

Sermon Series
The Superiority of Jesus Christ
January 16, 2022

Title: The Holy Spirit in Sanctification

Subject: Trinity, Eternal Covenant, Old Covenant, New Covenant, The Law of God, Hearts, Minds, Sins, Expiation, Sanctification,

Theme Text: Hebrews 10:15-17 (ESV) ¹⁵ **And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,** ¹⁶ **“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,”** ¹⁷ **then he adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”**

Theme Illustration: Last week we learned of the fact of our sanctification through this wonderful truth, **Hebrews 10:14 (ESV)** ¹⁴ **For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.** Those who are being sanctified are those chosen by grace to eternal life and regenerated by the Holy Spirit. So powerful and effectual was that one sacrifice, God set us apart never to be unset apart. This is our objective sanctification. Christ’s sacrifice covered all our sins future which would seem to annul our standing with God except that His blood carries with Him infinite merit with God. We have been set apart, freed from the penalty of sins committed in time. If our sanctification stopped at the point of regeneration, our lives would not demonstrate the power of Christ’s blood and God’s grace in our lives. That initial setting apart is just the beginning of a long process in our lives through which God’s power results in being freed from the power of sin in our lives objectively. We have been taught by the Holy Spirit that perfection of our moral character is the goal of God for us, verse 14. God made a promise to Christ through the eternal covenant of redemption, that given the Mediator’s agreement to become incarnate and offer Himself as the effectual atoning sacrifice, that God would complete the perfecting through the New Covenant by performing heart and mind renovation in those who are being perfected. The Holy Spirit who was a

witness to this promise from the Father, bears witness to the process of our perfection, our sanctification.

Read: Hebrews 10:15-18

Introduction: We have before us the conclusion of the theological foundation of this letter, a summary of sorts before he moved into the practical application of these glorious truths in the Christian life. The Holy Spirit has set before us the immeasurable superiority of Jesus Christ over the Mosaic economy, the religion of Israel. We have beheld the glorious person of our Great High Priest and Mediator and the perfect efficacy of His sacrifice to perfect God's people.

In this morning's text, we have another text from the Old Testament which reinforces what is being presented. So efficacious was the mediator's work that by His one offering He perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. The Holy Spirit now describes God's work and the effects which identify those who are being sanctified. These characteristics, a new heart and mind, are the basis upon which we can honestly appraise whether or not we are the sanctified. The presence of these things will provide conclusive proof of our being set apart in Christ before the foundation of the world and give us the assurance we need to weather the ups and downs of our journey.

Transition: The Holy Spirit is bearing witness to what God has agreed to do to bring about the effects of our sanctification. Let us, therefore, defer to:

1. The Spirit's Witness: Hebrews 10:15-16 (ESV) ¹⁵ And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, ¹⁶ "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,"

Who are the sanctified? This is our vital question. They are those who, by operation of the Holy Spirit have had spiritual heart surgery. Those who are sanctified are those whose hearts God has placed His laws. They are those

who are perfected forever, who sins God no more remembers. This is the Holy Spirit's witness.

The Holy Spirit now describes the new covenant which He has referred to before in the prophecy of Jeremiah. We have three questions which are suggested by verse 15. What is the Holy Spirit bearing witness to? The also tells us there was another witness. And lastly, how does the Holy Spirit bear witness? We have already been told that the one sacrifice of God's anointed Redeemer secures the eternal perfection of all who are sanctified. The Holy Spirit has already revealed that He was present when the eternal covenant was made between the Father and the Mediator.

The Holy Spirit is the also witness. We look back to verses eight and nine to confirm. There we have the Son's agreement with that covenant which God had made in which God placed in operation through which the Son came into the world to execute. In our text, we have recorded what the Father promised the Mediator what He would commit to doing to His covenant people. Here we have all three persons of the Godhead in agreement as to the plan and their role in it.

We cannot overlook the witness of the Spirit which He gave to the prophet Jeremiah and Ezekiel. This is what is recorded in our text referring to Jeremiah 31:31 – 34. We agree with Scripture, **2 Peter 1:21 (ESV)** ²¹ **For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.**

When we read the word, we are to recognize the voice of the Spirit of Truth speaking to us out of them. We, this church, recognize that the word has the final say in all matters of saintly conduct.

While it is true that the words of Jeremiah were for the people of God in his day, it applies equally to us today. The whole of the word of God from beginning to end was written for the good of His people, past, present, and future, **2 Corinthians 3:3 (ESV)** ³ **And you show that you are a letter**

from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

Every grace granted to us by The Spirit was purchased by the obedience and the blood of Christ.

