

The Evangelical Short Circuit

by Lynn Andrew

There is fallacy in the evangelical gospel, which is why it fails to produce many saints seeking to live for Christ and separate from the world. The primary message we hear is that whosoever rightly appropriates the sacrifice of Jesus Christ will enjoy everlasting life. Holy living? That will come soon enough in heaven—will it not?

No, quite possibly not soon enough. A reward may be missing.

God's purpose in raising up followers of Jesus is not to save us from hell. Nor is it so he might gain more worshipers. These are byproducts. His purpose is that we be made holy. Not partially, but completely holy because *partial holiness is useless for his purpose*.

The purpose of our lives and perhaps the purpose of God's good creation is to defeat and eradicate evil: to permanently bind Satan and Satan's followers. *But why is it taking so long?*

There is a legal issue. Satan apparently has made the case that since personal pride is inherent in free will, the rebellion that pride tends to foster was not his fault. He is appealing to the justice of God and demanding proof that it could have been otherwise.

This is why God needs us to be perfectly devoted to him of our own free will. Satan believes no one who possesses such freedom will remain unblemished by acts of personal pride for long.

So how are we to attain that perfection? Three steps: 1) remove our guilt by the sacrificial blood of Christ; 2) become wedded to him in heaven to bind our love; 3) serve him 1000 years in fresh, resurrected bodies with profound gratitude suppressing pride.

By emphasizing only the first step, Evangelicalism promotes an ignorance of our future that favors self-fulfillment even in minor holiness. It is like we have in mind earning a Boy-Scout merit badge or at most becoming an Eagle Scout when the government is wanting us to prepare to be soldiers to serve in a war against the enemy.

Wherefore, brethren, be more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you do these things, you will never stumble, and thus your entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly furnished to you. (2 Peter 1:10-11)