

WHAT SANCTIFICATION IS NOT.

It is not the same as regeneration. That is the beginning of the divine life in the soul. This is its completing. That is a great and blessed fact and secures salvation. But this is a much greater work; and brings victory over sin and constant indwelling of God in the soul and conformity to the will of God in the life.

2. It is not the work of Death. Death would be a grim savior, and a dying hour a poor time to make a clear and satisfactory consecration. Sin does not reside in the body, and the laying of it aside does not take it away.

2. It is not our own work. We cannot make one hair white or black, or add to our stature one cubit by taking thought, nor can we cleanse our hearts any more than we can convert them. We can yield them to Him. That we must do. But He alone can purify.

4. It is not the building up of personal character. It is not an attainment, but an obtainment; not a growth, but a gift. We grow after we get it, but we cannot grow into it.

5. It is not our own self-perfection. It is not a personal state which we become inherently, and which crystallizes and remains fixed like the figure cut in stone, so that we are incapable of temptation or sin. God will let no creature be perfect apart from Himself. It is accompanied with an increasing sense of helplessness and nothingness, and a more absolute dependence every moment upon Christ alone; so that the most sanctified soul can say more truly than others: "In me, that is

in my flesh, dwelleth no good thing." "I am not able even to think anything as of myself." "He must increase; I must decrease." "I am less than the least of all saints."

What, then, is sanctification?

WORSE THAN THE DEVIL

"Devils also came out of many, crying out and saying, Thou art Christ, the Son of God."—S. Luke iv. 41.

The devils did not believe that Christ was the Son of God, although by some conjectures they suspected it. They thought that divine and admirable virtue came from Him, and thence suspected that He was the Messiah.

There are also even now many men who in their works are like their father the devil; for they say many evil things against their neighbours, and affirm a thing for the only reason that they suspect it. In truth the world is full of people who say of their neighbours not what they know, but what they themselves of their own malice suspect; who truly are led rather by their own imagination than by the truth itself. There are many of such depraved condition, that, whatever they see in their neighbors, they always put a bad construction upon, according to their own malice; and not content with this, as they are evil in their thoughts, so have they a worse tongue for destroying the honour and reputation of their neighbours, not telling the truth about them, but what they untruly suspect.

And they certainly are worse than the devil; for he, even if he said what he suspected and not what he knew for certain, yet said nothing bad, but rather praised Christ and said that He was the Son