 4:10**

10 For Demas has abandoned me, having loved the present age, and has gone to Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia; Titus to Dalmatia.

**Related Reading**

Instead of having an established heart, most Christians have a changeable, movable heart. We need a heart that is solidly established, not a heart that is changeable. According to our natural birth, however, our heart is changeable...For example, in the morning a brother may be very kind to his wife. But during breakfast he may become bothered by something and treat her in an unkind way. This is an illustration of the changeableness of our heart.

Our heart is changeable not only in relation to other people but even in our relationship with the Lord. God is the unchanging One; He never changes. We are the ones who are changeable, and we are changeable in our heart. For this reason Paul was concerned that the hearts of the new believers at Thessalonica would be set, built up, and established. (*Life-study of 1 Thessalonians*, p. 175)

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First Thessalonians 3:13 opens with the words *so that*. The Greek word here actually means “in order that”; that is, it indicates an issue, a result, of the foregoing verses, especially verses 6 through 12...Paul’s concern is for the Thessalonians’ faith and love. His desire is that their faith would be perfected and that their love would increase and abound in order that the Lord may establish their hearts.

As human beings, we all are changeable. Simply because we grow older does not mean that there is a basic change in our nature. For example, a piece of glass may be very fragile. After fifty years the glass will still be fragile. Age will not make it any stronger. The same is true in human life...I urge you, especially those who are not so young, not to have any confidence in your heart. Because our heart changes so easily, it is not at all trustworthy.

In my ministry I have met thousands of people...Time after time I have seen someone have a change of heart. Because our heart is changeable, a crucial need in our Christian life is the establishing of our heart.

Although we need our heart to be established, we are not able to do this ourselves. Only the Lord can establish our heart. Therefore, we need Him to cause our heart to be solidly established and built up.

If your heart is set, built up, and established upon a solid foundation, it will then become blameless. An unchanging heart is a blameless heart.

Sometimes we criticize others for being changeable when we ourselves are also changeable...In order to care for new believers, we may warn them not to trust certain people who are changeable. But how about ourselves? Are we not changeable? I must confess that in the natural life I am changeable. Further, most of the changes I am referring to are negative. Years ago I recorded certain things in my diary, for instance, a record of how I had dealt with a particular matter thoroughly before the Lord. But years later, I dare not read what I have written, for even after writing such a record, I experienced some change.

We need to realize and admit that our heart is changeable. Therefore, we need to receive the mercy and

grace from the Lord that we may give Him the permission to establish our heart. He is waiting for our permission before He works within us to do the establishing. When our heart has been established, it will become blameless. (*Life-study of 1 Thessalonians*, pp. 175-177)

Further Reading: *CWWL*, 1990, vol. 2, “To Be Saved in the Life of Christ as Revealed in Romans,” ch. 1; *CWWL*, 1984, vol. 3, “God’s New Testament Economy,” ch. 27

**Wednesday 12/24****Related Verses****Matt. 5:3, 8**

3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of the heavens.

8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

**Heb. 10:22**

22 Let us come forward to the Holy of Holies with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

**Heb. 2:11**

11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of One, for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brothers,

**Psa. 139:23-24**

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxious thoughts;

24 And see if there is some harmful way in me, And lead me on the eternal way.

**Matt. 13:4, 19**

4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell beside the way, and the birds came and devoured them.

19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand, the evil one comes and snatches away that which has been sown in his heart. This is the one sown beside the way.

**2 Cor. 5:14**

14 For the love of Christ constrains us because we have judged this, that One died for all, therefore all died;

***The Cause of Our Blamelessness in Holiness and the Cause of Our Complete Sanctification in Our Spirit, Soul, and Body*****Eph. 1:4-5**

4 Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love,

5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

**Related Reading**

Since the heart is so vitally related to life, God has no other alternative but to deal with our heart so that His life might be regulated out from us. Toward God, our heart has four great problems: hardness, impurity, unlovingness, and unpeacefulness. Hardness is a matter of the will, impurity is a matter not only of the mind but also of the emotion, unlovingness is a matter of the emotion, and unpeacefulness is a matter of the conscience. When God deals with our heart, He deals with these four aspects so that our heart may be soft, pure, loving, and at peace. (*CWWL*, 1953, vol. 3, "The Knowledge of Life," p. 110)

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First, God wants our heart to be soft. To be soft means that the will of the heart toward God is submissive and yielding, not stiff-necked and rebellious. When God deals with our heart so that our heart is soft, He takes away the heart of stone out of our flesh and gives us a heart of flesh (Ezek. 36:26). This means that He softens our hard, stony heart so that it becomes a soft heart of flesh.

