

LESSON 3



HOLINESS, GOD'S STANDARD FOR MAN

Scripture Texts: 1 John 3:5-7; Titus 2:11-12; Ephesians 1:4; 1 Peter 1:15-16; Hebrews 12:14; Ephesians 4:11-13

We have seen how salvation redeems us out of sin. Today we learn something of God's plan to give man power to *stay* out of sin. Holiness is sinlessness. Yes, but it is more. It is the absence of sin; also, it is the presence of godliness—of the nature of God. God is holy. God's nature in a man makes his character holy. Holiness is a reasonable standard.

We all are weak and make mistakes. That's why God does not want us to depend upon our own strength but upon His. Lean on Him more! This lesson is not an attempt to cover the subject of holiness, but to show that it is Bible teaching.

MEMORY VERSE: *Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*

1 Peter 1:16

Like Father, Like Son

First John 3:5-7 And in him is no sin. Here we see the character of the Saviour and the character of the saved. Jesus has no sin. His people sin not. Saviour and saved are alike sinless. **For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost** (Luke 19:10). Holiness was lost in the fall of man into sin. Christ was the only one who could return it to its rightful place—the

heart and life of mankind. We found in earlier study that it was impossible for the blood of animals to restore holiness. Under the Law, there were holy utensils, holy buildings, holy garments, holy days, and many other holy things. But there were no holy lives until Christ brought holiness through the Holy Spirit (Romans 6:14).

Holy in This Present Life

Titus 2:11-12 The grace of God . . . hath appeared. It is here now—free to **all men**. Those who accept it **live soberly**—thoughtfully, seriously, aware of true values; **righteously**—doing right, not sinning; **godly**—like God, holy, **in this present world**. Most people believe in holiness. They look for it sometime. The question is how and when and where we are made holy. It is not by effort, good works, suffering, form, or ceremony. It is the work of God. It is in this **present world**—this present life, not at death or in the next life. It is impossible for God to work in a man and not make him pure and holy. God never requires anything but that He, by His grace, makes it possible. Thus holiness is a reasonable standard.

God's Plan From the Beginning

Ephesians 1:4 He hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world . . . to be holy. The holiness of man has been God's plan from the beginning. It was not added afterward. Man with his nature, abilities, and desires was made to suit a holy life and no other. Unholy living gives pain and makes life hard, for it does not fit (Proverbs

13:15).

1 Peter 1:15-16 All born of God are in His family. His children are born of Him and must be like Him. **Be ye holy; for I am holy.** Each saint is a partaker of Christ's nature which is holiness. He created us in His own image (Genesis 1:27).

Hebrews 12:14 Holiness is of such great necessity that **no man shall see the Lord** without it—no chance of going to Heaven. Unholiness of heart damns.

Is holiness necessary? This question has been answered by God's command and the clear truth of the Scriptures in our study. The answer is YES. Holiness is sinlessness, but more. It is the possession of godliness. It is the power supplied by God for man to live sinless. One cannot live wrong and die right.

Christ Makes Us Perfect

Ephesians 4:11-13 After death and resurrection Jesus returned to Heaven from whence He came. From there He sent the baptism of the Holy Spirit upon His people to give them power to live holy lives (Acts 1:8; 2:33). Then the Holy Spirit gave more gifts to men to further His plan. These gifts were given to men who had set themselves apart from the world. They were sanctified—set apart for God to use. These gifts were given that men could lead and teach effectively. He gave them gifts to enable them to do their respective works. The reason for these workers is the **perfecting of the saints**. He expects us to be perfected **till we all come . . . unto a perfect man**—perfect in purity, in motive, in righteousness. This pattern for us all to follow is Jesus Christ. God's plan and the provision He has made is that we increase in holiness until we come **unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ**.

Holiness is not freedom from mistakes. Mistakes are not sin. Holiness is not the impossibility of sinning. Anyone can turn from God and sin if he chooses. Holiness is the ability to live free from sin and is made possible by the power of the Spirit of God within.

JUST A THOUGHT

**Christians are God's samples in the show windows
of the world.**

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
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