



pastor's
PEN

Dear Lakeview Family,

In our study of Galatians, we have spoken a great deal about the doctrines of justification and sanctification. The two doctrines are distinct but can never be separated. The Baptist Catechism defines justification (answer 36) as an act of God's free grace wherein He pardons all our sins, and accepts us as righteous in His sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.

So justification is a one-time act. Conversely, sanctification is a work, a process, if you will. Sanctification, according to the Baptist Catechism (answer 38), is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin and live unto righteousness.

This week, the men who are meeting with me on Tuesday mornings at 6:30 discussed J.C. Ryle's very helpful section in his book "Holiness" on how justification and sanctification agree and differ from each other. I thought I would offer Ryle's comments to you this week, along with some closing thoughts on why this discussion is important.

So how are justification and sanctification alike?

1. Both proceed originally from the free grace of God. It is of His gift alone that believers are justified or sanctified at all.
2. Both are part of that great work of salvation, which Christ, in the eternal covenant, has undertaken on behalf of His people. Christ is the fountain of life from which pardon and holiness both flow. The root of each is Christ.
3. Both are to be found in the same persons. Those who are justified are always sanctified, and those who are sanctified are always justified. God has joined them together, and they cannot be put asunder.
4. Both begin at the same time. The moment a person begins to be a justified person, he also begins to be a sanctified person. He may not feel it, but it is a fact.
5. Both are alike necessary to salvation. No one ever reached heaven without a renewed heart as well as forgiveness, without the Spirit's grace as well as the blood of Christ, without a meetness for eternal glory as well as a title. The one is just as necessary as the other.

But we must also recognize how the two are profoundly different:

1. Justification is the reckoning and counting a man to be righteous for the sake of another, even Jesus Christ the Lord. Sanctification is the actual making a man inwardly righteous, though it may be in a very feeble degree.

2. The righteousness we have by our justification is not our own, but the everlasting perfect righteousness of our great Mediator Christ, imputed to us, and made our own by faith. The righteousness we have by sanctification is our own righteousness, imparted, inherent, and wrought in us by the Holy Spirit, but mingles with much infirmity and imperfection.
3. In justification our own works have no place at all, and simple faith in Christ is the one thing needful. In sanctification our own works are of vast importance, and God bids us fight, and watch, and pray, and strive, and take pains, and labour.
4. Justification is a finished and complete work, and a man is perfectly justified the moment he believes. Sanctification is an imperfect work, comparatively, and will never be perfected until we reach heaven.
5. Justification admits of no growth or increase: a man is as much justified the hour he first comes to Christ by faith as he will be to all eternity. Sanctification is eminently a progressive work, and admits of continual growth and enlargement so long as a man lives.
6. Justification has special reference to our persons, our standing in God's sight, and our deliverance from guilt. Sanctification has special reference to our natures, and the moral renewal of our hearts.
7. Justification gives us our title to heaven, and boldness to enter in. Sanctification give us our meetness for heaven, and prepares us to enjoy it when we dwell there.
8. Justification is the act of God about us, and is not easily discerned by others. Sanctification is the work of God within us, and cannot be hid in its outward manifestation from the eyes of men.

So, why is this discussion important? Let me offer you this: If we fail to distinguish God's perfect work in justification and our still very imperfect work in sanctification, the consequence is a continual temptation to either collapse justification into sanctification or collapse sanctification into justification.

With the former temptation, the biblical reality of a full and complete justification based solely on the righteousness of Christ is compromised – and with it, any real sense of robust assurance. Instead, our works would become the basis for vindication before God, a heresy that leads to either pharisaical pride or despair, depending on one's performance and self-evaluation at any given moment.

With the latter temptation (collapsing sanctification into justification), the biblical reality of ongoing Spirit-produced transformation is compromised – and with it any sense that the authentic Christian life is marked by growing faithfulness and fruitfulness in Christ. That error can lead to the false notion that my one-time profession of faith exempts me from the Bible's many warnings and commands but, in this case, what does one do with this: Hebrews 12:14 "Strive...for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord."

Conversely, when we understand the relationship between justification and sanctification, we will have the boldness to "work out" our "own salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12). Because it is grounded in the gospel confidence that in the Day of Judgment, we will be "found in Christ, not having a righteousness of our own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith" (Philippians 3:9). Praise the Lord!

Love and Gratitude,
Pastor Brian





congregational CARE UPDATE

THURSDAYS AT OLE TIMES COUNTRY BUFFET

Hope to see men of every age THIS Thursday, October 9th, in the Eagle Room at Old Times Country Buffet from Noon – 1:00 PM. “Barney,” from across the river, will give us insights into God’s work in closed countries. Come and bring a friend. It is a great way to get to know more men in our church. See you soon!

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, November 13th, 2025.

