08 -- DIVISION -- PRAYERS FOR HOLINESS -- (APR. 10-22)

10. Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow -- Psalm 51:7.

Whiter than snow" is not an exaggerated request. The cleanest snow still holds impurities. The human heart can be washed from all impurity. Compare verse 2 in this same psalm.

11. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. -- Matthew 6:10.

The heart that can truly offer this prayer is prepared to prove what is that . . . perfect will of God. It is on the very verge of perfect faith and perfect love.

12. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. -- Matthew 6:13.

If we are not led into temptation, but delivered from evil, where does sin come in? He whose is the kingdom and power can do even this much for us -- save us from temptation, evil and sin. His is the glory forever. Amen.

13. Sanctify them through thy truth. -- John 17:7.

What sanctifying power there is in simple Bible truth! It is the foundation of Bible holiness. It dispels error, develops faith, points to the atoning Christ and to the purifying and empowering Holy Ghost.

14. Always laboring fervently for you in prayers that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God -- Colossians 4:12.

"Complete" in the original means "fully assured." What marvels of entire sanctification would transpire if every minister was "always" -- "laboring" -- "fervently" -- "in prayers" -- that his people might be in God's will -- perfect in God's will -- fully assured that they are perfect in God's will -- standing perfect and fully assured in all God's will!

15. The very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ -- Thessalonians 5:23.

God gave us "peace" in conversion. Here Paul prays the God who gave us the peace of conversion to sanctify wholly and grant life-long blameless preservation to our triune human nature -- spirit and soul and body. One cannot be sanctified wholly Without the other. Brain, heart and body must together be sanctified wholly; because one reacts on the other.

16. For this cause I bow my knees . . . that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God. -- Ephesians 3:14 and 19.

This wonderful prayer, comprehending so much, climaxes in asking that these Thessalonians (and why not therefore we?) might be filled with all the fullness of God. Surely that is a prayer for holiness of the lowest and highest kind.

17. Pray I . . . that they may be made perfect in one. -- John 17:20 and 23.

What an amazing perfection is here prayed for by Christ -- a union similar to that between the Father and the Son -- an indwelling in the Father and the Son similar to the mutual indwelling of the Father and the Son.

18. The God of all grace . . . make you perfect -- stablish, strengthen, settle you. -- I Peter 5:10.

This perfection does not hurry us off to heaven as though we were too good to stay any longer in this World. It is not entire sanctification by death or at death. After we are thus perfected we are to stay in this life long enough to be stablished, strengthened, settled.

19. Night and day praying exceedingly that we might . . . perfect that which is lacking in your faith . . . to the end he may stablish your hearts unblamable in holiness before God. -- I Thessalonians 3:10 and 13.

It ought to keep a preacher busy day and night offering a prayer for the perfecting of his people's faith, and for their stablishment in blameless heart-holiness before God.

20. Now the God of peace ... make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight. -- Hebrews 13:20, 21

The God who gave us "peace" in conversion is here asked -- not only to make us personally perfect -- but to make us perfect in every good work that is pleasing in his sight -- to make us personally and practically perfect.

21. We pray always for you that our God would . . . fulfill all the good pleasure of his goodness and the work of faith with power -- II Thessalonians 1:11.

Note those two significant sentences -- "all the good pleasure of his goodness" -- "the work of faith with power." Such a work once fulfilled in us would be a complete one indeed!

22. Create in me a clean heart, O God! Psalm 51:10.

A clean heart is a divine creation, not a human development. He who created the world can alone create a clean heart. Why not stop trying to create a clean heart within you, and come to God who alone can do it for you? Come now!

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