How does He soften our heart?...God often uses His love first to move us; if love cannot move us, He uses His hand through the environment to strike us until our heart is softened. Once our heart is softened, His life can work within us.

Second, God wants our heart to be pure. A pure heart means a heart that sets its mind specifically on God. It is also a heart in which the emotion is exceedingly pure and simple toward God...It only loves God and wants God; besides God, it has no other love, inclination, or desire. Matthew 5:8 says, "The pure in heart...shall see God." Thus, if the heart is not pure, we cannot see God. If our thought is a little concerned with things outside of God, or if our emotion has a little love toward things outside of God, our heart is no longer pure; the life in our spirit is

also hindered because of this. Therefore, we must pursue "with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart" (2 Tim. 2:22), and be those who love the Lord and want God with a pure heart; then we can let the life of God work freely within us.

Third, God wants our heart to be loving. A loving heart means a heart in which the emotion loves God, wants God, thirsts after God, yearns for God, and has affection toward God...Song of Songs in the Old Testament...says that as the Lord's people, we should love the Lord as a woman loves her beloved. This love is so deep and unchanging and is as strong as death (8:6-7). Because this book speaks especially of our love toward the Lord, it also shows forth especially our growth in the life of the Lord. Then in the New Testament, in John 21, the Lord asked Peter three times, "Do you love Me?" This means that the Lord desired to lead the emotion of Peter to so love the Lord that he could be one who has a loving heart toward the Lord. The Lord did this because He wanted Peter to afford His life an opportunity to work and grow within him...If our heart has such love toward the Lord, the life of the Lord within us can move smoothly and do as it pleases.

Fourth, God wants our heart to be at peace. A heart at peace means a heart in which the conscience has no offense (Acts 24:16), no condemnation or reproach; it is safe and secure. The conscience within us represents God to govern us...We must deal clearly with all the offenses, condemnation, and reproach; so we "will persuade our heart before Him" (1 John 3:19). When our heart is thus at peace, God can pass through, and the law of the life of God can continue to work within us. (*CWWL*, 1953, vol. 3, "The Knowledge of Life," pp. 110-112)

Further Reading: *CWWL*, 1953, vol. 3, "The Knowledge of Life," ch. 10; *CWWL*, 1964, vol. 3, "The Economy of God," chs. 7-8

<b>Thursday 12/25</b>
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**Related Verses****1 Thes. 5:23-24, 16-19**

23 And the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

24 Faithful is He who calls you, who also will do it.

16 Always rejoice,

17 Unceasingly pray,

18 In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

19 Do not quench the Spirit;

**Heb. 13:12**

12 Therefore also Jesus, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate.

**Heb. 10:29**

29 By how much do you think he will be thought worthy of worse punishment who has trampled underfoot the Son of God and has considered the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing and has insulted the Spirit of grace?

**Eph. 5:26**

26 That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,

**2 Cor. 5:4**

4 For also, we who are in this tabernacle groan, being burdened, in that we do not desire to be unclothed, but clothed upon, that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

**2 Cor. 7:1**

1 Therefore since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and of spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

**Related Reading**

God not only sanctifies us wholly but also preserves our spirit, soul, and body complete...In quantity God sanctifies us wholly; in quality God preserves us complete; that is, He keeps our spirit, soul, and body perfect. Through the fall our body has been ruined, our soul has been contaminated, and our spirit has been deadened. In God's full salvation our entire being is saved and made complete and perfect. For this, God is preserving our spirit from any deadening element (Heb. 9:14), our soul from remaining natural and old (Matt. 16:24-26), and our body from the ruin of sin (1 Thes. 4:4; Rom. 6:6). Such a preservation by God and His thorough sanctification sustain us to live a holy life unto maturity that we may meet the Lord in His parousia. (*Life-study of 1 Thessalonians*, p. 204)

