

Sanctification is defined as "the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness" (Shorter Catechism, Q. 35). In contrast to justification, which is a once-for-all declarative *act* of God, sanctification is an on-going *work* of God. The result is the renewal of the entire person into Christ's image and the increasing rejection of sin in favor of obedience to God. Like justification, sanctification results from God's grace working in us by the ministry of the Holy Spirit, especially by means of God's Word, prayer, and the sacraments.

Here are the questions I especially want to consider:

1. *Is it possible to be justified without being sanctified?* No. Those that are justified must always be sanctified as well (Rom. 6:1-2). Both justification and sanctification result from union with Christ through faith (1 Cor. 1:30), so that a believer always and necessarily receives both at the moment of saving faith. We must remember, however, that while justification is a once-for-all declarative act of God's justice, sanctification is a life-long spiritual process. For this reason, a new believer may have his or her sanctification only beginning at the moment of justification. But that sanctification *will* have begun, and it will progress through life until it is completed in the believer's glorification in heaven (see Phil. 1:6; 3:12).

2. *Does sanctification automatically result from justification, so that a believer does not have to do anything in order to be sanctified?* No. Justification does *not* cause sanctification. Both are caused by union with Christ in faith. Whereas justification is received by a *passive* faith, with empty hands receiving God's gifts of pardon and imputed righteousness, sanctification results from an *active* faith in which the believer strives after righteousness by God's power (consider, among many examples, Eph. 4:21-24; Col. 3:5; Rom. 13:14). This means that believers must faithfully apply themselves to fighting sin and growing in practical godliness, drawing on the power made available through God's Word, prayer, and the worship of God's people (see John 17:17; Phil. 4:6-7; and Acts 2:42).

3. *What is legalism?* It is *not* legalism to say that God commands believers to obey the Bible (see Jn 14:15; 15:14). It is not legalism to strive after practical godliness and vigorously to oppose sin in your life. (To deny Christian obedience is called *antinomianism*, which means to be against God's law.). Legalism is the attempt to justify ourselves before God on the basis of our performance. This is a grave problem that many Christians struggle with. The good news of justification says that our relationship with God (both eternally and today) is based not on our performance but on the finished work of Christ. Legalism is also an approach to sanctification that focuses on outward behaviors to the exclusion of inward graces. True holiness is not only of the hands but also of the heart.

It is amazing what a difference it makes to our daily lives if we have a true understanding of the vital doctrines of justification and sanctification. But it makes an even more vital difference to our eternal life. For these reasons, our efforts in understanding the biblical teaching on justification and sanctification will be well rewarded, provided that we personally trust in Jesus alone for both. May God bless you all this week.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Rick Phillips

CHURCH INFORMATION

Website: www.secondpca.org

Telephone: Office (864) 232-7621

Fax: (864) 232-7622 * Email: info@secondpca.org

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Information Centers: Church Services information 1 * Directions 2
Hospital Information 3 * Upcoming Events 4 * Church Directory 5 * Monthly Activities 6

Church Services: Sunday: Sunday School - 10:00 AM

Morning Worship - 8:30 and 11:00 AM * Evening Worship - 6:00 PM

Wednesday: Supper - 5:45 PM * Prayer Meeting and Bible Study - 6:45 PM

Radio Broadcast: Sundays, 9:00 AM, Station WLFJ 660 AM

Upcoming Events

July 18	The Lord's Supper at the AM Services
July 23	Senior High Dinner
July 24	Calvary Presbytery at Greenwood PCA
July 25	Evening Reception for Gabriel and Callie Fluhrer
July 25	Evangelism/Church Growth Committee Meeting
July 26-30	Jr. High Camp at Ridge Haven
July 28	CE Committee Meeting

RECEPTION

for Gabe, Callie and Garner Fluhrer

Sunday, July 25, 2010

Immediately following the evening worship service.

The church will provide the meat and dessert.

