

Connect

It has been said that “justification” and “sanctification” are two sides of the same coin.

(a) What does this mean?
(b) How can we use this concept to help to explain the gospel?
(c) How can we use this concept to assure and admonish Christians?

Please make sure that everyone in your group understands the meaning of the words “justification” and “sanctification.” You may wish to consider passages such as Romans 8:1-5, 1 Corinthians 6:11, etc.

Verses - Colossians 1:21-23 (NKJV)

21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight— 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Study

1. REVIEW

This letter was written by the Apostle Paul to people who were believers in Christ (Col. 1:2, 4, 8) to help them believe the true gospel more fully and to live lives more pleasing to God. (Col. 1:10). Above all, Paul sought to convey the supreme importance of Christ in reconciling them with God, through the shedding of his blood on the cross. (Col.1:13-20)

2. DISCUSSION

(a) Do you think that every member of the Christian church in Colossae had the same understanding and belief in the true gospel, when Paul's letter was first read by them? Why or why not?

(b) Do you think that a more accurate understanding and belief in the true gospel came to be shared among those who paid serious attention to Paul's letter? If so, how was the letter helpful?

(c) Suppose that Paul had been released from prison and gone to visit the Christian church in Colossae. How would he have been able to tell which of the people there had truly understood and believed the gospel?

(d) Is it possible for anyone to live a life pleasing to God without understanding and believing the true gospel? (Hebrews 11:6)

(e) Is it possible to understand and believe the true gospel without becoming more obedient to God?

Magnify

Based on today's lesson, share and/or in prayer:

- What might you be able to confess?
- What can you praise God about who He is?
- What can you thank Him for?
- How can you serve him better?

Take prayer requests and pray for each other.