

Holiness: Its Very Real Possibility

Sunday School: June 26, 2016

I Thessalonians 5.15-28

- 5.23: God is at work, sanctifying (making them holy) His children
- 5.24: He is faithful in this work
- 5.27: Believers are holy

Genuine Holiness is possible

1. All true believers are aware of their sinfulness, failings, and inadequacies.
2. We should also understand that while all sin IS sin against God, God Himself does not view all sin equally
 - A. The Law provided different punishments for different infractions. Not all sins demanded death
 - B. Numbers 15.29-31
 - C. Mat 10:15 Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.

3. The point is, that we cannot see every sin as the same; and so refuse to fight any sin at all.
4. The fact that there is lust in our hearts does not excuse action upon that lust
5. The Bible demands that I recognize my sinfulness, but will not allow me to dwell upon that; to allow that to become an obstacle to growth and service.
6. God Himself recognizes the holiness of His people

- A. Gen 6:9 These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.
- B. Job 1:8 And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?
- C. Luke 1:6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless
- D. In other words, their “sinful humanity” existed side by side with their holiness.
- E. God is PLEASED when people put forth sincere effort to obey Him.
 - i. Isaiah 64.6. AND 5

- F. Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.
- G. Rom 14:18 For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men.
- H. Col 1:10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;
- I. Col 3:20 Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.

- F. 1Th 2:4 But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.
- G. 1Ti 2:3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;
- H. 1Ti 5:4 But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God.
- I. Heb 13:16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.
- J. 1Jn 3:22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

7. God does not view our sincere efforts with suspicion.
 - A. He is our Father, and we are His children.
 - B. What good parent despises the sincere effort of their child?