SENIOR SAINTS

Senior Saints will have their October fellowship on Thursday, October 16th at 11:30 AM. This month is the final historical lecture on the biblical character of Samuel by Matthew. Lunch is catered, \$10 per person. If you have questions, contact Jann or Jenny Swaim, Larry or Miranda Webb.



children’s CHATTER

ALL SAINTS FAIR | OCTOBER 23RD

We are so excited to welcome the community back for our annual All Saints Fair on Thursday, October 23rd, from 5:30–7:30 PM. Sign up by clicking [here](#) or scan the QR code below to volunteer to help with games, set up, clean up, and most importantly, sharing the love of Jesus with our guests! Sign up sheets are also available in Sunday school classrooms. If you have any questions, email Haley at hwine@lakeviewbaptist.org.

Candy donations may be dropped off in the marked bins in the downstairs lobby.



SCAN HERE



praise WORTHY

AN EVENING OF SOUTHERN GOSPEL MUSIC THIS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12TH | 6:00 PM

Join us for a special evening of southern gospel music with our Celebration Choir & Orchestra. Not only will you hear southern gospel favorites by our choir and orchestra but you’ll also enjoy solos, trios, and quartets. Come prepared to tap your toes and sing along. It is sure to be a fun night.



missions’ MEMO

MISSION TRIP INTEREST MEETING

Join us THIS Sunday, October 12th, at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall to learn more about our upcoming 2026 mission trips. Hear about the opportunities, ask questions, and discover how you can be part of what God is doing around the world!



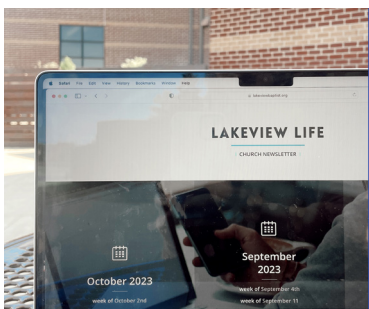
youth NEWS

5TH QUARTER | OCTOBER 17TH

We will be hosting a 5th Quarter on the grassy field immediately following the Auburn High vs. Carver game on October 17th. Please pray that we would be able to reach students from Auburn/Opelika with the good news of Jesus Christ!

SAVE THE DATE

CHURCH-WIDE FAMILY CHRISTMAS DINNER DECEMBER 9TH @ 6:00 PM



stay *connected*

@lakeviewauburn



fellowship MEAL

SERVING MEALS 4:45 UNTIL 5:35 PM; CLEARING TABLES AT 5:45 PM.

OCTOBER 8

Hamburger Steak with Gravy, Mashed Potatoes,
Green Beans, Salad, Rolls, Apple Crisp

OCTOBER 15

Chicken Sandwiches, Chips, California Veggie Blend,
Salad, Oreo Dessert

*Fellowship Meals are open to everyone and cost \$5 per person
with a \$20 cap per family. Cash or Check only. Menu subject to change.*

OUR *newest*

GRANT TIMOTHY POWELL

Born: October 2nd, 2025

Parents: Brandon and Katie Powell

DISCOVER LAKEVIEW CLASS THIS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

Are you interested in joining Lakeview or just finding out more about us? The Discover Lakeview Class is for you. Pastor Brian and Bro. Cliff will walk through what we believe as a church, membership, and our covenant. We need a reservation from you with the number attending for lunch and childcare. The class will follow the morning service in the Fellowship Hall. Please email Laura Gray at lgray@lakeviewbaptist.org to reserve your spot.



REMEMBER IN *prayer*

ARBOR LAKE

Nancy Brownfield
Emaleen Fagen
Jennifer Hood
Joe Waller

AZALEA PLACE

Barbara Blankenship
Susan Lazenby

BILL NICHOLS STATE VETERANS HOME

Ira Hayes

CAMELLIA PLACE

Linda Currie

CANTERBURY HEALTH CARE FACILITY

Dean Baker

EAMC

Renae O'Mary

EASE HOUSE

Anne Dodge

THE PHOENIX AT OPELIKA

Jerry Clark
Judy Clark
Charles Knause
Jerry Knause
Dick Lane

AT HOME

Matthew Baker
Daniel Benjamin
Matt Beth
Alice Chambliss
Dennis Clark
Jane Parker
Janice Powers
Matthew Richardson
Lottie Sides
Jackie Snead
Larry Swango
Ilze West
Joe Youngblood

OCTOBER 5 ATTENDANCE

MORNING SERVICE _____ 1,273

EVENING SERVICE _____ 486

OCTOBER 5 GIVING

BUDGET _____ \$91,742.15

RESTRICTED _____ \$13,205.00

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WE BELIEVE THAT GOD'S PURPOSE FOR
LAKEVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH IS TO
LOVE THE LORD GOD AND TO EXPRESS THAT LOVE BY
MAKING, NURTURING AND EQUIPPING
DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST
IN AUBURN AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.



Lakeview
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PRAYER REQUESTS | 334-887-8783