

The King's Highway.

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness.

And an Highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The Way of Holiness.—Isaiah 40:3

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WHY SEEK HOLINESS?

The question "Why should each Christian seek the experience of heart Holiness?" is certainly important enough to merit careful and prayerful consideration. We may look at it in so many ways. Is it God's intention that we should have this blessing? Is it essential to make us the most capable worker for him, and is our hope for a future home involved by it? Let us consider the question from these several viewpoints.

When God's plan for the world's people was first marred by the sins of Eve and Adam we all know that their fall was such as to leave them helpless, so far as their own ability to rescue themselves was concerned. Not only this, but they became sinful in disposition. In other words, Satan succeeded in implanting in their spiritual natures an element of evil which became a fixed principle in them and all their posterity. The presence of this evil principle is manifest in all by a proneness to wander away from God. Indeed, it is even worse, being, as the Apostle Paul states, "enmity against God."

This evil nature being a result of Adam's sin, it does not involve us with guilt for its presence, but it does lead us into lives of sinful transgression, and thus we are involved with guilt for those sins which we commit. In this way we all become sinners by actual sins of commission. In conversion God pardons all sins committed, makes us his children and sheds his love abroad in our hearts. This is known to us as regeneration, or the new birth, commonly called conversion.

We are not converted long, however, until we discover a something within the heart which is rebellious to God's will. It will be manifested by impatience, pride, resentment, and other forms of indwelling sin. Paul, in defining this state of the heart, uses many terms to express its character, such as carnality, flesh, the old man, the law of sin and death, etc. He also exhorts Christians to seek a thorough cleansing from this state of uncleanness. In II. Cor. 7:1 he says: "Having these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting Holiness in the fear of God." In writing to the church at Thessalonica he prays for them, that they may be completely cleansed, in this language, "the very God of Peace sanctify you wholly, and I pray God your whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." This verse is proof that Sanctification or Holiness of heart is a second work of grace to be received by those who have been thoroughly converted.

God first commands us to rid ourselves of this heritage of carnality, and live Holy lives on

earth to his glory, in the 19th chapter of Leviticus, when He says, "Ye shall be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am Holy."

The question may here arise in the minds of some as to what God meant by "holiness." Holiness is that state of the spiritual nature wherein all sin, both actual and original, has been cleansed from the heart, through the merits of the Blood of Jesus, and by the agency of the Holy Spirit, the executive of God in the work of Redemption. In other words, it is the complete eradication of all sin, and the filling of the soul with the love of God. It is comprehended in the Great Commandment as interpreted by Jesus, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, mind, soul and strength, and thy neighbor as thyself."

The apostle Peter realized the importance of the command in Leviticus and referred to it in the first chapter of his epistle, where he says, "Because it is written, be ye Holy, for I am Holy."

By these passages from God's Word, we see that He emphatically commands it, in both Old and New Testaments, and it is a state to which we must attain.

We are under obligation to seek this blessing. The highest New Testament standard of experience and life certainly is no less than "Be ye holy," and we are not living up to our obligations, or obeying God, if we do not seek, and seek earnestly until we obtain this second work.

We are told in Hebrews that Jesus died that He might sanctify the people with His Own blood." This shows how essential it is. Not only God, the Father, but Jesus Christ, the Son, was interested in making possible our sanctification. "Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it, and that it should be holy. Many people think that the purpose for which Jesus Christ came into the world was to save from eternal destruction. That, to be sure, was included, but the primary object was to save from sin and make the people holy. This is definitely stated in Titus 2:14, which reads, "Who gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from all iniquity and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."

One of the most important reasons, however, why we must be sanctified is because Jesus spent the last night He lived on earth before He was crucified, praying that His disciples and all who should believe in Him through their teaching, might be sanctified through the truth. This wonderful prayer of God incarnate pleading for a people who were, of themselves, helpless against indwelling sin, surely shows us the great importance of what he was praying for. His disciples

were sleeping, little imagining how important the result of that prayer and his death would be to them. And many of His disciples today are sleeping and do not realize what a blessing is in store for them, because of God's self-sacrifice, if they will but give up all to God.

A fifth reason why we should seek the experience of heart holiness is because it is essential to make us efficient workers in his vineyard. In order to do anything well, one must be prepared and trained for it. A man who knew nothing of the manner of constructing ships would not think of starting in to build a great ocean liner until he had thoroughly acquainted himself with the art of shipbuilding. A person intending to become a doctor would thoroughly study hygiene, physiology, chemistry and medicine in all its forms before he began to practice. So we must prepare ourselves to work for God. We must give up everything to Him and every inclination we possess must be in accordance with His will. We must love Him more than anything in this world, and be wholly unselfish. Then, after we are emptied of self we must be filled with His Spirit. We would not be foolish enough to try to pour water out of empty vessels. No more can we expect to live Jesus Christ unless He is within us.

When Christ was on Mt. Olivet, just about to ascend into Heaven, He told His disciples that they were to tarry in Jerusalem until they were endowed with power from on high. "And ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." And how wonderfully this promise was fulfilled. We notice that they began to speak after they were filled with the Holy Ghost. We will begin to speak for Christ when we receive this blessing.

The enlarged capacity for usefulness is in itself a sufficient reason for us to seek this blessed experience which God is so ready to give us.

As a last and most important reason, the Blessing of Holiness is essential to fit us for Heaven. Christ said, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." This is a privilege promised to the Sanctified.

"Follow peace with all men and Holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.—(Heb. 12:14.)

Surely we must seek this experience.

We have now heard these things which God's word says about it. How many of those who have not yet received this blessing are willing to seek it, because God commands it, our profession requires it, Jesus prayed that we might receive it, it makes us better workers for Him, the Church demands it, and it is essential to fit us for Heaven!—*Guide to Perfect Love.*

Mrs. Wm. Churchill, June 26
R. F. D. 1-8

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