

9/2/12

**SERIES: II CORINTHIANS: THE HEART AND HUMILITY
OF A MAN OF GOD, WEEK 29**

TITLE: PURSUING THE GOAL OF HOLINESS

TEXT: II CORINTHIANS 7:1

**INTRODUCTION: THE WORDS HOLY AND HOLINESS
ARE USED REPEATEDLY IN THE BIBLE.**

*** IN FACT THESE TWO ENGLISH WORDS ARE USED
670 TIMES IN MY BIBLE.**

**** YET, THOUGH THESE WORDS ARE USED
REPEATEDLY IN OUR CHRISTIAN LIVES AND IN OUR
ENGLISH BIBLES, FOR MANY, THESE WORDS ARE
FOREIGN WORDS.**

***** AND WHEN WE RUN UP AGAINST FOREIGN
WORDS, WE HOPE THAT A FOREIGN LANGUAGE
DICTIONARY CAN HELP US BY PROVIDING A CLEAR
TRANSLATION, A CLEAR DEFINITION.**

****** HOWEVER, WHEN WE COME TO THE WORDS HOLY AND HOLINESS, WE FIND OUT THAT THESE WORDS ARE FOREIGN TO ALL LANGUAGES.**

(2) NO DICTIONARY IS ADEQUATE FOR THIS SPIRITUAL TASK AND UNDERSTANDING.

*** THUS, WE ARE DRIVEN BACK TO THE BIBLE TO DEFINE THESE WORDS FROM GOD'S ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE AND GOODNESS.**

**** AND AS WE DO THAT, PURITY IS A WORD SOME OF US THINK OF WHEN WE HEAR THE WORD HOLY. AND THE BIBLE CERTAINLY USES THE WORD HOLY IN THAT WAY.**

***** BUT, THE IDEA OF PURITY OR OF MORAL PERFECTION IS NOT THE PRIMARY MEANING OF THE WORD HOLY.**

****** TO ILLUSTRATE WHAT I MEAN, WHEN THE SERAPHIM SANG THEIR SONG IN ISAIAH 6 ABOUT HOLY, HOLY, HOLY IS THE LORD OF HOSTS, THEY**

WERE SAYING FAR MORE THAN THAT GOD WAS PURITY, PURITY, PURITY, ALTHOUGH GOD IS PERFECTLY PURE AND WITHOUT SIN AND IS INCAPABLE OF SIN.

(3) SO WHAT IS THE PRIMARY MEANING OF THE WORD HOLY?

*** WELL, R.C. SPROUL IN HIS BOOK, “THE HOLINESS OF GOD” SAYS: AND I’M GOING TO GIVE YOU A LONG QUOTE BECAUSE I CAN’T SAY IT BETTER THAN HIM, FOR HE TRULY IS A WORDSMITH.**

**** R.C. SPROUL SAID: “THE PRIMARY MEANING OF HOLY IS SEPARATE. IT COMES FROM AN ANCIENT WORD THAT MEANS TO CUT OR TO SEPARATE.”**

***** R.C. SAID: “TO TRANSLATE THIS BASIC MEANING INTO CONTEMPORARY LANGUAGE WOULD BE TO USE THE PHRASE “A CUT APART.” PERHAPS EVEN MORE ACCURATE WOULD BE THE PHRASE, A CUT ABOVE SOMETHING. WHEN WE FIND A GARMENT OR**

ANOTHER PIECE OF MERCHANDISE THAT IS OUTSTANDING, THAT HAS SUPERIOR EXCELLENCE, WE USE THE EXPRESSION THAT IT IS A CUT ABOVE THE REST.”

****** BUT THEN, R.C. EXPANDS ON THAT AND SAYS: “GOD’S HOLINESS IS MORE THAN SEPARATENESS. HIS HOLINESS IS ALSO TRANSCENDENT.”**

(4) AND BEING THE GREAT COMMUNICATOR THAT HE IS, HE DEFINES THE WORD TRANSCENDENCE.

