

“The God Who Sanctifies”

1 Thess. 5:23-24

The Sufficiency of His Grace for the Sustaining of His Suffering People

The early church faced this dilemma when people would recant in the midst of suffering and persecution. What do we do with a suffering Church? Can the work of God fail? Can a lapse of faith and an expression of unbelief on our part negate the work that God began? This text addresses the issue.

Paul is concluding his instruction to the people by offering up a prayer in their behalf. The prayer has two primary verbs: sanctify and preserved. Let us hear the Word of God to His suffering people.

I. The God who purifies (v.23a)

The command to be holy is because you are holy. Notice where the emphasis is, it is on God. It's all about God!

The second part of the equation assures us that what He sanctifies, He sustains.

II. The God who preserves (v.23b)

Paul is not trying to teach the doctrine of man's inner making; he is simply making a statement concerning the inclusive nature of sanctification.

Our continuance in obedience rests on God's faithfulness.

III. The God who promises (v.24)

The subjective conditional element of verse 23 is on the rock-hard faithfulness of God.

God's faithfulness to keep is not contingent on our ability to perform. Our unbelief cannot nullify the faithfulness of God (Rom. 3:3; 2 Tim. 2:13).

All the promises of God in Him are yes.

Continued on the other side...

APPLICATION: (Making the Transfer)

Are you experiencing heartache and misery?	God is faithful
Are you experiencing financial ruin?	God is faithful
Are you experiencing relational difficulties?	God is faithful
Are you experiencing physical pain?	God is faithful
Are you experiencing spiritual atrophy?	God is faithful
Are you experiencing faith persecution?	God is faithful

God is faithful to complete that which He alone began.