

“Wholly Holy!”

12-14-14

Have you ever noticed there are some things in life that aren't very worthwhile even though some people feel that they must have them?

To be honest, there's many things in life we think we just have-to-have and find out later that they're not nearly as important or needed as we thought! All of us would probably be better off if we'd just simplify our lives and focus more on what's really important in life, like our relationship to God!

Look at the passage from 1 Peter 1 on your sermon insert to see the command given to the children of God on how to live each day as His. Verses 13-15, *“Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct.”* God desires us to be like Him, holy!

Open to 1 Thessalonians 5, page 988. Our Second Lesson, in its closing verses, tells what three qualities we must know about holiness for us to be holy as God is holy.

Holiness is desirable. Look at verse 23, *“Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

One of the richest men in the world, oil tycoon John Paul Getty, was being interviewed, and the reporter asked him, *“If you retired now, would you say your holdings would be worth a billion dollars?”* Getty paced up and down the room, mentally adding. *“I suppose so,”* he said, *“but remember, a billion doesn't go as far as it used to.”*

So what's your greatest desire in life? To make money? To become rich? This is true for many people. Greed sounds good to them and they also practice deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. But that's not what God wants us to desire. Listen to 1 Peter 2:2-3, *“Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.”* Have you truly tasted of the Lord's goodness? If you have, you should want more!

Holiness is continual. Look at verse 23 again, *“Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Fellow believers, it takes time for us to learn to do some things in life. Actually, this is true for us all. We're often slow to learn and especially, when it comes to the spiritual realm of life. We age quickly, but sometimes not spiritually!

Holiness is a process of growth. There's nothing instant about it! We love the microwave for how fast it can prepare food, but there's no spiritual microwave to speed up the holiness process!

Our God, Who is the God of peace, will Himself, sanctify you through and through. These words sound like we need to be saturated with holiness. We all need holy minds, which leads to holy bodies and holy living. The problem is: some people don't care. They don't care whether they get better or not.

I know who made you and made me, and I also know that I'm not done yet. Neither are you! We all need to keep on growing in the faith, by being in God's Word and prayer daily, and becoming more like our holy God. Holiness is a continual process.

Holiness is God-produced. Look at verse 24, *"He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it."* Is there anything you can't do? Of course! Can you teach a Sunday School class? Can you be a witness or give a testimony to someone for Christ? Can you sing in the choir?

Many Christians couldn't do these things if their life depended on it! They wouldn't know how or they're scared to death to try. We all need help in life! Many times we need God's help.

Old habits, bad habits are hard to break or overcome. What's there in your life that needs to be cleaned up? What's there in your life that could make you a better person and more importantly, make you a better servant of Christ? There are some things in life that we just can't do for ourselves. We need divine help!

We all need divine help, especially when it comes to holiness. Holiness isn't self-produced. It's a divine thing, produced by the Spirit of God who's at work in us. Sure, we must practice holiness the best we can, but ultimately, God's the one who produces holiness in us and makes us better than we could ever be by ourselves!

Oswald Chambers once said, *"Holiness, not happiness, is the chief end of man."* Holiness should be our goal in life, not happiness. I realize, this contradicts the thinking of most people and particularly Americans. They want to be happy regardless of the cost, even if it means throwing God out of the window of their lives!

Open to Colossians 3:1-4. But this can't be for us who are in Christ! We need to be like Him! Verses 1-4, *"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."*

That's God's message to you. If you've been raised with Christ to a new life, there's only one thing to do, *"as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct."* With His guidance, be "Wholly Holy!"