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Our spirit is composed of three parts: the conscience, the fellowship, and the intuition. Our spirit is mainly for us to have fellowship with God. When we have fellowship with God, we contact Him. This contact with God spontaneously gives us a sense of God, a consciousness of God. Intuition denotes the direct sense and consciousness that come from God. Through this intuition we can know whether we are right or wrong. If we are wrong, we will be condemned by our conscience. But if we are right, we will be justified by our conscience.

The first way to preserve our spirit is to keep it living through proper exercise [cf. 1 Thes. 5:16-19]...To rejoice, pray, and give thanks are to exercise our spirit. When we exercise our spirit in this way, we cause it to be living.

Do you realize that to be quiet is to keep your spirit in a deadened condition? If you allow your spirit to remain in a situation of death, this means that you do not cooperate with the sanctifying God to preserve your spirit.

Another way to preserve our spirit is found in 2 Corinthians 7:1...“Therefore since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and of spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” This verse indicates that we should abstain from all defilement of both flesh and spirit. We need to stay away from anything that contaminates our spirit. This is the reason we should keep our eyes from looking at evil things, such as defiling pictures. Such pictures defile not only our eyes; they also defile our spirit. This is something I have learned from experience. In 1933 I visited Shanghai the first time. The church had two meeting halls then,...quite far from each other...The ride from western Shanghai to northern Shanghai took more than an hour. The first few times I took this ride in the streetcar, I looked around at the various sights on the main street. But when I arrived at the meeting hall, I realized that my spirit was deadened. It had been deadened by my looking at so many things on the street. From this I learned to close my eyes and pray when taking the ride by streetcar. This preserved my spirit. Because I learned to preserve my spirit in this way, when

I arrived at the meeting hall in northern Shanghai, my spirit was living. I had truly been sanctified in my spirit.

If you become contaminated by looking at certain kinds of pictures, your spirit will be defiled, contaminated, and deadened. As a result, you will not be able to pray unless you first ask the Lord to cleanse you from all defilement. I offer this as an illustration of our need to cooperate with the sanctifying Triune God to have our spirit preserved from deadness and contamination. (*Life-study of 1 Thessalonians*, pp. 204-205, 207)

Further Reading: *CWWL*, 1993, vol. 2, “The Issue of the Dispensing of the Processed Trinity and the Transmitting of the Transcending Christ,” chs. 1, 3

<b>Friday 12/26</b>
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**Related Verses****Rom. 12:1-2**

1 I exhort you therefore, brothers, through the compassions of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

**Phil. 1:8**

8 For God is my witness how I long after you all in the inward parts of Christ Jesus.

**Phil. 2:5, 8, 13**

5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,  
8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, becoming obedient even unto death, and that the death of a cross.

13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for His good pleasure.

**Mark 12:30**

30 And you shall love the Lord your God from your whole heart and from your whole soul and from your whole mind and from your whole strength."

**Eph. 3:19**

19 And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.

**S.S. 4:4**

4 Your neck is like the tower of David, Built for an armory: A thousand bucklers hang on it, All the shields of the mighty men.

**S.S. 7:4**

4 Your neck is like a tower of ivory; Your eyes, like the pools in Heshbon By the gate of Bath-rabbim; Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon, Which faces Damascus.

**Related Reading**

Our psychological heart has three main arteries. These arteries, which are also the three parts of the soul, are the mind, the will, and the emotion...The way to unclog the three main arteries of our psychological heart is to make a thorough confession to the Lord. From experience I have learned that we need to stay with the Lord for a period of time to confess our defects, failures, defeats, mistakes, wrongdoings, and sins. (*Life-study of 1 Thessalonians*, pp. 209-210)

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We may begin by confessing all the sinfulness and uncleanness that is in our mind, in our thinking...Our mind is filled with dirt...In order to unclog the artery of our mind, we need to confess everything that is sinful in our thoughts and in our way of thinking. By confessing our thoughts one by one, we will remove the blockage from this artery.

