

# JESUS TEACHES HIS RULES FOR DISCIPLESHIP: THE NEED TO WATCH LUKE 06:39-45

## *Introduction*

Man is to watch how he lives. Both the quality and fate of his life depend upon it.

=> God cares about the quality of a man's life. He wants every man to have the fullest life that he possibly can.

=> God cares about the destiny of a man, where a man will spend eternity. He wants every man to receive eternal life.

There are four rules, four warnings that must be watched if we are to live life to the fullest and be assured of eternal life.

- I. Watch blindness: one's leaders and how one leads (v. 39).
- II. Watch the Teacher (the Lord Himself) (v. 40).
- III. Watch hypocrisy and the criticism of others (vv. 41-42).
- IV. Watch the fruit that a man brings forth (vv. 43-45).

## **I. *Luke 06: 39 Spiritual Blindness and Darkness***

The first rule is to watch blindness; watch one's leaders and how one leads. "Can a blind man lead a blind man?" Note several things.

1. Note who the blind are. They are the leaders: the preachers, teachers, parents - anyone who has influence or responsibility for anyone else. In fact, any person can be blind and lead someone else down the same path of blindness. But observe a significant fact. Jesus also says that

## Jesus Teaches His Rules for Discipleship: The Need to Watch

the blind are those who follow: the pupil, learner, listener, seeker, child - anyone who looks up to someone else for guidance.

2. Note why people are blind. There are several clear reasons.
  - a. A person can be born blind. He can be handicapped, never having had the opportunity to see the truth of things, never having been exposed to the light.
  - b. A person can be blind because of some injury. He used to be able to see and had every opportunity to see, but now he is blind, blind because...
    - he injured himself by some careless act. (He is guilty of blinding himself to the Light.)
    - he was blinded by someone else, either deliberately or carelessly. (Others led him astray, led him off into the darkness.)
    - he was blinded by nature. (Circumstances, heritage, location kept him from ever having the opportunity to escape the darkness.)
  - c. A person can be blind because he wants and chooses to be in the dark. The dark is his choice; he finds the dark is enjoyable and comfortable; therefore, he refuses to come out into the light and to see the truth of things.
  - d. A person can be blind because he closes his eyes or turns his head and looks away. He just refuses to see the light, the truth.

Jesus warned against being blind. He said blindness leads to two tragic results.

1. Both walk in darkness, both the leader and the follower. Being a leader does not guarantee that one walks in the light. A leader can be blind, and if the leader is blind, then the follower will remain blind. The leader must see and have his sight if the follower is to ever see. (Note the awesome responsibility upon leaders.)

- Both stumble and fall “into a pit.” Being a leader does not guarantee that one will not fall. The blind person will stumble and fall no matter who he is, leader or not. And note, a leader will especially stumble about and fall if he is on strange or unfamiliar terrain. The truth of Christ is totally unknown terrain to the blind teacher, no matter his profession.

**Mat 5:19-20** “Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.”

**1 Tim 1:7** They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm.

**1 Tim 6:3-5** If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.

**2 Tim 4:3-4** For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

**2 Pet 2:1** But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce

*destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them - bringing swift destruction on themselves.*

**John 1:5** *The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.*

**John 3:19** *“This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.”*

**Mat 6:23** *“But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!”*

**2 Cor 4:3-4** *And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

**Eph 4:17-18** *So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.*

## **II. Luke 06: 40 Self-Denial and Dedication**

The second rule is to watch the life of the Teacher, of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. “A student is not above his teacher, but...will be like his teacher.” Note several points.

- The words fully trained (katertismenos) mean to complete, render fit, mend. It is a common word often used for mending, repairing, or restoring broken things such as nets (Mt. 4:21) or men (Gal. 6:1).

2. The point is forceful, “a student is not above his teacher”. There is the warning: the disciple is not above persecution. No disciple is above his master; no servant is above his lord (Mt. 10:24-25). The Lord suffered persecution, so will the disciple. The disciple must expect persecution, for he shall be persecuted even as his Lord was persecuted.

**Thought 1.** It is impossible for a disciple to be above his master or for a servant to be above his lord. If our Master and Lord has suffered persecution, so shall we. Why? He is our Master and Lord; that is, we are His. We belong to Him. All that He is and all that He stands for is what we are and what we stand for. Whatever caused men to persecute Him, *the same is in us*. They will persecute us for the same thing and for the same reason they persecuted Him.

The point is clear: the disciple is not better than his Lord; therefore, he cannot expect to be treated better, nor can he expect to receive more in this world than his Teacher. The disciple cannot expect to be better by having more honour, praise, recognition, or esteem. He cannot expect to have more comfort, rest, or pleasure. The Lord suffered, humbled, and denied Himself for the sake of the world and its needs. The disciple, as a follower of the Lord, does the same; he denies himself in order to reach the world for his Lord (see *Cross and Discipleship*, Lk. 9:23).