*** HE SAID, “THE WORD TRANSCENDENCE MEANS TO CLIMB ACROSS. IT IS DEFINED AS EXCEEDING USUAL LIMITS. TO TRANSCEND IS TO RISE ABOVE SOMETHING, TO GO ABOVE AND BEYOND A CERTAIN LIMIT. WHEN WE SPEAK OF THE TRANSCENDENCE OF GOD, WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THAT SENSE IN WHICH GOD IS ABOVE US AND BEYOND US.” (END QUOTE)**

**** BELOVED, TRANSCENDENCE DESCRIBES GOD’S SUPREME AND ABSOLUTE GREATNESS. HE IS HIGHER THAN ANYONE OR ANYTHING. HE HAS ABSOLUTE POWER AS THE ALMIGHTY OVER**

EVERYTHING. HIS CREATION HAS NO POWER OVER HIM.”

***** SPROUL WENT ON TO SAY, “TRANSCENDENCE DESCRIBES GOD IN HIS CONSUMING MAJESTY, HIS EXALTED HOLINESS. IT POINTS TO THE INFINITE DISTANCE THAT SEPARATES HIM FROM EVERY CREATURE. HE IS AN INFINITE CUT ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE.**

****** WHEN THE BIBLE CALLS GOD HOLY, IT MEANS PRIMARILY THAT GOD IS TRANSCENDENTALLY SEPARATE. HE IS SO FAR ABOVE AND BEYOND US THAT HE SEEMS ALMOST TOTALLY FOREIGN TO US. TO BE HOLY IS TO BE OTHER, TO BE DIFFERENT IN A SPECIAL WAY.”**

(5) NOW WITH THAT SAID, THE QUESTION MUST BE ASKED, THEN WHERE DOES PURITY COME IN, IN OUR DEFINITION OF HOLY OR HOLINESS?

*** WELL, R.C. SPROUL ADDRESSES THAT QUESTION AND I GIVE YOU A FINAL QUOTE FROM HIM, HE SAID AND I QUOTE:**

**** “WE ARE SO ACCUSTOMED TO EQUATING HOLINESS WITH PURITY OR ETHICAL PERFECTION THAT WE LOOK FOR THE IDEA WHERE THE WORD HOLY APPEARS. WHEN THINGS ARE MADE HOLY, WHEN THEY ARE CONSECRATED, THEY ARE SET APART UNTO PURITY. THEY ARE TO BE USED IN A PURE WAY. THEY ARE TO REFLECT PURITY AS WELL AS SIMPLE APARTNESS. PURITY IS NOT EXCLUDED FROM THE IDEA OF THE HOLY; IT IS CONTAINED WITHIN IT. BUT THE POINT WE MUST REMEMBER IS THAT THE IDEA OF THE HOLY IS NEVER EXHAUSTED BY THE IDEA OF PURITY. IT INCLUDES PURITY BUT IS MUCH MORE THAN THAT. IT IS PURITY AND TRANSCENDENCE. IT IS TRANSCENDENT PURITY.” (END QUOTE)**

***** NOW LET THAT MARINATE IN YOUR HEART AND MIND, AND CHEW THAT OVER AT SOME POINT, AND YOU WILL START TO SEE THAT THE WORD HOLY AND HOLINESS ARE FOREIGN WORDS THAT ARE FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY. A HEAVENLY COUNTRY, THEY ARE THOUGHTS, WORDS, TRUTHS FROM ABOVE AND NOT NATIVE TO OUR WORLD.**

****** HOLINESS HAS TO DO WITH PURITY, YES, BUT THE PRIMARY MEANING OF HOLY IS SEPARATE. IT IS BEHAVIOR THAT IS A CUT ABOVE THE REST.**

(6) IT IS TRANSCENDENCE, EXCEEDING USUAL LIMITS, GOING WAY BEYOND OUR HUMAN STANDARDS OF GREATNESS. THERE IS A HUGE GINORMOUS GAP DISTANCE THAT SEPARATES GOD FROM US AS SINNERS.

*** HOLINESS IS AN INFINITE CUT ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE. IT IS OTHER, TO BE DIFFERENT IN A SPECIAL WAY. IT IS TRANSCENDENT PURITY, IT IS GOD'S OTHER OTHERNESS. IT IS TO SEPARATE, TO BE SET APART.**

**** NOW WITH THOSE DEFINITIONS OF HOLY AND HOLINESS BEFORE US, THE CHURCH AT CORINTH ALMOST 2,000 YEARS AGO AND CHRISTIANS TODAY ARE ADMONISHED BY THE APOSTLE PAUL TO PURSUE THE GOAL OF HOLINESS.**

