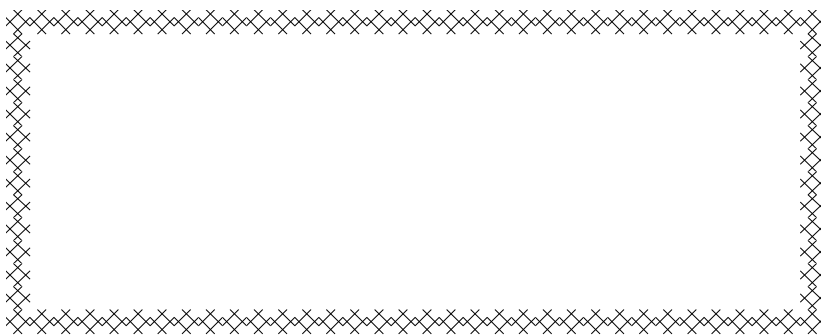
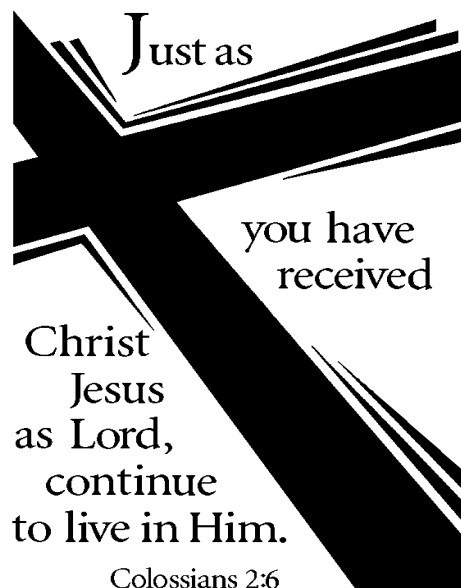


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**PRAY FOR GRACE TO BE OBEDIENT  
TO THE WORD OF GOD.**

**September, 2019**

**In this little issue, and by God's grace, every issue, our only purpose is to honor Jesus Christ.**

# SPURGEON ON PROGRESSIVE SANCTIFICATION

It must be "Jesus only" to sanctify us. Some professors will not say so. "We are justified by God," they say, "but we have to sanctify ourselves." They believe in what they call *progressive sanctification*. Is that scriptural or not? Well, I have always thought that sanctification is *continual*, but I am not sure that it is progressive.

Many divines have written it down as a settled truth that God's people are *sanctified* progressively, and that the longer they are here, the more and more sanctified they get. Did any of them ever stop and ask an old believer whether he found it so?

I have asked many, and I have heard a venerable saint, whose hairs are silvered over with gray, say, "I think my heart is as bad, now, as ever it was. And I am sure if it is not actually so, I think it is, and it plagues me more than it ever did."

It has been the custom to pray God to protect young men in the slippery paths of youth. Why, the paths of old age are quite as slippery! They are *all* slippery paths—all the way to heaven! The old nature still remains in us, unchanged and unchangeable—and there will have to be a fight between the new nature and the old nature, between the house of David, and the house of Saul until, at last—the house of David shall overcome, and we shall get clean free from sin.

Beloved, do not be looking with regard to your sanctification, for any great progress! Expect it to be continual every day, but do not expect that your old nature will get holier every day—and in your sanctification take this for your motto, "Jesus only."—Adapted from *The C. H. Spurgeon Collection*, Ages Software—Sermon #2634, Volume 45—"Jesus Only"—*A Communion Meditation*—read/download the entire sermon free of charge at <http://www.spurgeongems.org>

**HAVE YOU EVER VISITED WITH YOUR CHAPLAIN, AND ASKED ABOUT HIS SPIRITUAL NEEDS?**

# STRENGTH FOR SUBDUING OUR SINFULNESS

**Robert Haldane (1772-1854)**

True spiritual mortification does not consist in sin not being in you, nor in its being put upon the cross daily, nor yet in its being kept upon it. There must be something more to establish perfect peace in your conscience—and that is the testimony of God concerning the body of sin. He has provided for your perfect deliverance from it in Christ. Everything necessary for this purpose was finished by Him upon the cross. He was your Surety. He suffered for you. Your sins were crucified with Him, and nailed to the cross. They were put to death when He died, for He was your covenant head, and you were legally represented by Him and are, indeed, dead to sin by His dying to sin once. The law of God has now no more right to condemn you, a believer, than it has to condemn Him.

If you do not thus see your complete mortification in Him, sin will reign in you. No sin can be crucified either in heart or life unless it was first pardoned in conscience, because there will be lack of faith to receive the strength of Jesus, by whom, alone, it can be crucified. If it is not mortified in its guilt, it cannot be subdued in its power. If you, as a believer, do not see your perfect deadness to sin in Jesus, you will open a wide door to unbelief. And if you are not persuaded of your completeness in Christ, you give room for the attacks of self-righteousness and legal tempers. If Christ is not all-in-all, self must still be looked upon as something great—and there will be food left for the pride of self-importance, and self-sufficiency—so that you cannot grow into the death of Christ in sensible experience further than you believe yourself to be dead to sin in Christ. The more clearly and steadfastly you believe this, as the apostle did...“I am crucified with Christ”...in proportion will you cleave to Christ, and receive from Him greater power to crucify sin.

This believing view of your absolute mortification in Christ is the true gospel method of mortifying sin in our own persons. Read the sixth of Romans, and pray for the Spirit of Revelation to open it to you. There you will discover the true way to mortify sin. It is by believing that you are planted together with Christ in His death...only from here your daily victory grows.

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## **Flashes of Spurgeon's Sword!**

“It is no new thing that we should be made a laughingstock to the enemies of the cross of Christ because we cannot do what we have formerly done, and are beaten in the very field where before we have achieved great and notable victories for our Master!”—1896, Sermon #2454

“One thing I know, Christ thinks more of our sins than He does of our righteousness, for He gave Himself for our sins—I never heard that He gave Himself for our righteousness. By His most precious blood, He has put away the sins of all who trust Him. But take care that your self-righteousness does not come in between you and the Savior, for if it does, you will be among the rich whom He will send away empty! Empty your pockets and make yourselves poor! I do not mean in money, but in spirit. Get down to spiritual poverty and beggary, for that is the *only* way to attain to spiritual riches.”—1896, Sermon #2482

“It was said, long ago, that it is the highest wisdom for a man to know himself—but I deny that. The first, the highest, the best of all wisdom is for a man to know his God. As for himself, he is but a speck, an atom, a *nothing*. If he truly attains a knowledge of God, he will afterwards know himself in the best possible way.”—1898, Sermon #2571

“They err from the Scriptures who make the grace of God a reason for doing nothing—it is the reason for doing *everything*.”—1896, Sermon #2455

“I have been sometimes called to book for saying—yet I will venture to say it again—that if I lived in a village, or if I lived in any other place where I knew there was a Baptist or other Dissenting chapel, before I decided to attend it, I would want to know, first, ‘Is the gospel preached there?’ I am not so blindly wedded to any denomination whatever that I should cling to the denomination if it did not cleave to Christ! ‘Follow the Lamb wherever He goes.’”—1896, Sermon #2456

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