

## **A SANCTIFIED LIFE (Acts 30:32)**

*"And now I surrender you to the Lord and to the word of His grace, which has the power to build you up and confer upon you the portion which is set for all those who have been sanctified" (Acts 30:32)*

First of all I want to say a HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020. Grace and peace from God, our heavenly Father, and let the Lord Jesus Christ be with us all. We should be grateful to God if we are still allowed to enter this new year. We should be grateful because by His grace, revival and repentance of souls can occur throughout this world. But do we know that the church of God is also facing various challenges and struggles in other places that need to be overcome together with one heart, one love and one goal?

The Bible tells us that "the first thing you should know is, that in the last days there will be mockers with mockery, those who live according to their desires" (2 Peter 3: 3). At the end of this age the Church of God will face many mockers who live according to their passions. There are disciples of Christ who wish to be no longer follower of Christ, even those who will mock Him. The disciples of Christ are not only called to be built up by the Word of His grace, but as it is written in the guidance verse for this month's devotion, everyone who has been sanctified by Him will receive the assigned portion.

The first Christmas, which was the coming of the Lord Jesus as the Savior of the world has occurred around 2000 years ago, but now we are waiting for the fulfillment of "the second Christmas", namely the second coming of the Lord Jesus as a just Judge. One day, we must face the judgment of Christ, so that everyone will get what he deserves, according to what he has done in his life, good or evil (2 Corinthians 5:10).

After we have discussed and meditated on the Word of His grace throughout the past year, in 2020 we will think and ponder together about how we can live a holy life in order to be prepared to be candidates for the Bride of Christ. The Lord Jesus will come a second time as the Bridegroom and we as His church are called to be candidates for the holy Bride of Christ, just as Mary was a virgin (Luke 1:27). Mary was chosen to be Jesus' mother as a woman who preserved the holiness granted by God. Likewise we are prepared to be holy virgins for Christ (2 Corinthians 11: 2).

All human beings have sinned before God, but because of His grace we are saved (Romans 3: 23-24). As new people who have been created according to God's will, let's work on the salvation that God has given us in our lives. In true truth and holiness (Ephesians 4:24), let us cleanse ourselves from all physical and spiritual pollution, and thus perfect our holiness in the fear of God (1 Corinthians 7: 1). Let us continue to be sanctified in Him.

In Hebrews 12:10 the role of fathers who educate their children is described in accordance with what is considered good by them. Therefore, our loving God must have a good purpose in mind, when we are punished, so that we can share His holiness. For this reason, we must continue to be sanctified and perfected by God, both individually and collectively as His church.

My prayer and hope, may be that "Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love" (Ephesians 6:24) and also that we keep to pursuit holiness, because without holiness we would not be able to see God (Hebrews 12: 14). Happy new year 2020! Amen.

By Pastor Silwanus Obadja M.Th.