***** WE ARE CALLED TO CLEANSE OURSELVES FROM ALL DEFILEMENT OF FLESH AND SPIRIT, PERFECTING HOLINESS IN THE FEAR OF GOD.**

****** IT IS TO SAY, PAUL CALLS THE CORINTHIANS AND US TO CLEANSE OURSELVES FROM EVERY DEFILEMENT OF BODY AND SPIRIT TO LIVE A HOLY LIFE, A PURE LIFE, A SEPARATED LIFE, A CUT ABOVE LIFE, A TRANSCENDENT LIFE, TO RISE ABOVE THE STANDARDS OF SOCIETY AND FALSE RELIGION AND TO BE LIKE HIM.**

(7) AND ALTHOUGH WE WILL NEVER BE TOTALLY LIKE HIM IN THIS LIFE, THAT SHOULD BE OUR GOAL, OUR PASSION, OUR PRIORITY, TO LIVE AN UNDEFILED, SEPARATE LIFE, COMING OUT FROM AMONG THOSE THAT ARE NOT COMMITTED TO GOD'S HOLY STANDARDS THROUGH FALSE RELIGION OR GENERAL WORLDLINESS.

*** THEREFORE I'VE TITLED OUR SERMON FOR TODAY, "PURSUING THE GOAL OF HOLINESS."**

**** AND UNDER THAT TITLE AND THEME, WE'LL LOOK AT 3 POINTS. NO. 1 THE PROMISES OF GOD THAT WERE COMMUNICATED BY PAUL IN THE CALL FOR SEPARATION IN II CORINTHIANS 6:14-18, V. 1A; NO. 2 THE PURGING OF SIN FROM OUR LIVES, V. 1B; AND**

**NO. 3 THE PERFECTING OF HOLINESS IN OUR LIVES,
V. 1C.**

***** AND WITH THOSE 3 POINTS TO DIRECT OUR STUDY TODAY, LOOK AT V. 1A PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR FIRST POINT, THE PROMISES.**

I. THE PROMISES, (READ V. 1A)

A. NOW THE WORD THEREFORE OR SINCE DEPENDING ON WHICH TRANSLATION YOU HAVE TAKES US BACK TO VV. 14-18 OF CHAPTER 6.

*** IN FACT, II CORINTHIANS 7:1 DOES NOT BEGIN A NEW PARAGRAPH, BUT CLOSES THE PARAGRAPH THAT BEGAN IN CHAPTER 6 VERSE 14.**

**** THE CHAPTER DIVISION HERE IS UNFORTUNATE, FOR A NEW PARAGRAPH BEGINS IN CHAPTER 7 VERSE 2. REMEMBER THE CHAPTER DIVISIONS WERE NOT A PART OF THE INSPIRED ORIGINAL AUTOGRAPHS OR MANUSCRIPTS.**

***** SO THE WORD "THEREFORE" OR "SINCE" IS THE CONNECTOR.**

****** AND THIS INTERPRETATION IS REINFORCED BY THE NEXT PHRASE IN V. 1, "HAVING THESE PROMISES."**

1. AND THE QUESTION CAN BE ASKED HERE, WHAT PROMISES?

*** WELL, THE PROMISES ENUMERATED IN VV. 16-18, THAT GOD WILL DWELL AMONG HIS PEOPLE, THAT GOD WILL WALK AMONG HIS PEOPLE, THAT HE WILL BE OUR GOD AND WE SHALL BE HIS PEOPLE, FOR WE ARE THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD, SO WE NEED TO SEPARATE OURSELVES FROM UNBELIEVERS AND YOKING UP WITH THEM.**

**** IT IS COMING OUT FROM AMONG THEM, NOT PARTICIPATING IN THEIR FALSE RELIGIOUS SYSTEMS THAT WERE A PART OF THE CULTURE OF CORINTH, BUT ALSO FROM THE FALSE RELIGIOUS TEACHING THAT HAD INFILTRATED CORINTH FROM JERUSALEM OF FAITH PLUS RATHER THAN FAITH ALONE, JUDIZERS ADDING WORKS AND CEREMONIES TO THE GRACE OF GOD FOR SALVATION.**

***** BELOVED, THE CORINTHIANS WERE TO COME OUT AND BE SEPARATE FROM THE WORLD SYSTEM, THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS, FROM UNEQUAL YOKES AND CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH UNBELIEVERS.**