**John 3:15** *That everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.*

**Phil 2:5-8** *Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in the very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross!*

**John 20:21** *Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”*

**Acts 1:8** *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

3. The goal of the student (disciple) is to “be like his Teacher.” The disciple of the Lord seeks to be like his Master: conformed, mended, repaired, restored (perfected) into His very image.

**Phil 3:10** *I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.*

**Isa 43:10** *“You are my witnesses,” declares the LORD, “and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he.”*

**2 Cor 3:18** *And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*

### LUKE 09: 23 CROSS AND DISCIPLESHP

*Then he said to them all: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.”* **Luke 09:23**

People in Jesus’ day knew what it meant to “take up” a cross. They saw scores of criminals bear the cross to the place where they were to be executed, and they witnessed scores of crucifixions, some even by the side of the roads that led in and out of the cities.

The cross does not mean merely bearing one's particular hardship in life, such as poor health, abuse, unemployment, invalid parents, an unsaved spouse, a wayward child. The cross is always an instrument of death, not just an object to carry or bear. The Christian is to die mentally and actively. He is to deny himself daily. He is to let the mind of Christ, the mind of humbling himself to the point of death, be in him and fill his thoughts every day (Phil. 2:5-8; 2 Cor. 10:3-5). He is to put his will, his desires, his wants, his ambitions to death. In their stead, he is to follow Jesus and to do His will all day long. Note this is not negative, passive behaviour. It takes positive, active behaviour to *will*, to *deny self*, to *take up* one's cross, to *follow* Christ. A person has to act, work, get to it, be diligent, consistent, and enduring in order to die to self.

There are several ways the believer dies to self. Romans 6:11-13 spells out the ways as clearly as they can be.

**Rom 6:11-13** *In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. (see Rom. 6:2-10)*

1. The believer reckons or counts himself crucified with Christ.

**Rom 6:11a** *In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin.*

**Rom 6:6** *For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.*

**Gal 2:20** *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

**Gal 5:24** *Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.*

2. The believer reckons or counts himself dead to sin, but alive to God.

**Rom 6:11** *In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

**1 Pet 4:2** *As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God.*

3. The believer does not let sin reign in his body.

**Rom 6:12** *Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.*

**Col 3:5** *Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.*

4. The believer does not yield the parts of his body to sin, as instruments of wickedness.

**Rom 6:13a** *Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness.*

**Rom 8:13** *For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.*

5. The believer yields himself to God - as much as those who are alive from the dead are yielded to God.

**Rom 6:13b** *But rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life.*

**Rom 12:1** *Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship.*

**Rom 13:14** *Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.*

6. The believer yields his body members as instruments of righteousness.

**Rom 6:13c** *And offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.*

**Gal 5:16** *So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.*

It should be noted that one's hardship or burden can bring a person to the place where the Lord can deal with him. It is then that the hardship becomes the cross and denial of self that Jesus is talking about. With an act of self-denial, the Christian can then count or reckon himself alive to God (Rom. 6:13). He can then follow Jesus. This is an act which can be described as committing all that one is and has to Christ. It is an act that needs to be repeated every day (see Mt. 10:38). □

### III. *Luke 06: 41-42 Criticism and Hypocrisy*

The third rule is to watch hypocrisy and criticism of others. Note a crucial fact: Jesus was speaking to everyone seated before Him. No matter how moral, decent, strong, religious, or free of visible sin. He was speaking to everyone seated in the audience. No one was exempt. Everyone was to watch out for hypocrisy and criticism of others. Why? Because whatever is in a person's eye, even if it is only a speck, is serious. Even a speck causes the eye to water, squint, blink, and close. The speck hinders a person's sight (life, walk), holding him back from full sight and service. Now note four points about the parable.

1. Both persons, the one being criticized and the criticizer, do have a problem. Both have a need to clean the dirt out of their eyes. Neither one is free of dirt. Not a single person serves in perfect obedience and ministry to the Lord. There is at least a speck in everyone's eye.
2. The criticizer has the biggest problem. This is usually overlooked. Criticism of others is a plank. If one has only a speck in his eye, when he begins to criticize others he immediately catches a plank in his own eye. Criticism is the tree that strikes the eye and blinds one to his own need, his need for continued confession and repentance. The criticizer becomes blinded to his constant need for the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

**2 Pet 1:9** *But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.*

3. The criticizer is a hypocrite (see *Hypocrites*, Mt. 23:13). He is but a man who is like all other men, full of ever so many faults and coming ever so short, yet he finds fault with others. He criticizes, grumbles,



gripes, condemns, judges, and censors others while he too is guilty of so much in so many other areas. And note: his greatest fault is that he sets himself up as the Judge, as the one who has the right to judge men.