Members are asked to bring generous portions of side dishes.

Please plan to come as we bid a sad goodbye to the Fluhrers.

NEEDED:

Gabe and Callie need boxes for moving. If you have any sturdy moving boxes please bring them to the church office.

July Summer Sunday School Schedule

JULY 18 RICHARD D. PHILLIPS Covenant Theology

The Sunday School Class meets in the sanctuary.

Report of the WIC Nominating Committee

The following slate of Officers have been nominated by the WIC Nominating Committee and approved by the WIC Council. The election will take place in the August Annual Meeting. The Officers will serve September 1, 2010 through August 31, 2012.

President:	Jill Mann
Historian	Dot Dillard
Christian Growth	Judy Bishop
Treasurer	Sheryl Plating
Mission to the World	Pat Tyner
Circle #1 Chairman	Vicky Rogers
◆ Circle #2 Chairman	Tammy Looper
◆ Circle #3 Chairman	Grace Cooley
◆ Original Circle 2 will join with and become Circle 3	
◆ Original Circle 7 will now become Circle 2	

The WIC Nominating Committee:

Shirley Duncan, Chair

Cyndi Player, Jane Rainey, Jenny Spears, Doris Youngblood

Election and Installation will be held at

WIC Annual Meeting

Thursday, August 26, 2010, 7:00 pm

Church Fellowship Hall

Calvary Presbytery

The 107th meeting of Calvary Presbytery is Saturday, July 24, 2010, beginning at 9:00 AM at Greenwood PCA. Please be in prayer for the pastors and elders that will be attending. Visitors are welcome.

Weekly Prayer Time

Please join us at the weekly 5:30 pm prayer time in the Chapel each Sunday as we pray for our members, missions, pastoral needs and for the church of Jesus Christ.

Thank You

Thanks to all who helped in any way on the benefit fundraiser for the Evans family. The benefit raised close to \$5,000.

Music Notes

This coming Sunday evening we will have a special choral response by some of our youth. This group was created on the beach trip as a thank you to Gabe for all his hard work with this group. They would like to send him off singing to the Lord a song that he has had them prepare. Thank you Gabe for your ministry among us.

"How Textbooks Mislead Students"

A DVD presentation by the

Creation Study Group

Thursday, July 15th

Second Presbyterian Church

7:00 pm - book table

7:30 pm - intro/DVD

Do you know what our children are being taught in the public schools? Do you know that the public school system refused to acknowledge the errors in the text books when they were pointed out...and still bought the books? If we do not teach the truth of God's creation to our children, how can they see His glory? *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; and the knowledge of the holy is understanding."*

Honoring A Special Lady

You are invited to join the Haywood Estates to celebrate the 100th birthday of

Aurelia Miller

Monday, July 19 at 3:00 pm

Birthday cake and ice cream

You can send a birthday card to:

Mrs. Aurelia Miller

The Haywood Estates

1180 Haywood Road

Apt. 105

Greenville, SC 29615

Church Calendar

Sunday, July 18

- 8:30 AM MORNING WORSHIP
- 9:50 AM Children's Chapel
- 10:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 11:00 AM MORNING WORSHIP
- 4:45 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal
- 5:30 PM Prayer in the Chapel for the Congregation and Officers
- 6:00 PM EVENING WORSHIP
- 6:30 PM Wee Worship Choir

Monday, July 19

Tuesday, July 20

- 6:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 828

Wednesday, July 21

- 5:45 PM Family Night Fellowship Supper
- 6:30 PM Musical CAT Kids
- 6:45 PM Youth Bible Study
- 6:45 PM Prayer Meeting and Bible Study

Thursday, July 22

Friday, July 23

- 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study
- 6:30 PM Senior High Dinner

Saturday, July 24

- 9:00 AM Calvary Presbytery at Greenwood PCA

If you have any dates for the August calendar please call or email the church office this week. 232-7621, ext. 10 or judy@secondpca.org

Remembering One Another

Remember in prayer this week the following member. Also, send her a note of encouragement and/or give her a call.