****** FOR IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN GOD'S WILL FOR HIS PEOPLE TO BE DISTINCT AND SEPARATED AND PURE FROM LIFESTYLES AND ACTIONS OF UNBELIEVERS.**

2. AND GOD'S PROMISE AT THE END OF II CORINTHIANS 6:17 IS THAT FOR THOSE WHO HEED HIS COMMANDS TO SEPARATE FROM UNBELIEVERS IS THEY WILL FIND GOD'S ARMS OPEN WIDE TO RECEIVE THEM AND BLESS THEM, AND USE THEM FOR HIS GLORY.

*** AND THEN ONE MORE PROMISE IN V. 18, AND THAT IS, IF WE ARE OBEDIENT TO THE COMMANDS, TO NOT BE BOUND OR UNEQUALLY YOKED TOGETHER WITH UNBELIEVERS, TO COME OUT FROM UNBELIEVERS, TO SEPARATE FROM UNBELIEVERS AND TO NOT TOUCH THE UNCLEAN THING, BRINGS THE PROMISE OF SWEET COMMUNION WITH OUR FATHER AS HIS SONS AND DAUGHTERS.**

**** WE WILL ENJOY THE BLESSINGS OF OUR FATHER, THE CLOSE COMMUNION AND FELLOWSHIP WITH OUR FATHER AS HIS CHILDREN. OBEDIENCE BRINGS GOD'S BLESSING.**

***** AND AS I SAID IN OUR STUDY OF II CORINTHIANS 6:14-18 SO THERE IS NO MISUNDERSTANDING, WE NEED CONTACT WITH UNSAVED PEOPLE TO REACH OUT TO THEM WITH THE GOSPEL, I AM NOT TALKING ABOUT LIVING LIKE A MONK.**

****** HOWEVER, THAT CONTACT SHOULD NOT BE SO CLOSE IN YOKING, PARTNERING, DATING AND MARRYING AN UNSAVED PERSON THAT IT LEADS TO CONTAMINATION. CONTACT YES, YOKING FOR CONTAMINATION NO.**

3. NOW WITH THAT REVIEW BEFORE US, THE PROMISES OF GOD FOR OBEDIENCE IN SEPARATION ARE ENUMERATED IN II CORINTHIANS 6:16-18.

*** AND ARE THE PROMISES THAT PAUL TALKS ABOUT HERE IN HIS CONCLUDING THOUGHT OF BIBLICAL SEPARATION IN II CORINTHIANS 7:1.**

**** THEREFORE, HAVING THESE PROMISES BELOVED. AND HAVING GOD'S PROMISES GIVES US POWERFUL MOTIVATION FOR SCRIPTURAL SEPARATION, BIBLICAL HOLINESS.**

***** FOR THESE PROMISES SHOULD ELICIT, EVOKE, BRING FORTH LOVE, GRATITUDE AND THANKFULNESS.**

****** AND WE KNOW THAT GOD CAN NEVER BREAK ONE OF HIS PROMISES, HE CANNOT LIE, QUOTE TITUS 1:2.**

4. NUMBERS 23:19 SAYS: "GOD IS NOT A MAN, THAT HE SHOULD LIE, NOR A SON OF MAN, THAT HE SHOULD REPENT; HAS HE SAID, AND WILL HE NOT DO IT? OR HAS HE SPOKEN, AND WILL HE NOT MAKE IT GOOD?"

*** SO WE CAN ALWAYS STAND ON THE PROMISES OF GOD.**

**** NOW ONE LAST THING BEFORE WE MORE ONTO OUR 2'D POINT TODAY AND THAT IS, TO WHOM ARE**

THESE PROMISES GIVEN? TO WHOM DOES PAUL ADDRESS?

***** THE ANSWER IS, THE BELOVED, THE BRETHERN, THE ONES BELOVED BY PAUL AND THE LORD, THE ONES SPECIALLY LOVED BY THE LORD AND PAUL, GOD'S ELECT, AN ENDEARING TERM OF LOVE.**

****** AND SO THE PROMISES ARE TO ALL BELIEVERS AND SHOULD BE ENCOURAGEMENTS TO US SPECIALLY LOVED, BELOVED BY THE LORD TO KEEP THEM.**

5. AND MOVING ON WE GO FROM THE PROMISES TO THE PURGING, LOOK BACK TO V. 1 PLEASE.

II. THE PURGING, (READ VV. 1A AND v. 1B)

A. NOW THE THRUST OF THE REST OF V. 1 IS BECAUSE OF THE PROMISES OF GOD, BECAUSE THEY SHOULD BRING GRATITUDE AND MOTIVATION AND GREATER LOVE FOR OUR LORD, A NEGATIVE AND A POSITIVE ACT OR RESPONSE SHOULD FOLLOW.