4. The disciple must examine himself first. Judging himself first will enable him to see clearly just how to help others. Rigid examination is required. Simple honesty and thought say that a man must clean the dirt out of his own eye before he can see clearly enough to help others clean their eyesight.

**Mat 7:1** *“Do not judge, or you too will be judged.”*

**Rom 14:4** *Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.*

**Rom 14:13** *Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother’s way.*

**1 Cor 4:5** *Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men’s hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.*

**James 4:12** *There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you - who are you to judge your neighbour?*

### MATHEW 23:13 HYPOCRITES (HUPOKRITES)

One who pretends, puts on a show, acts out something he is not. At first the word simply meant one who replied or answered. Then it came to mean acting, as actors play-acted the lines of a scene. Finally, the word was used in the worst sense: play-acting; pretending; one who wore a mask to hide his real self; one who acted one way but who was really another way; one who put on an outward show.

The religionists, the Scribes and Pharisees, were hypocrites.

=> They acted as though they believed and loved God, yet they did not accept God’s Son.

=> They pretended to be seeking God; but they were really seeking profession, esteem, recognition, honour, position, power, and security (Mt. 12:1-8).

=> They showed a concern for the things of God, but they were really concerned with the things of this world.

=> They acted humble and helpful; but they were really full of pride, envy, possessiveness, selfishness, and covetousness.

=> They claimed to be ministers of God’s religion; but they were really ministers of a man-made religion, a religion that honoured man’s ability to be good and to do enough good to become acceptable to God.

=> They professed God’s Word, but they added to and took away from His Word.

What Christ had to say about hypocrites is very serious. His words are a warning to every pretender and deceiver.

- => Hypocrites will receive the greater damnation (v. 14).
- => Hypocrites are sons of hell (v. 15).
- => Hypocrites are fools and they are blind (w. 17, 19).
- => Hypocrites are blind guides (v. 24).
- => Hypocrites are full of greed and selfishness (v. 25).
- => Hypocrites are full of everything unclean (v. 27).
- => Hypocrites are snakes, a generation of vipers (v. 33).
- => Hypocrites shall not escape being condemned to hell (v. 33). □

#### IV. *Luke 06: 43–45 Fruit-Bearing – Words – Tongue*

Watch the fruit that a man brings forth.

1. Every tree is known by its fruit, its nature. A good man is not judged by a bad piece of fruit here and there but by the good fruit he bears. Every tree produces some bad fruit, yet the tree is not cast away. A tree is not rejected unless it leans toward bad fruit. When testing and examining men, we must observe not single acts here and there; but the tenor, the lean, the whole behaviour of their lives. How important! Such considerations as the following are given in Scripture.
  - a. Their preaching and teaching. Are they “enemies of the cross of Christ”?

*1 Cor 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

*1 Cor 2:2 For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.*

*Phil 3:18 For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.*

- b. Their minds. Do they usually keep their minds on carnal or on spiritual things?

*Phil 3:19 Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.*

*Rom 8:5 Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.*

*2 Cor 10:3-5 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*

- c. Their appetite. Can it be said, “God is their stomach”?

*Phil 3:19 Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.*

- d. Their day-to-day ethics or behaviour. Is it their practice to live immorally, either vicariously (through what they look at, watch, read, talk, and joke about) or through what they do?

*1 Cor 6:8-10 Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers. Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit*

*the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.*

2. Every tree reproduces after its nature, after its kind. How can we tell if a man is false? There is one revealing mark: the fruit he gathers. A man is known by the fruit he feeds upon and the fruit he feeds to others (see Jn. 15:1-8). If he feeds himself on thorns and briars and not on grapes and figs, that is one way to tell. If he feeds thorns and briars to others instead of grapes and figs, that is another way to tell.

Thorns and briars are false food, worldliness (See *Thorns, Wildredness, Weath*, Mt. 13:7, 22). Grapes and figs are true food. There is only one true food for the soul of man: the Lord Jesus Christ and His Word. (See Jn. 6:1-71; Jn. 6:30-36; 6:41-51. See *Sanctify*, Jn. 17:17; see 5:24; 1 Pt.2:2-3.) A man must feed on and feed others the truth of the Lord and His Word. Any other source of food for the human soul is false food: it is thorn and briar (worldliness). If eaten or served to others, it will choke the life out of the soul (Mt. 13:7; see 1 Jn. 2:15-16; 2 Cor. 6:17-18; Rom. 12:1-2).

3. Every man reproduces what is in his heart. Note that Jesus is dealing with a man's mouth, the words a man speaks. A man speaks what is in his heart. His words expose his heart, the kind of man he is. The idea is that words come out of an overflowing heart: "For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks." A man's words expose five things about him.

