SALVATION!

A TWELVE-WEEK SERIES

WEEK 10

How do we go about growing toward spiritual maturity?
Do we really need to work on developing Christian character and conduct?
What happens if we do not develop Christian character and conduct?
What happens if we do?

Thus far in this series we have studied what it means to be saved, whether all people want to be saved, the nature of the saving work of Christ, the meaning of the gospel together with various human responses to its call, the meaning of grace, the relationship of repentance and faith, the way in which human beings can have a right relationship with God, and the Holy Spirit's role in salvation, both in regeneration and indwelling. In this tenth lesson we take up the challenge of growing toward spiritual maturity, which is also spoken of as sanctification.

Before we look at the subject of growing toward spiritual maturity, we need to ask some preliminary questions. What do we mean by sanctification? What does the term mean?

Sometimes in Scripture sanctification is viewed as objective or positional, as when persons or things are consecrated, set apart, or declared holy. In a very real sense, all justified persons are "saints" or "holy ones"; and when they are said to have been sanctified (past tense), it means that in God's sight, positionally, in view of what Christ has done, they are consecrated, set apart to God.

Other times in Scripture the idea of sanctification bears directly on the idea of deliverance from sin through the gospel. However, instead of dealing with deliverance from the guilt and penalty of sin as in justification, sanctification in this subjective, experiential sense deals with deliverance from the controlling power and presence of innate corruption or depravity. When we speak of sanctification, most of the time we are viewing it in this subjective, experiential sense. Another way of speaking of this experiential sense of sanctification is in