*** AND NEGATIVELY IN V. 1B, BELIEVERS SHOULD CLEANSE THEMSELVES, PURGE THEMSELVES, PURIFY THEMSELVES FROM ALL DEFILEMENT OF FLESH AND SPIRIT.**

**** AND PAUL PUT HIMSELF IN THE SAME BOAT WITH EVERYONE ELSE, LET “US” CLEANSE OURSELVES.**

***** US MEANING HIS CO-LABORERS AND HIMSELF. PAUL WAS NOT EXEMPT IN PURSUING THE GOAL OF HOLINESS.**

****** BUT ALSO, THE REFLEXIVE PRONOUN “OURSELVES” IN THE GREEK INDICATES THAT THOUGH THE CLEANSING WORK IS GOD’S WORK, IT DOES NOT HAPPEN APART FROM THE BELIEVER’S EFFORT THROUGH OBEDIENCE, USING THE SPIRITUAL RESOURCES THAT GOD HAS GIVEN US.**

1. IT IS TO SAY, IT IS NOT LET GO AND LET GOD, IT IS YIELD TO THE SPIRIT, WALK IN THE SPIRIT, OBEY THE SPIRIT SO YOU DO NOT YIELD TO THE DESIRES OF THE FLESH. THERE IS EFFORT AND OBEDIENCE

THROUGH THE LORD AND HIS WORD AND HIS SPIRIT WHO INDWELLS US, QUOTE GALATIANS 5:16, I PETER 2:11, II TIMOTHY 2:22 AND I CORINTHIANS 6:18.

*** AND BELOVED, WE MUST FLEE, WE MUST ABSTAIN, WE MUST BE OBEDIENT.**

**** AND YES THE PURGING, THE CLEANSING COMES FROM THE WORD OF GOD AND THE SPIRIT WITH OUR COOPERATION.**

***** SO NEGATIVELY WE MUST CONSTANTLY PURGE OURSELVES, CLEANSE OURSELVES, PURIFY OURSELVES AS WE ARE CONTAMINATED BY SIN WALKING IN THIS WORLD AS WE GET OUR FEET DIRTY.**

****** AND YES, TRUE BELIEVERS HAVE HAD THE BATH OF SALVATION, BUT OUR FEET GET DIRTY SO WE MUST CONTINUALLY BE REPENTERS.**

2. IN FACT, THE REFORMERS SPOKE OF DAILY REPENTANCE AS A WAY OF MAKING PROGRESS IN OUR SANCTIFICATION, OR BEING SET APART, PURIFIED IN THE LORD.

*** AND AS WE GET DEFILED AT TIMES BY THE WORLD, WE MUST CONFESS SIN IMMEDIATELY, KEEP OUR ACCOUNTS SHORT, QUOTE PROVERBS 28:13 AND
I JOHN 1:9.**

**** AND WE GRIEVE AND QUENCH THE HOLY SPIRIT BY YIELDING TO THE DEFILEMENTS OF THE WORLD, BUT IMMEDIATE CONFESSION AND YIELDING BACK TO THE SPIRIT, CLEANSSES US, PURIFIES US FROM ALL DEFILEMENT, WHETHER IT BE IN THE FLESH OR THE SPIRIT HERE IN V. 1B.**

***** WHICH SIMPLY MEANS, SIN THAT IS INWARD AND OUTWARD, ALL FORMS OF OUTWARD PHYSICAL IMPURITY, AND ALL FORMS OF INWARD LIFE, OUR MOTIVES AND THOUGHTS.**

****** BELOVED, WE NEED TO CLEANSE OURSELVES OF ATTITUDES INWARDLY AND ACTIONS OUTWARDLY THAT SPIRITUALLY DEFILE US.**

3. AND CONTEXTUALLY PAUL CALLS BELIEVERS NOT ONLY TO CLEANSE THEMSELVES FROM SIN AND IMMORALITY IN HIS WRITINGS TO THE CORINTHIANS, BUT ALSO IN THE SPECIFIC CONTEXT, FROM ALL ASSOCIATIONS WITH FALSE RELIGIONS THAT CORRUPT PEOPLE INWARDLY AND OUTWARDLY, FLESHLY SINS OUTWARDLY AND THE POLLUTION OF THE MIND INWARDLY.

