

Separation - a wonderful Bible Truth

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[0:00] Psalm 29, if you've got your Bibles, we're going to look at a number of verses on the topic of being set apart.!

So it's interesting how they give some voice to the, well, it's well-meaning, maybe, well-intentioned, yet the reality doesn't always eventuate.

But at least for the meantime, they have got those words that they say. Yeah, yeah, true.

Psalm 29, verse 2. Maybe we could stand for this, shall we? Let's stand together. Psalm 29, verse 2. Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Lord, we thank you for your word and open it to our understanding, we pray, for your sake. In Jesus' name, amen.

[1:34] Please be seated. Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name. Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Holiness. It's beautiful.

It's beautiful. Holiness has a special beauty, a blessing, a purity, a devotion. And the Lord wants us to be holy.

He wants us separated from sin. But holiness is more than that. Separated from sin and fully separated unto him.

From sin, unto him. And believers are called to be saints. A holy people. That's what it means. Holy worshippers. A holy temple.

That's the will of God for we, his people. And in him, we are made saints. We are made partakers of his holiness. Brought into oneness with God.

[2:37] We are set apart to him. For him. For his glory. For his honour. What makes holiness?

Holiness. We are told to worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. What makes holiness? God. He is the Lord who sanctifies.

In part, Leviticus 21.8. Leviticus 21.8. He says, I, the Lord, which sanctify you, am holy. It's one of his names.

Now, we've got Jehovah Jireh, the Lord, our provider. Jehovah Siddenku, the Lord, our righteousness. Various other ones. But the Lord, our sanctifier.

The Lord who sanctifies us. It's one of his names. I, the Lord, which sanctify you, am holy. What makes holiness? God. It's about being rightly related to God, unto him.

[3:36] In 1 Corinthians 1 verse 30 it says, But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us. He, Jesus Christ, is made unto us wisdom and righteousness, sanctification, or holiness, and redemption.

He's made unto us our holiness. He's made unto us our sanctification. Jesus is our holiness. He is your holiness. He is the holy factor.

He fills us with himself. As he fills us, we are filled with who he is. And so, as he fills us, we receive his holiness, his purity, his character, his nature, his life.

We're set apart. Will you receive him as your holiness? Or will we make the mistake of vainly going on in our own way?

We are to worship the holy one in the beauty of holiness. The beauty of holiness. No other worship will do. No other worship can substitute.

[4:51] No other service is enough. No other effort can please him. His holiness. Worship him in that. In the beauty of holiness.

Cain's sacrifice and worship was rejected. Wasn't it? Cain, he came as Abel did.

Abel slew the lamb. Cain brought plants and such as a vain worship.

It wasn't a blood sacrifice. It was vain. It was rejected. It wasn't the beauty of holiness that he worshipped in. He worshipped in his own machinations, in his own fleshly effort.

And many who claim to worship God today make that same mistake of worshipping in vain. Worshipping in vain. What is the object of your worship? Your love.

[5:47] He says, have no other gods before me. We must have Christ. We must have Christ. Christ crucified. His holiness.

The one who is our holiness. In him we worship. In him we live and move and have our being. We must have Christ. It tells of him, 2 Peter 1, 3, according to his divine power.

2 Peter 1, 3, according to his divine power, hath given unto us all things, all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.

All things that pertain unto life and godliness or holiness. He's given us all things. He's granted it to us. He's gifted it to us. There was a preacher who put it like this.

You have received all things that pertain unto life and godliness. All things you've received. You do not need another experience.

[6:53] You do not need some new gift. You have been given everything in Christ. You are in him from the beginning of your Christian life. You are just a slacker, lazy, indeed a liar, if you are not living this life.

He's given unto you all things that pertain unto life and godliness. He's given us all of that. And it's about receiving it.

Will we obey him? Will we let him have our whole heart? Will we let him live his life out through us, in us, moment by moment? Holiness. His holiness.

He is the source of it. He is holiness. He himself. And holiness is about being set apart. Set apart. Separated.

Separate. Just as our Lord was. It tells he was set apart from all sin and impurity. And he is the source of real holiness.

[7:56] It's his very nature and character. Separation. It's not a doing by us, but it is really that which God has already done.

He's done it at the cross. It says, In Christ we are fully accepted by God. Ephesians 1.6, it says, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Accepted by Christ, your Saviour. And as we place our trust in him, he sets us apart unto himself. Sets us apart unto himself.

It tells us in part, 1 Corinthians 1.2, To them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus. To them that are sanctified. And those addressed by 1 Corinthians, by Paul, 1 Corinthians 1.2, he says he addresses this letter, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus.