As we are making confession in this way, we may confess to the Lord how natural our understanding is concerning many matters. Perhaps you do not feel that your understanding of so many things is natural. This is the reason you need to go to the Lord and say to Him, “Lord, enlighten me and expose my mind. Expose all my thoughts. Lord, bring my mind fully into Your light.” Then you should follow the enlightenment and exposure to confess the problems in your thinking one by one. For example,...you may understand your spouse, your children, and your family affairs in a natural way, not at all in a spiritual way. If the Lord exposes this in you, you should immediately confess and say, “Lord, forgive me.

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Although I love You, my understanding of married life is altogether natural. Lord, deliver me from this natural understanding and take it out of me.”...For this kind of exposure and confession it may be necessary for us to stay with the Lord for a long time.

If we go to the Lord concerning our will, He will expose it in a thorough and detailed way. It may seem as if we are being examined under a divine microscope...In particular, we will realize that we are very rebellious, that we do not know what it means to be submissive to the Lord...The Lord may show you that, a few years ago, you were wrong in a particular matter. Then He may go on to show you how you were wrong with a certain brother or a certain sister. Each time you will need to confess. You should thank the Lord that you are under His light, under His exposure. By confessing all that the Lord exposes in our will, we unclog the artery of our will.

The artery of the emotion also needs to be unclogged. When we realize how serious is the problem we have with our emotion, we may be deeply sorrowful...We will realize that in many cases we hate what we should love and love what we should hate. When we come into the light of the sanctuary, we will see that the most ugly aspect of our being is our emotion, for we do not use it properly. Both our joyfulness and our sorrow may be altogether natural. As the Lord exposes us, we may feel ashamed of the way we have expressed joy and sorrow, for that expression often was natural, fleshly, even fleshy.

If we take the time necessary to unclog the three main arteries of our psychological heart, we will have the sense that our entire being has become living. Our mind, will, and emotion will all be in a very healthy condition. All the “dirt” in these “ditches” will then be dug away. (*Life-study of 1 Thessalonians*, pp. 210-211)

Further Reading: *Life-study of 2 Thessalonians*, msg. 6; *CWWN*, vol. 54, “The Breaking of the Outer Man and the Release of the Spirit,” chs. 7—8

<b>Saturday 12/27</b>
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**Related Verses****1 Thes. 4:1-4**

1 Furthermore, brothers, we ask and exhort you in the Lord Jesus that even as you received from us how you ought to walk and please God, even as indeed you do walk, that you abound still more.

2 For you know what charges we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from fornication;

4 That each one of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,

**1 John 1:5-9 (5, 7)**

5 And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and are not practicing the truth;

7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.

8 If we say that we do not have sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**Related Reading**

In addition to knowing how to preserve our spirit and our soul, we must also know how to preserve our body. Sin has damaged and ruined our body...Our body is a “body of sin” (Rom. 6:6).

If we would preserve our body, we should live a life that never follows the old man, that never follows our soul. Romans 6:6 says, “...Our old man has been crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be annulled, that we should no longer serve sin as slaves.” (*Life-study of 1 Thessalonians*, p. 212)

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If we live according to the soul, we will use our body to serve the old man. Therefore, to preserve our body first requires that we do not live according to our soul.

Second, to preserve our body requires that we not present any member of our body to anything that is sinful. For example, we should keep our eyes away from evil pictures and our ears from unclean things...We need to keep our body from seeing and hearing things that will contaminate and ruin it. This is to preserve our body in sanctification.

Paul illustrates the importance of preserving our body in this way by giving...the charge to abstain from fornication [1 Thes. 4:3]. To abstain from fornication is to preserve our vessel, our body, in sanctification and honor...In order to preserve our body, we should not present our members to anything sinful.