*** SO IN REVIEW, IN PURSUING THE GOAL OF HOLINESS WE MUST STAND UPON AND BE MOTIVATED BY THE PROMISES OF GOD PURGING, CLEANSING, PURIFYING OURSELVES FROM ALL DEFILEMENT, CONTAMINATION IN THE FLESH AND SPIRIT AND THEN THIRDLY OUR LAST POINT TODAY, WE MUST PERFECT HOLINESS IN THE FEAR OF GOD. LOOK BACK AT V. 1 PLEASE, WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR THE FINAL POINT TODAY, PERFECTING.**

III. THE PERFECTING, (READ V. 1)

A. NOW POSITIVELY, CLEANSING ONESELF FROM DEFILEMENTS OF THE FLESH AND SPIRIT, BOTH MORALLY AND FROM FALSE RELIGION, INVOLVES PERFECTING HOLINESS IN THE FEAR OF GOD.

*** AND THE WORD PERFECTING HERE DOES NOT SUGGEST THAT WE CAN BECOME PERFECT IN THIS LIFE AND BE TOTALLY FREE FROM EVER COMMITTING SIN.**

**** THE GREEK VERB PERFECTING MEANS TO FULFILL, TO BECOME MATURE, OR TO BECOME COMPLETE AND LIT. IT TELLS THE CORINTHIANS AND US TO WORK AT MATURING IN OUR FAITH, THAT WE SHOULD STRIVE FOR PERFECT HOLINESS, THAT BELIEVERS ARE TO PURSUE THE GOAL OF HOLINESS.**

***** PAUL IS SPEAKING OF PERFECTING HOLINESS, NOT PERFECTED HOLINESS. PAUL IS SPEAKING OF THE PROCESS TO HOLINESS, TO SEPARATENESS, TO PURITY, TO OTHERNESS, TO UNIQUENESS, TO AN**

OTHERNESS KIND OF LIVING IN SPEAKING OF HOLY LIVING.

1. WE ARE TO LIVE A CONSECRATED TRANSCENDENT SEPARATED LIFE FROM THOSE AROUND US, INCLUDING RELIGIONISTS WHO HAVE CLEANED UP THE OUTSIDE, BUT NOT THE INSIDE, WHICH COMES ONLY THROUGH JUSTIFYING FAITH ALONE IN JESUS CHRIST ALONE.

*** BELOVED WE HAVE BEEN MADE HOLY IN CHRIST AND HOLINESS OR PRACTICAL PROGRESSIVE SANCTIFICATION IS THE PROCESS OF BECOMING LIKE CHRIST. FOR HOLINESS IS SYNONYMOUS WITH CHRISTLIKENESS. THINK ABOUT THAT.**

**** FOR CHRIST LIVED TO PLEASE HIS FATHER AND SEPARATED HIMSELF FROM SIN, IMPURITY AND FALSE RELIGION. HE LIVED A TRANSCENDENT SEPARATED LIFE AND CAME OUT AND REPROVED UNCLEAN THINGS, HE LIVED A LIFE THAT WAS AN INFINITE CUT ABOVE EVERYONE ELSE.**

***** AND WHAT A WITNESS THIS KIND OF LIFE IS. IT IS A DISTINGUISHED LIFE, A CUT ABOVE THE REST, A TRANSCENDENT LIFE.**

****** AND WHEN YOU LIVE THIS KIND OF SANCTIFIED LIFE OTHERS WILL ASK WHY? QUOTE I PETER 3:15 AND COLOSSIANS 4:5&6.**

2. NOW WITH A HOLY LIFE AS OUR GOAL, PURSUING THE GOAL OF HOLINESS, WHAT IS OUR MOTIVATION TO LIVE THIS KIND OF LIFE BESIDES THE PROMISES OF GOD IN THIS CONTEXT?