Set apart. Separated. Separated. Called to be, he goes on, called to be saints. Now I know there's people here today that like to sign their name Saint David.

[9:06] Isn't that presumptuous? It's only in the Bible you've got saints, isn't it? Or it's only when a certain man in Rome makes a declaration that someone is a saint after they are long dead and buried.

That's what some people think. But no, we can be declared saints today, here and now, this very moment, in the 21st century, in the present tense, in the present time, that there are saints here.

Mostly, if not all, saints here who know the Lord, all who know the Lord here, you are saints. And I'm privileged to know Saint Bobby, and Saint Naponi, and all the other folk here.

All these saints at Elizabeth Park. And you're called to be saints. Saints. Holy ones is what it means. Set apart ones. Sanctified ones.

And with all that in every place, call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. To them that are sanctified, called to be saints. Wow.

[10:08] That's special, isn't it? You're a special people. Some of you are quite peculiar. I hope you're all peculiar, in a good way. You know, to be so peculiar, that you are a special people, unto God.

Amen. That's good to be in that bunch, isn't it? The peculiar bunch of people, who know the Lord. And God has placed us in His Son, in the one who is the most holy one. It's His name, isn't it?

The Holy One. Our Lord Jesus. He is the Holy. The Holy One. And He is in the very centre, of the Holy of Holies. He is the one who came down, in the glory cloud, and led the people, and came down above the, above the, mercy seat.

Do we walk with Him? Do we know Him? Are we walking in His holiness? His holiness, not ours. His holiness. As we unite our faith, with His grace, we know His wondrous working, within

separation.

It's beautiful. Holiness is a beautiful thing. It's the great purpose, for which He's made us. To get us to God. To get us right with Him. There's beauty.

[11:20] There's joy. There's blessing. There's glory. In God's holiness. Amen? There is. Even now. Even in this time. In this wicked age.

And what a contrast it is, to the opposite, of all that is defiling, and unclean, and all that people might try to legislate, which is actually wickedness.

There's a cleansing. There's a brightness. There's a blessing. There's a glowing, that we know in Christ. We're set free. And His presence is within us. Changing us.

Separating us. So, the beauty of holiness. Let's look now, at separation, unto God.

Separation, unto God. It's a dedicating of our lives, unto Him. Holiness is unto the Lord.

[12:17] They would stamp, various items of the holy furniture, and write these things, on their foreheads, I believe.

Holiness unto the Lord. Holiness unto the Lord. This was the banner that was flying. This was the message they were broadcasting. That we are a holy people.

Holiness unto the Lord. This was what marked them. What made them the people that they were.

There's no other way that we'll do than holiness unto the Lord. Separation unto God.

And 2 Corinthians 6, verse 16, in part it says, God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Wherefore, come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you. and will be a father unto you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

[13:22] Wow, I will dwell in them, I will walk in them, they shall be my people, I will be their God. Wherefore, come out from among them, and be ye separate, and touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you, and you shall be my daughters, my sons, I will be a father unto you, saith the Lord Almighty.

Separation unto God. That's a blessing, isn't it? That we're a separated people, that he's chosen us, that he's fashioned us, that he's still working in us, we're still a work in progress.

I know I am. Separation, it's a holy living, isn't it? A dedicating of our lives unto him, our wills, our worship, our work, separation unto God.

In Hebrews 10 verse 10, it says we are made holy by God. Hebrews 10 verse 10, we're made holy by his will, it's his will, that we be holy.

And even the weakest Christian, the smallest of saints, Paul himself, the weakest of the weak, is a saint.

[14:26] Isn't that a blessing? That even the weakest of us, is a saint. Because we declared such, we're called to be saints. Separation, it's being called, it's being declared, it's being told by God, that's what you are.

I've made you a saint, he says. I've made you sacred. I've declared you holy. It means being set apart, to his worship, to his service, to living a victorious Christian life.

Separation unto God. Separation is God's work. It's God's work, in the life and heart of a believer. It will just let him, do his will, in us.

And he must do the work for us, and in us. As we read, in various scriptures, I'll just cite them. He must do the work in us, to make us holy. Three of these here, you might want to write, references if you're doing such.

He does the work, number one, by the power of his blood. Hebrews 10, 14. By the power of his blood. Hebrews 10, 14.

[15:39] Second, by the power of his word. John 17, 17. It's by his word, his declaration. By the word of God, we're made holy. And thirdly, by the power of his spirit.

2 Thessalonians 2, 13. His spirit. 2 Thessalonians 2, 13. He does the work, by the power of his blood, by the power of his word, by the power of his spirit.