Transition: Now we move to the heart and mind surgery and the Divine surgeon in viewing:

2. The Spirit's Work: Hebrews 10:15-16 (ESV) ¹⁵ And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, ¹⁶ **“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,”**

We must first realize that the divine work of grace and mercy in writing His laws into our hearts and forgiving our sins are the fruits of Christ's sacrifice and the fulfillment of God's covenant promise to Christ. This eternal covenant that God made with Christ is the foundation for all the good which God does to and for His people.

The new covenant of Jeremiah 31 is new, not because it was newly decreed or newly conceived. It is new because of a new heart, a new spirit, and new ordinances which go with it. Baptism and the Lord's table displaces circumcision and the Passover meal.

To whom does God give these new things? God works in those whom He has eternally set apart, **Ephesians 1:4 (ESV)** ⁴ **even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him, those whom he gave to the mediator and John 17:6 (ESV)** ⁶ **“I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.** Those whom the Father gave to the mediator are those for whom Christ died and those He did predestinate in Himself, He called, **Romans 8:30 (ESV)** ³⁰ **And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified,**

and those whom he justified he also glorified. Only God's elect will have a life-giving knowledge of Him.

We must realize what the Scripture means by God placing His laws in our hearts. When God created Adam, He did not give him an outward law, but an inward law and inscribed it on his soul or his heart. In Adam's heart law, God gave Adam spiritual inclinations in His will and affections towards God. The command concerning the tree in the garden were tests of Adam's responsibility. We read in **Romans 5:14 (ESV)** ¹⁴ **Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.,** That Adam was a figure of Christ to come. We still see the vestiges of this truth in **Romans 2:14 (ESV)** ¹⁴ **For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law.**

Adam fell, and his heart was corrupted. The results of the fall on Adam's heart were immediate. **Those things which he once loved, he now hated and what he should have hated, he now served. Instead of loving God and hating Satan, he now hated God and served the devil.**

In regeneration, the image of God, after which Adam was imbued, is again stamped on the soul. So now in the regenerate. It is our nature to serve, obey, please, honor, and glorify God. This law is referred to as the law of the mind by Paul in **Romans 7:23 (ESV)** ²³ **but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.** In those being sanctified, our minds are now regulated by the authority of God, and thusly we turn to Him instinctively as a sunflower to the morning sun.

Thus, these hearts which characterize the renewed heart delight in the law of God, **Romans 7:25 (ESV)** ²⁵ **Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.** All of these changes are the direct work of God.

Only God, who first made man, can renovate or remake him. None but the Lord can repair the catastrophic damage the fall brought.

We remember that the 10 Commandments were written on stone tablets which reflected the stony hearts of Israel. What a contrast the operation of God on the regenerate heart provides. God removes the enmity of the natural heart against Him and His law, which is the circumcision of the heart mentioned in **Deuteronomy 30:6 (ESV)** ⁶ **And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.**

God, secondly, implants the desire to obey His law. God places His laws in our hearts. This is the triumph of grace. Our enmity against the law is displaced by love for the law, **Psalm 119:97 (ESV)** ⁹⁷ **Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day.**

The Holy Spirit uses the law to convict souls of rebellion against God. Until the soul repudiates and forsakes his rebellion, that soul is not ready for the message of peace the gospel brings.

The placing of His laws in our minds and the knowledge of the authority and excellence of God's laws communicate His love for us so that His hearts are inclined towards us. The Lord's renovation of our nature, rectifying both the mind and the heart, furnishes to the sanctified, what God approves of and requires from us.

This is proof of regeneration. The proof of regeneration is that we truly desire to be regulated and controlled by the revealed word of God. The question we must ask ourselves is, is the chief business of my life to please and serve God?

Transition: Now God, through The Spirit, gives us:

3. The Spirit's Promise: Hebrews 10:17-18 (ESV) ¹⁷ then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." ¹⁸ Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

The assurance of sins forgiven is given to us after the effects of regeneration. The assurance of divine pardon is contingent upon those who have been saved from self-will and self-pleasing. The words, I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more do not mean that these have vanished as a fact in God's mind, but rather means they will never be recalled by Him in the exercise of His office as judge. In essence, they are inadmissible. There is no double jeopardy with God.

Conclusion: The truth that there exist no more offerings for sin is the application of the new covenant described by Jeremiah. Since all of our sins are gone from before the face of God, no further sacrifice is possible.

How precious and blessed is the new covenant. Christ satisfied our need for righteousness, holiness, and a heart and mind that seeks to follow God. I always encourage you to remember, what God requires, He provides in Christ. Now that we are no longer at enmity with God's law, the law provides us as a guide for how we are to live to please God. In Christ, we are given the desire to follow and provided the righteousness of Christ to endear us to God. We must remember that even the desire to obey God is the result of God's heart surgery. We get no credit. To God be the glory, amen.