

The Doctrine of Holiness in These Times

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As pastors and leaders we often do research, read books, and look for articles that would lend itself to the particular subject or topic to preach or teach on. This particular subject on holiness in this day and time is extremely urgent for our consideration.

In the near future I will teach a series on holiness, but for now let's allow the Lord to wet our appetite for what is truly a necessity in these times we live in.

Most people are aware that there is a moral breakdown in America today; there is also an apostasy among Christian leaders who deny the infallible word of God.

On one hand there is a lack of the fire and passion of God in life and service; on the other hand, there is a cheap and easy "believism" that is blind to the terror and to the glory of God's moral standard.

Let's consider 3 things when it comes to holiness today.
Psalm 91:1-16 (5-8)

I. "The carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Romans 8:7)

God made man free, but he chooses to go his way instead of God's way. Man was created to glorify God, but instead glorifies himself. He was created to do the will of God, but he prefers to do his own will.

1. Man dislikes law, divine and human, and seeks to be law unto himself- a rebel against God and man.
2. Often he wants forgiveness without regeneration
3. Man likes the idea of God's love, but he doesn't like the idea that God is holy and hates sin.
4. Man likes saints who go about doing good to man, but he dislikes them if their saintliness leads them to rebuke human sin.

II. The world has little tolerance or enthusiasm for holiness or holy people.

1. The world has always condoned salvation without sanctification; conversion without regeneration; forgiveness without obedience; loyalty without rebuke, and heaven without hell.

From the beginning the religious Cains have had little use for the faithful Abels.

The have exalted a ministry, that, like Balaam, prophesied to please men, while ignoring true disciples of God who rebuke the sins of the church.

Paul predicted that in the latter days that there will be a dislike of holiness which will express itself in "love of self."

11 Timothy 3:2, 3

III. The demands of holiness.

1. Holiness in the average man would set him apart from the world too sharply for his comfort and happiness;
- it might force him to quit a lucrative position, it might hurt his business, it might lose him friends, it might hinder his ambition.
2. Holiness in a woman destroys in one blow much of the feminine vanity and extravagance so apparent in our world.
3. Holiness in the church world would destroy the politics by which many organizations are held together-mans cheap substitute for the unity of the spirit.

What is apparent is that when we consider the scriptures we will find life in them, for they are the word of God.

Psalm 119:25

Matthew 6:25

Matthew 10:39

Luke 12:15

John 14:6

Holiness!!!

Blessings

Pastors Ray and Rena