It's all God. It's all him. It's all his doing. Separation. It includes a separation, from all that is evil, and a separation unto.

The special worship and serving of our Lord and God, our Lord Almighty. And it's about that loyalty, that faithfulness to Christ. Not a toleration of sin.

And he helps us come to that place. Are we separated unto God? Specially committed to him? Specially committed to him. It's letting him do it in us.

[16:44] For us. Separation, or holiness, it's a position, and it's also a conduct. He declares you saints, but it's also, there's a conduct, there's a walk, that, that translates into.

A separation is from evil, and it is a conformity to God. As we are saved, saints, men and women of God, we're made conformed to his image, and Christ is formed in us.

There's a conforming, in a good way. As God is all holy, and righteous, he does his work within us. And the presence of God in man, is holiness.

It's as we, let him, have his way. It's his presence in us, that is our holiness. And not a pretense, a pretending, not a playing with fire, a playing church, but he sees who we really are.

And while we are not of this world, we are here in it. And so, our responsibility, while not of the world, but in it, is to let our light shine.

[17:55] As we see in Matthew 5, 16, let your light so shine before me. In this dark, dark world, you are the lights. It's wonderful, isn't it, that Christ himself said, I am the light of the world, and elsewhere he says, ye are the light of the world.

You're a city, sit on a hill, let your light shine. Let's be bright, gleaming, glowing, shining Christians. We are to be of the world, but not in the world.

As someone has pictured this, it's like a submarine. That, as the submarine is in the water, but not of the water.

So it is, if it is on the ground, out of the water, it is of no purpose. It accomplishes its mission by being in the water. And when it is in the water, it must be insulated, not isolated.

So it's insulated from the water. The water doesn't go into the submarine, but it is not isolated from the water. And so if the water ever gets into the submarine, then there's cause for alarm and emergency.

[19:08] We must be insulated from the world, but not isolated from the world. So separation is not isolation, that we're far, far removed.

The Lord Jesus met with the publicans. He met with the sinners. He went and mixed with the multitudes. In Matthew 9 verse 11, for example, he went where they were.

And his enemies called him the friend of sinners. Matthew 9 verse 11. And he mixed with the multitudes, where the crowds were. The Lord Jesus was there.

In John 6, for example, 1 through 14, he was amongst them, in amongst them. And Paul himself reached people around him.

He said, I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means say so. That's 1 Corinthians 9 verse 22. I am made all things to all men. He was such that he was out there in the thick of it, in the midst of it, amongst the people, amongst the sinful, the sinners.

[20:17] Because his mission was there. As the submarine is in the water, but not off the water. We are in the world, but not off the world. Separation is this dividing.

This dividing. This stepping across the line. This decision that we make. But God does not intend his people to act as the self-righteous Pharisees, strutting around in their vanity and pride, yet missing the whole point of what he wants for us.

God does not want us to be walking around proud of what we don't do. As someone has said, do so fast, you don't have time to don't.

If we do so fast that which we ought to do, we won't have time to worry about the things we don't or shouldn't do.

So let your life be so filled with the Lord and occupied in his work that you have no time to concern yourself with the world's attractions, the things that would drag you down and hinder your walk with Christ.

[21:29] Be so busy about the Lord's work that you don't have time for the other that is harmful, lacking for you. But separation is especially meant to be something positive.

It means you stand for something. You stand for something. For the gospel. For the truth. For what is right. For integrity. For walking with God.

In Psalm 24, 3-4, Psalm 24, 3-4, talks about clean hands and a pure heart. It's in the doing. It's in the internal.

It's in the outward. It's our fibre. It's the core of us. It's our whole. But he must be the one.

His holiness must be that which is projected. His doing, his working, must be that which we let him have his way. There's a story about a woman in northern England who was hanging out in the washing on the line and she was pinning all the whites, as people like to call it, you know, the white garments that were hanging off the washing line.

[22:42] And she was so proud how dazzling white it all looked to her. She thought it just glistened in the sunshine. And then the snow came down and it made such a beautiful blanket of white.

And seeing her clothes with the snow behind them, she exclaimed, exclaimed, what can a poor woman do against God's almighty snow?

Even the, what appeared to be white clothes, as she'd done her best in the laundry to make them white, they looked dirty compared to the snow.

And likewise too, all the good that we can do with our own effort and well intention is just outshone by God's radiance, isn't it?

The radiance of God's holiness such that we can only exclaim, what can a man, a woman do against the purity of God almighty? What can we do? We need the almighty working of God.