Today’s world is full of contamination and defilement. This makes it very difficult for us to preserve our body...Parents need to train their children, even those in elementary school, to keep away from these contaminating elements. Any parent who thinks that children should be allowed to be tested in order to develop resistance is seriously mistaken and in the future will regret this course of action. The parents who follow this way in caring for their children surely will reap the harvest of what they have sown.

Do not think that as you grow older, you will not need to guard yourself from lust and defilement. As long as we have not been transfigured and still remain in the old creation, we need to preserve our body.

The most difficult thing for us to do in this defiling, contaminating world is to preserve our body. We need to be careful not to look at anything, listen to anything, or touch anything that will defile our body.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24 we see the cooperation of the holy life with the divine operation. In verses 12 through 22 we have the believers’ cooperation in living a spiritual and separated life. In verses 23 and 24 we have God’s operation in sanctifying and preserving the believers. God desires to sanctify us wholly and to preserve our spirit, soul, and body complete. However, we need to cooperate with Him. The way to cooperate is to rejoice, pray unceasingly, give thanks to Him in

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everything, not quench the Spirit, and not despise prophesying in the church meetings. If we cooperate in this way, our spirit will be preserved from deadness, our soul will be preserved from pollution in mind, will, and emotion, and our body will be preserved from the defilement of this age. Then in a practical way we will have a holy life for the church life. Paul's aim in writing 1 Thessalonians, a book for new believers, was that they would live such a sanctified and holy life for the church life. (Life-study of 1 Thessalonians, pp. 212-214)

Further Reading: *CWWL*, 1993, vol. 2, "The Spirit with Our Spirit," chs. 12—13; *CWWL*, 1975–1976, vol. 1, "The Flesh and the Spirit," ch. 1

**Lord's Day 12/28****Related Verses****Acts 24:16**

16 Because of this I also exercise myself to always have a conscience without offense toward God and men.

**Rom. 6:6, 12, 14**

6 Knowing this, that our old man has been crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be annulled, that we should no longer serve sin as slaves;

12 Do not let sin therefore reign in your mortal body so that you obey the body's lusts;

14 For sin will not lord it over you, for you are not under the law but under grace.

**Rom. 8:6, 16**

6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.

**Mal. 2:15-16**

15 But did He not make them one? And the remnant of the Spirit was His. And why the one? He sought the seed of God. Take heed then to your spirit, and let no one be treacherous to the wife of his youth.

16 For I hate divorce, says Jehovah the God of Israel; and he who does it behaves in violence, says Jehovah of hosts. Take heed then to your spirit, and do not be treacherous.

**2 Cor. 2:13**

13 I had no rest in my spirit, for I did not find Titus my brother; but taking leave of them, I went forth into Macedonia.

**1 Thes. 5:18**

18 In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

**Further Reading:**

Further Reading: *Life-study of 1 Thessalonians*, msg. 6

**Hymn: #744**

1 In dealings with the Lord as life  
We need a proper heart,  
That of His riches, in His grace,  
We fully may take part.

2 We need a heart in all things pure,  
With mind both sound and clear,  
To understand His mind and heart  
In trembling and in fear.

3 We need a fervent, loving heart,  
A heart on fire with love,  
With an emotion filled with zeal  
For Him, all else above.

4 We need a true, obedient heart,  
With a submissive will,  
A will made pliable, yet strong,  
God's purpose to fulfill.

5 We need a heart condemning not,  
In all things right with God;  
A heart which has a conscience purged  
And covered with the blood.

6 Lord, grant us such a heart as this,  
Forever fixed on Thee,  
That of Thyself we may partake  
And Thy true fulness be.

**Churchwide Truth Pursuit of Genesis****Level 1—Sequential Life-study Reading**

Scripture Reading and Copying: Gen. 33

Assigned Reading: *Life-study of Genesis*, msg(s). 79-80

**Level 2—Topical Study**

Crucial Point: Jacob's Dream and Vow at Bethel

Scripture: Gen. 27-28

Assigned Reading: *Life-study of Genesis*, msg(s). 68-69

Supplemental Reading: *Truth Lessons*, Level Three, Vol. 1, ch. 9

Study Questions: See the church website at

[churchinnyc.org/bible-study](http://churchinnyc.org/bible-study)