=> A man's words expose his true nature: what he is really like beneath the surface.

=> A man's words expose what he is down deep within his heart: his motives, desires, ambitions, or the lack of initiative.

=> A man's words expose his true character: good or bad, kind or cruel.

=> A man's words expose his mind, what he thinks: pure or impure thoughts, dirty or clean thoughts.

=> A man's words expose his spirit, what he believes and pursues: the legitimate or illegitimate, the intelligent or ignorant, the true or false, the beneficial or wasteful.

*Mat 7:17 "Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit."*

*James 2:17-18 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.*

*1 Pet 2:12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.*

*Gal 5:19-23 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ■*



MATHEW 13: 07, 22  
THORNS, WORLDLINESS, WEALTH

*“Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants.” Mathew 13:07*

Some received the Word among thorns. The thorny ground is deceptive ground. It looks good and clean, appearing to be clear of weeds and thorns, but it is not. Right under the surface of the soil is a chain of roots ready to spring up. The fact that the roots are already there means that the thorns will be stronger and grow faster than the *good seed*. They will choke the life out of the good seed.

Thorns represent those who receive the Word as an addition to their life. The Word is merely added on, not allowed to replace the world and the things of it. These do not truly repent; they just try to take God and add Him to their collection in life. They make Him only a small part of their affairs; consequently, the Word is always choked to death. (1 Jn. 2:15-16).

1. Thorns are “the worries of this life” (v. 22). They *prick and prick* away at the Word. They *entangle* a person in the world and the things of the world (2 Tim. 2:3-4). They irritate, aggravate, trouble, and hinder a person from pursuing his task. When a person’s mind is on *the worries of this life*, his mind is not on God and the things of the Word or Spirit. He is carnal-minded, not spiritual-minded (Rom. 8:5-8; 2 Cor. 10:3-5).
2. Thorns are “the deceitfulness of wealth” (v. 22). Note: it is not wealth itself that is worldly (thorny); it is the *deceit* of wealth. Wealth deceives in several ways.

- a. Wealth tends to make a person *self-confident* and *self-dependent*. It makes him feel comfortable and secure in this world. Such tends to keep him from trusting and calling upon God.
  - b. Wealth tends to make a person *Overly comfortable, extravagant, and indulgent*. It makes him live sumptuously, beyond what is needed. He sometimes feels that he can spend to get a little more and a little better than is necessary. This feeling arises especially if he has already given to meet the needs of the world. (See *Sin*, Lk. 16:19-21.)
  - c. Wealth tends to *consume a person’s mind*. It arouses the urge and passion to keep and protect all that a person has and to make more and more. A wealthy person often finds himself more and more centred around his wealth and less and less centred around the things of God and His Word.
  - d. Wealth tends to *misinterpret the blessings of God*. It leads a person to the false idea and security that *to have is to be blessed by God*, and not to have is to be blessed less by God. This is a false concept that has prevailed since the beginning of time: that to receive and have anything in this world is a blessing from God, and the more a person has, the more he is *especially blessed*. God has promised the necessities of life in this material world, but His great blessings are spiritual (Mt. 6:25-34; Eph. 1:3).
- Note: these four deceptions show clearly why it is so difficult for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

**Mark 4:19** *But the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.*

**1 Tim 6:9** *People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.*

**James 5:3** *Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days.*

**Mat 19:23** *Then Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven."*

**1 Tim 6:7** *For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.*

**Job 20:28** *A flood will carry off his house, rushing waters on the day of God's wrath.*

**Psa 49:10** *For all can see that wise men die; the foolish and the senseless alike perish and leave their wealth to others. (see Eccl 2:18)*

**Prov 23:5** *Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.*

**Jer 17:11** *Like a partridge that hatches eggs it did not lay is the man who gains riches by unjust means. When his life is half gone, they will desert him, and in the end he will prove to be a fool. □*

## JOHN 17:17 SANCTIFY, SANCTIFICATION

*"Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth." John 17:17*

The word *sanctify* means to be set apart, to be separated (see 1 Pet. 1:15-16). There are three stages of sanctification.

1. There is initial or positional sanctification. When a person believes in Jesus Christ, he is immediately set apart for God permanently, once-for-all (Heb. 3:1; see Heb. 10:10).
2. There is progressive sanctification. The true believer makes a determined and disciplined effort to allow the Spirit of God to set him apart day by day. The Spirit of God takes him and conforms him to the image of Christ more and more. This growth takes place as long as the believer walks upon this earth (see Jn. 17:17; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 5:25-26; 1 Th. 5:23-24).
3. There is eternal sanctification. The day is coming when the believer will be perfectly set apart unto God and His service - without any sin or failure whatsoever. That day will be the great and glorious day of the believer's eternal redemption (Eph. 5:27; 1 Jn. 3:2). □