[23:45] So we see number one, a separation unto God. Number two, a separation unto the gospel, unto the gospel. Paul shows us the beauty of separation lived out in everyday life and he called himself in Romans 1, verse 1, Romans 1, verse 1, a servant of Jesus.

He said, Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of Christ. Paul said, I'm a servant, I'm an apostle, called unto the gospel, separated unto the gospel of God.

There was a separation unto the gospel. Paul was totally dedicated to the gospel, the word of his salvation.

The gospel is what we're separated unto. As we know, Paul says, I'm not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth, to the Jew first and to the Greek, also to the Greek.

He's separated unto the gospel. The gospel, the soul-saving message, the salvation message. Paul says, I'm separated unto this. He was totally dedicated to the good news, the glad news, the great news, centred in the person and work of Christ.

[25:09] Paul was devoted to the gospel. He was separated unto it. And likewise, we ought to be such a people that we're separated unto the gospel.

And Paul made his stand against various substitutes, counterfeits, perverted gospels, empty, vain, substitute gospels.

And there's many today. Many false gospels, many false messages out there. Galatians 1, 8 through 9, we see Paul withstood.

He withstood the false gospel. Galatians 1, 8 through 9, talks about if someone comes and brings another gospel, even if it's an angel. Don't believe them. Don't follow them.

Reject that. And there's so many other false gospels today. We've got the gospel, the self-esteem gospel. There's some preachers that build people up such that they're almost magnifying themselves.

[26:08] And we see the prosperity gospel where some would say that Christ has come to make you healthy and wealthy. The do as you please gospel where it's almost a take it or leave it.

Take your pick of these gospels but rather the gospel, the message. I'm not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth.

The gospel. Paul was separated unto it. Are we devoted to such? God's great good news. Do we have a love for the saviour such that we must impart the gospel? We must communicate the gospel.

We must be messengers of the gospel. Of this saving work of Christ at the cross. Of his continuing work of reaching the lost. He's come to seek and to save the lost and his mission is our mission too. Take his gospel. Be separated unto the gospel such that it's in your heart and soul and you must declare it. It's in your mouth. Be dedicated.

[27:13] Be devoted to taking its message to others. Separated unto God. Separated unto the gospel. My third point, separated unto the master's use.

2 Timothy 2.21 Are we separated unto the master's use? 2 Timothy 2.21 Paul's talking in the context of comparing people to vessels of containers of receptacles of earthen vessels as it were. And he says to Timothy, young Timothy, he says, If a man therefore purge himself from these, you know, that which is against righteousness, he shall be a vessel unto honour, a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet, or fit for the master's use and prepared unto every good work. He's talking about letting go, rejecting some, that which will hinder and rather choosing to be a vessel unto honour, a vessel that is honourable, that's worthy, that's fitting, that's ready, that's sanctified, separated, made holy and ready for the master to use, prepared unto every good work. Are you separated unto the master's use? We ought to seek that, that God will seek to use us, to be pleased to use us, to be such for him to use us in whatever capacity he's called us to, whatever work he's calling you to, that you'll be preparing, you'll be prepared.

[28:53] And live out your Bible-based preparation, your Bible-based separation, to be a positive, God-glorifying people, a Christ-honouring, a soul-winning community, a Holy Spirit-activated people.

The beauty of holiness. It's a beautiful thing. It's not a harsh, cold, forced, or legalistic thing in the sense that it's all about what we don't.

It's about what we do in particular. That our separation is honouring him, a beauty of holiness. It's the worship. It's the placing him front and centre.

It's the devotion. It's that will to please him. It's that each day we acknowledge we are his servant. Ready for the master's use. Prepared for every good work. It's being available. It's your use of time and resources in such a way that God is your prime motivation in how you spend your life, how you make your decisions day by day.

[30:06] And look, for myself, I need to be doing more so. making myself available, using whatever I can for God's glory.

And sanctification is God taking the world out of us. He does. He takes the world out of us such that we do such that the don'ts, we don't even have to think about the don'ts so much because our will is to do his will.

Our life is to live as he would be pleased. Our decisions are that which he would stir us to.

Sanctification is God taking the world out of us.

So how do we get there? To really get to the place of separation, we need to be taking the pathway of the cross. the pathway of the cross as our Lord taught.

If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Matthew 16, 24. What is the place of separation?

[31:25] It's the exchanged life. The exchanged life. Romans 6, verse 6. It talks about the body of sin. Romans 6, verse 6. It says, knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Rather, we serve him, not sin. It's the exchanged life, the rags of our righteousness for the robes of his perfect righteousness.

The way of the cross, it's the opposite of the way of the world. Paul gave God the glory, he said in Galatians 6, 14, but God forbid that I should glory, I should glory, saved in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me and I unto the world.

