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## HOLINESS

By the Editor

For God hath Called Us Unto Holiness.—  
I. Thess. 4-7.

It may not be easy to explain to the unsaved person just what the Bible means by Holiness. The apostle Paul wrote: The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto Him; neither can he know them because they are spiritually discerned. I. Cor. 2-14. And the unsaved may not be particularly concerned about the subject of holiness. But with the professing child of God it ought to be different. Every christian ought to be greatly interested in this subject because there is so much said about it in the inspired word.

Professing Christians and sometimes others ask us: What do you mean by holiness? Some say I never heard it preached. Well, to answer that question in a few words we would say, Holiness means soul health, or a soul restored to a normal condition. Notice we said restored to a normal condition, which can only be done by the power of God. The disobedience of Adam and Eve to God their creator and original Father, produced an abnormal condition in men's souls, or spirit natures: That abnormal condition the Bible calls Sin, and is transmitted through our spirit natures to every son and daughter of Adam's race. Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world and death by sin: and so death passed upon all men for all have sinned. Rom. 5-12. So sin is not confined to our acts of disobedience only. It also exists as a principle, a condition, or a spiritual disease. Hence is two-fold in its nature, which also requires a two-fold work of grace, or two works of grace to perfect its cure. So holiness means that we have received, not only forgiveness for our acts of sin: but also cleansing, or healing for the principle or disease of sin which produces soul health. The Psalmist called upon his soul to bless the Lord who forgave all its, the soul's iniquities, and healed all its diseases. Psal. 103:3.

Christians ought to be interested in Holiness because it is God who has called us. The call did not come from, or originate with John Wesley, or with any of the so-called holiness denominations. No! God is the author of the call. The apostle wrote to the Ephesians: He hath chosen us in Jesus before the foundation of the world that we should be holy and without blame before him in love. He has also commanded us to be holy. Hear Peter: "As he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy. Again, all men should be interested because he has declared that without holiness no man shall see the Lord. Heb. 12-14. Then if He has called us to holiness, He must mean for us to obtain the experience: Not merely to accept the theory, or doctrine of holiness, as

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we fear so many have who are members of our churches.

They have listened to the preaching and teaching of holiness doctrine for years, and make some profession of religion and live moral lives, but never give definite testimony either by word, or action of God's sanctifying power: They lack joy and fervor in testimony and have no power or unction in prayer. They lack zeal in service, and are formal, and lukewarm, or cold in all their devotions. Some of them are quite generous with their money and help to support the church financially: but that is the best that can be said about them. The true pastor is often greatly exercised over these good moral souls, and does his best in his preaching to show them their need, and to move them out of their shell. But his best efforts fail. He often feels greatly perplexed like it seemed that the Almighty did when he spoke to his own people anciently, and said: Oh, Ephraim, what shall I do unto thee: Oh, Juda, what shall I do unto thee: They seemed to be immovable.

Again, God has surely called us to support the cause of holiness and give it our wholehearted support. And why shouldn't he expect us to whereas he has called to holiness, support it with our money, time and membership. As some one has said, why should we board at a holiness church and room at some other place where holiness is rejected, or ignored. We have known some sincere souls to come to the so-called holiness church and profess to get converted, or sanctified and blessed and then say I will go back to my own church and set it on fire. And while they were sincere and thought they were going to be a blessing to the old church, we have looked in vain for the fire. And in every case instead of those honest souls stirring up religious fervor in those cold churches, they have lost what fire they took back with them. Yes, holiness is of God. It is the central theme of the inspired word.

The great purpose and objective of the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ in His plan and work of redemption: Hear Paul again in his letter to the Ephesians: Christ gave him-

self for the church, that he might sanctify it, and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word. That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing: but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Bishop Foster sums up the whole question of Holiness in the following lines:

"It breathes in the Prophecy,  
Thunders in the Law,  
Murmurs in the Narrative,  
Whispers in the Promises,  
Supplicates in the Prayers,  
Sparkles in the Poetry,  
Rosounds in the Songs,  
Speaks in the Types,  
Glowes in the Imagery,  
Voices in the Language, and  
Burns in the Spirit  
Of the whole Scheme

From the Alpha to the Omega,  
From the beginning to the End.

Holiness!  
Holiness needed, Holiness required,  
Holiness offered, Holiness attainable.  
Holiness, a present duty,  
A present Privilege,  
A present Enjoyment—  
Is the progress and completeness of the Bible's wondrous theme."  
Let all the people say, Amen!

## ADVICE TO MINISTERS

Let them preach, in language understood by the common people, the glorious gospel of the blessed God. Let them tell the world lying in wickedness of sin, repentance, power, faith, judgment to come, and life everlasting. But above all let them live out their gospel, and by their zeal for souls, their passion for righteousness, the simplicity and purity of their lives, and their love for God and men, adorn the doctrine and persuade men.—Dr. W. B. Selbie.

## THREE PILLOWS

Old John Foster lay dying and, after a night of weariness and pain, was asked by a friend, "How are you feeling this morning?" "Ah," said he, "wonderfully well. I have my head down on three pillows: The pillow of God's infinite wisdom, the pillow of God's infinite power, the pillow of God's infinite love. I am well. I am resting on three pillows."—Selected.

Avoiding temptation is next in importance to resisting temptation. For the lust of the eye is fearfully apt to begin the lust of the flesh. We met this in Matthew Henry's commentary the other day, "Do not approach the forbidden tree unless you would eat forbidden fruit." It reminded us of old Thomas Fuller's quaint saying, "If you do not wish to trade with the devil, keep out of his shop."—A. J. Gordon.