*** WELL, IT IS THE FEAR OF GOD, PERFECTING HOLINESS IN THE FEAR OF GOD. AND WHEN WE TALK ABOUT THE FEAR OF GOD, WE ARE TALKING ABOUT A TRUST, A REVERENCE, A RESPECT FOR GOD IN WHO HE IS AS HOLY, AN AWE OF HIS HOLY CHARACTER.**

**** AND NOT ONLY IS GOD HOLY AND PURE, SO ALL SIN OFFENDS HIS HOLY CHARACTER, BUT AS GOD HE IS ALSO OMNISCIENT, HE SEES AND KNOWS ALL.**

***** SO GOD CONSTANTLY SEES EVERYTHING WE DO, HE KNOWS EVERYTHING WE THINK AND HEARS EVERYTHING WE SAY.**

***** AND THAT AWARENESS IN OUR LOVE FOR HIM SHOULD BE A DETERRENT TO SIN, BECAUSE WE LOVE HIM, HE SAVED US, HE RESCUED US, AND WE SHOULD WANT TO PLEASE HIM – RIGHT?**

3. THE FEAR OF THE LORD, THE PRESENCE OF GOD, OUR THOUGHTS OF THE HOLY ONE SHOULD BE A DETERRENT, A DISCOURAGEMENT TO SIN, IT SHOULD RESTRAIN SIN, QUOTE I PETER 1:15-17, PROVERBS 8:13, PROVERBS 9:10 AND II CORINTHIANS 5:11.

*** BELOVED, OUR GOD IS ABSOLUTELY HOLY AND HE CALLS US TO HOLY LIVING. AND THE ONLY WAY TO KNOW TRUE JOY, THE ONLY WAY TO KNOW BIBLICAL HAPPINESS IS TO LIVE OUT BIBLICAL HOLINESS.**

IN WRAP UP AND IN APPLICATION: (1) GOD HAS GIVEN US SOME WONDERFUL RESOURCES AS BELIEVERS TO GROW IN HOLINESS, TO PURSUE THE GOAL OF HOLINESS IN BEING SANCTIFIED IN OUR WALK.

*** AND THE FIRST PERFECT RESOURCE IS THE WORD OF GOD, FOR JESUS SAID IN JOHN 17:17 (QUOTE IT).**

**** ALSO QUOTE, EPHESIANS 5:26 AND PSALM 119:11.**

***** NOW DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, AS WE HIDE THE WORD IN OUR HEARTS THROUGH READING, STUDYING, MEMORIZING, MEDITATING AND HEARING THE TEACHING AND PREACHING OF THE WORD, WE ARE SANCTIFIED, WE ARE MADE HOLY. (ILLUST – RETAINING)**

****** BELOVED, SET APART TIMES EVERYDAY TO BE IN THE WORD. TAKE TIME, MAKE TIME TO BE HOLY.**

(2) NOW A SECOND RESOURCE FOR HOLINESS IS PRAYER, QUOTE MATTHEW 26:41.

*** NOW ONE OF THE MANY GREAT BLESSINGS IN PRAYER IS TO COMMUNE WITH THE HOLY ONE, YOU CAN SPEAK WITH THE HOLY ONE OF THE UNIVERSE THROUGH OUR MEDIATOR THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.**

**** AND AS YOU PRAY, CONFESS SIN, BE A REPENTER OF SIN, FOR HOW CAN YOU NOT TALK TO THE HOLY ONE AND COMMUNE WITH HIM AND NOT BE CONVICTED OF YOUR SIN.**

***** WHICH LEADS TO OUR THIRD RESOURCE FOR HOLINESS, A PERSON, IN FACT THE THIRD PERSON OF THE GODHEAD, THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

****** AND ONE OF THE MINISTRIES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS TO CONVICT US OF SIN, FOR HE IS GRIEVED BY OUR SIN, EPHESIANS 4:30, WE QUENCH HIM BY SIN, I THESSALONIANS 5:19, SO AS WE ARE CONVICTED BY HIM, WE CONFESS SIN AND YIELD TO HIM, AND AS WE WALK IN THE SPIRIT, ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT, AS WE ARE CONTROLLED BY THE SPIRIT, WE DO NOT YIELD TO THE LUSTS OF THE FLESH, GALATIANS 5:16.**

(3) BUT I MUST MOVE ON, A FOURTH RESOURCE FOR SANCTIFICATION OR PURSUING THE GOAL OF HOLINESS IS THE LOCAL CHURCH.