Glory in that, glory in him, glory not in yourself. Even if you feel like you've arrived or you're further ahead than others, don't ever glory, glory in this, glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, by whom, by Christ, the world is crucified unto me and I unto the world.

A preacher said this, he crucifies the flesh by renouncing it with all his heart, by dying to its appeal, by having a sincere desire for its removal and through a realisation that his only hope of deliverance

from this sinful nature is through his complete identification with Christ and his cross.

[33:16] Dying to self, it's easy to say it, isn't it? Dying to yourself and your selfish ways.

If a believer is crucified to the world, he will overcome in this conflict with issues of worldliness, he will be driven by the Spirit of God, dead to sin.

Can we grasp that? I've seen a man lying in a coffin and I've touched his cold hand and it grips you when you see the coldness of death.

And we ought to be dead to sin such that you can do what you like to that dead body. It's not going to go that way. You can lure it and woo it and try to sweet talk it, but it's dead, dead unto sin.

And that's how we ought to be to sin. We should be dead. God helping us, let's aspire to that. Let's endeavour after that such that there won't be any attraction because we are a dead man unto sin, unto the world.

[34:30] Someone has said if God is your co-pilot, change seats. God shouldn't be our co-pilot. He should be the pilot. The pilot. We're not even the co-pilot. If God is your co-pilot, change seats.

Let God be your pilot. Let God be the driver. Let God be the leader. Let God be the one who's behind the steering wheel. Do we know that full surrender, the full surrender to Christ?

As a believer, do we seek to honour God in how we walk? Is our testimony credible before the watching world? We're always on show, aren't we? People know you're a Christian.

They know what you claim, what you say you are. When you don't measure up, what a woeful testimony that is. What a sad, sad thing. But rather let's be separated unto God.

And it will show in the walk, it will show in our way, in our thinking, in our will, in our every aspiration, in our desires, in our endeavours.

[35:35] we've seen separated unto God. And that Christ is our sanctification.

He is the one who sanctifies us. He is the one, the Lord who sanctifies you. He sanctifies you. Let him be God. We've seen a separation, a separation unto the gospel.

As Paul had, the message he was just so driven by it, separated unto it, that this was the message that had to be on his lips, imparted by his life.

And we see a separation unto the master's use, unto the master's use, such that we're a vessel, a vessel unto honour, a vessel that honours God.

Does our vessel honour God? Are we sanctified, meet, or fit, for the master's use, and prepared unto, prepared unto every good word?

[36:48] The beauty of holiness. This is something not to shy away from, not to count as irksome, but gladsome. Gladsome, the beauty of holiness.

It's a beautiful thing to know the Lord, to follow him, to seek to serve and bless and be used of him in whatever capacity we can. That he will be the object of our worship and the one who fills us and overflows us, so that it is his holiness that shines out of us as we are lights in this world, to brighten the corner where we are, as he helps us shine through our lives.

My message really is to believe us here. It's urging us to grab hold of that truth today, called to be saints, and if you're here and you're not a saint, you don't have to wait for some man in Rome to make you a saint, because he can't do it.

Only God can. Only God can save you, only God can hold you, only God can shape you and make you a saint. This side of glory and for eternity, and it's only by his grace, it's only as you trust in him and find your peace with God, that only then can you truly give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Lord, we thank you today for every believer here, for any who may be stirred to search their hearts.

[38:37] If they're yet to trust you, they can by faith simply trust that it won't be any glory unto ourselves, but all the glory will be unto your name.

And the cross, the saving grace you've shown us there, is all our plea. Only your name, only your grace can save.

Nothing of our own doing can hold us or save us. Only your grace can take us to glory. Lord, we thank you for every believer here.

Help us to be stirred to a deeper walk. Lord, help us to search our hearts and find how that holiness can be strengthened as really it's truly just resigning to your will.

It's truly just giving way to your control. It's truly just submitting ourselves to you. That is the only way we can know this beauty of holiness.

[39:44] Lord, do your work in us. Draw us closer to you. Help us, Lord, to acknowledge that which holds us away from you and to let it go.

Lord, to bury that old man deep in the ground and Lord, we pray that he'll never get resurrected.

Lord, the old man, that body of sin, the old flesh and nature, that you would bury that man and that he will be dead.

But yet, we can live unto righteousness. You can make us a new creation that walks in your truth.

You'll help us to be strengthened and even when we slip and fall, you'll still hold us steady and you'll chasten us if need be.

And Lord, we'll just accept it and get right. In Jesus' name. Amen.