

The Benediction of Sanctification

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Main Point:

God gives you the blessing of sanctification in Christ; therefore, believe the benediction and rely upon it throughout the week.

1. The benediction is a pronouncement of God's blessing.
2. God blesses you with continued sanctification.
3. God blesses you with complete sanctification.
4. God blesses you with His working in sanctification.
5. God blesses you with His faithfulness in sanctification.

Cross-References and Quotations

Numbers 6:22-26 ²² And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ²³ "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them: ²⁴ "The LORD bless you and keep you; ²⁵ The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; ²⁶ The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.'" (NKJV)

Ted Donnelley: "If you get nothing else from a worship service, except for the benediction, you'd be getting a lot!"

WSC 35 What is sanctification? A. Sanctification is 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.

James 1:2-4 ² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. (NKJV)

Matthew 10:28 ²⁸ "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. (NKJV)

Mark 12:30 ³⁰ "And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." This *is* the first commandment. (NKJV)

2 Corinthians 3:18 ¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. (NKJV)

Philippians 2:12-13 ¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure. (NKJV)

Romans 8:29 ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. (NKJV)

Andrew Young "The point Paul now makes is that the one who calls is also faithful – faithful to his purposes, and his covenant promises. What he has determined he will surely accomplish (Isa. 46:10). What he has promised, he will surely perform."

1 Thessalonians 5:24 ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. (ESV)

Iain Duguid "The cross is the antithesis of the benediction."