*** AND IF YOU BYPASS THIS GREAT RESOURCE IN THE PLAN AND PROVIDENCE OF GOD, YOUR SANCTIFICATION WILL BE STUNTED.**

**** BUT MANY PEOPLE THINK THEY ONLY NEED A SMALL DOSE OF THE CHURCH, THEY ARE WHAT I CALL SPIRITUAL INDEPENDENTS, SPIRITUAL FREE AGENTS, THEY THINK THEY DON'T NEED ALL THE RESOURCES OF THE LOCAL CHURCH, BUT BECOME WOEFULLY WORLDLY AND DECEIVED.**

***** GOD'S PURPOSE FOR THE CHURCH GATHERED IS EQUIPPING, TO ESTABLISH PEOPLE IN THE FAITH, TEACHING AND TRAINING THEM TO BE HOLY. AND AS WE GROW IN HOLINESS WE SCATTER, LIVE A HOLY LIFE TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND CALL SINNERS TO REPENT AND TURN TO THE EXALTED CHRIST.**

****** WE EXALT HIM BY LIFE AND LIP. WE COMMUNICATE HIS TRUTH. BUT WE ARE EQUIPPED THROUGH THE PILLAR, THE PROP, THE SUPPORT OF THE TRUTH IN THE WORLD. QUOTE I TIMOTHY 3:15, ACTS 16:5, ACTS 2:42, MATTHEW 28:19&20. (TALK ABOUT IF TIME PERMITS THE PAULINE CYCLE)**

(4) AND THEN IN HEBREWS 10:24&25 IT SAYS:

V. 24 – AND LET US CONSIDER HOW TO STIMULATE ONE ANOTHER TO LOVE AND GOOD DEEDS,

V. 25 – NOT FORSAKING OUR OWN ASSEMBLING TOGETHER, AS IS THE HABIT OF SOME, BUT ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER; AND ALL THE MORE AS YOU SEE THE DAY DRAWING NEAR.

*** NOW THE ONE ANOTHERS ARE MENTIONED HERE AND THEY CANNOT BE PRACTICED IN ISOLATION. IF YOU ARE AN ISLAND YOU WILL STUNT HOLINESS. WE NEED EACH OTHER WHETHER YOU WANT IT OUR SENSE IT.**

**** I DON'T KNOW OF A BELIEVER THAT CANNOT BE MADE HOLIER BY STAYING FOR OUR ADULT STUDIES, OR FLOCK OR GROW OR HAVING YOUR CHILDREN INVOLVED IN AWANA, WHETHER THEY ARE BELIEVERS OR UNBELIEVERS.**

***** PLEASE DON'T BYPASS THE LOCAL CHURCH. PLUG IN AND USE YOUR GIFTS, INPUT AND OUTPUT.**

****** LAST OF ALL, THERE IS SOMETHING THAT GOD USES IN HIS SOVEREIGNTY TO SANCTIFY US AND YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS? TRIALS.**

(5) AND THAT IS SOMETHING GOD IS SOVEREIGNLY OVER, SO WHAT IS OUR PART IN SANCTIFYING TRIALS?

*** IT IS RESPOND, THANK GOD FOR THEM, PRAY THAT HIS PURPOSES WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED AND BY GOD'S GRACE REJOICE IN THEM. QUOTE JAMES 1:2-4, I PETER 1:6-7 AND I PETER 4:12&16&19.**

**** IN SUMMARY, THE WORD, PRAYER, THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE CHURCH AND TRIALS ARE USED BY GOD IN PURSUING THE GOAL OF HOLINESS. MAY WE USE THE RESOURCES TO GLORIFY OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN.**

***** AND IF YOU ARE HERE WITHOUT THE EXALTED CHRIST TODAY, YOU ARE SEPARATED FROM GOD WHO IS HOLY BECAUSE OF YOUR SIN. AND YOUR NEED IS TO BE RECONCILED TO GOD BECAUSE OF YOUR ESTRANGEMENT. TURN TO THE SAVIOR WHO DIED AND ROSE AGAIN FOR SINNERS AND BE RESCUED FROM YOUR SIN AND GOD'S WRATH WHO IS HOLY. (LET'S PRAY)**