Mrs. Sara Weathers
11 E. Augusta Place, Apt. 219
Greenville, SC 29605
271-0025

The Second Presbyterian Church

105 River Street
 Greenville, South Carolina 29601-2537

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WORSHIP AT SECOND THE LORD'S DAY JULY 18, 2010

MORNING WORSHIP
 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

A GARDEN BURIAL

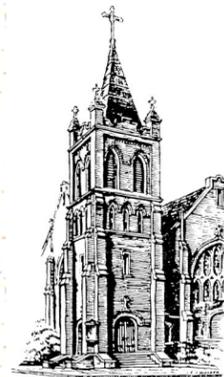
John 19:38-42
 Hymns 21, 528, 520, 378
 Anthem: Now Thank We All Our God
 Rev. Richard D. Phillips preaching

EVENING WORSHIP
 6:00 PM

GOD'S PROVISION OF SALVATION

1 Kings 17:8-16
 Hymns 16, 345, UXBRIDGE
 Psalter: Psalm 85
 Rev. Gabriel N. E. Fluhrer preaching

«Title» «First Name» «Last Name»
 «Address Line 1»
 «Address Line 2»
 «City» «State» «ZIP Code»



The West End Herald

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The Second Presbyterian Church
 Corner of River and Rhett Streets
 Greenville, South Carolina

July 12, 2010

**Letter from the Senior Minister....
 Justification and Sanctification**

In my Sunday School class last week I taught on the topics of justification and sanctification. There are few doctrinal topics that exert a more important influence on our lives as Christians than these. With this in mind, I thought I would summarize some of the points that I made for your continued reflection.

Perhaps the best short definition of justification is given in Question #33 of the Shorter Catechism: "Justification is an act of God's free grace, wherein he pardons all our sins, and accepts us as righteous in his sight only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone." To be justified is to have your sins forgiven and to be accepted as just in the holy presence of God. Romans 5:1 states: "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." All other blessings of salvation depend on our first being justified with God. In describing justification as an "act of God's free grace," we are saying that it is a once-for-all act of God as a free gift. Paul writes: "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God" (Eph. 2:8).

To be justified is not only to be forgiven, but also to be accounted as righteous in God's sight. As Jesus said in his parable of the wedding feast, we must have a garment of righteousness to be permitted into God's presence (Mt. 22:11-12). So how do sinners receive a righteousness with which to stand before God? In answering this question, we make a distinction between *infused* and *imputed* righteousness. Some (primarily Roman Catholics) teach that God's grace infuses righteousness into us (mainly through the mass) so that sinners must actually *become* fully righteous before being accepted by God. (This, by the way, is the whole point of the doctrine of purgatory, which teaches that believers have to go somewhere after death to complete the purging of sin). But the Bible does not teach that believers are justified by *becoming* righteous but rather by *being declared* righteous. We see this in Romans 4:5, where Paul states that God "justifies the ungodly." How are we declared righteous while we remain sinners? The answer is by the imputation of Christ's righteousness.

Imputation means crediting or accounting. According to the New Testament, believers in Christ have *His* righteousness credited to us through faith in Him. As Paul explained in Romans 5:12-21, just as the human race fell into sin by one man's sin (Adam's), so are believers justified by the obedience of one man, Jesus Christ (see also Rom. 4:4-5; 2 Cor. 5:21; Zech. 3:3-4). This righteousness is received through faith alone. Since justification does not involve *earning* righteousness (which sinners could never do), but *receiving* righteousness, it comes through faith in Christ alone, as Paul stated: "a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ" (Gal. 2:16). Believers will one day become perfectly holy (see 1 Jn. 3:1-2). But this is the *result* of our salvation, not its *cause*. It is in heaven that we will become what now we have been declared, by God's grace and through faith in Christ alone.