

# JESUS HAS CALLED US TO HOLINESS

And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. (Isa. 35:8)

In the religious world today there is a spirit of lax living. On every side we see those who profess hope in Christ and at the same time betray their testimony by carnal, and worldly activity! Jesus warned us that in these last and evil days that iniquity would abound and as a result the love of many would wax cold. (Mat. 24:12) He told us of those who would have a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. (2nd Tim. 3:5) God is still calling men and women to holiness in word, thought and deed! (1st Thess. 4:7).

The Christian must realize that Jesus must have full control over every part of our life! Paul tells us that "ye are not your own---For ye are bought with a price" - (1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 6:19-20) We don't have one little part in reserve! All of our life and soul belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ. This being true we must not render any member to uncleanness but we must serve God in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life. (Luke 1:75) To serve Him on Sunday and then fall apart through the week days isn't good enough! Our lights must shine as vessels of honour, sanctified, and meet for the Master's use, and prepared unto every good work (2nd Tim 2:21)

The Bible Christian is said to be free and dead to sin. (Rom. 6:2) We must not continue in sin, neither live any longer therein. Paul said that old things have passed away; behold all things are become new (2nd Cor. 5:17). We are a new creature in Christ Jesus through the new birth of John three and five. The very fact that we are a new creature and old things have passed away is enough to prove that we cannot indulge in the things that are unholy and unlike Jesus. Jesus prayed that His children would be kept from evil (John 17:15).

The Bible -says that the evil men of old "took knowledge" of Peter and John that they had been with Jesus. (Acts 4:13) There was something about these holy men that stood out! This should by all means be so in this last and evil day. Our manner of living and conduct should tell the world in no uncertain terms that we are "called out" and separate from them! Paul said, Wherefore

come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. (2nd Cor. 6:17) Our manner of godly dress and the way that we abstain from worldly activities, our holy conversations and the associates that we choose will silently testify that we are not of the world. (John 17:14)

It is holiness in this life or it will be destruction in the end. Paul warns, that It will take holiness to see the Lord in peace. (Heb.12:14) There must not be any filthy and unholy habit in our life! Paul tells the Christian to "cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 7:1) Touch not; taste not; handle not; (Col. 2:21) Which are to perish with the using -

False teachers are saying today that man cannot live pure and holy. They say that one must sin more or less everyday! This is a direct contradiction to what Jesus came into the world to do. He came to destroy the works of the devil (1st John 3:8); He came to save us from sin (Mat. 1:21); He came to free us from the law of sin and death (Rom. 8: 2); He came to give us power(Acts 1:8) and and to assure us that no temptation will be greater than we can bear! (1st Cor. 10: 13). We have been delivered from the power of darkness, and translated into His glorious Kingdom. (Col. 1:13) This being true let us go forth without the camp bearing His reproach. Let us do all things without murmurings and disputings: That we may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world. (Phil. 2:14-15)

Jesus chose us in Him before the foundation of the world that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love. (Eph. 1:4) Jesus gave Himself for us that He might deliver us from this present evil world-(Gal. 1:4) I thank God today because we can be free! I thank God because His plan has provided that we can be sanctified with the blood in this life and live daily free from the sin of the devil and free from the devil's devices and snares! Jesus will furnish the grace if we will furnish our self! Where sin abounds, His grace will much more abound. (Rom. 5:20) If a person desires to live holy by the help of God you can! You can live free and above the sin of this life through the power of the Holy Ghost.

I am glad that a person can be free from tobacco, dope, swearing, modest dress, unholy conversation, and all other things that be of the flesh! You don't have to be a slave to these nor anything else that will drag your soul into a burning hell! His grace is sufficient to deliver and keep you free! You will never be able to have victory only through the Blood of Jesus Christ. You can't live this life by yourself, you must have Jesus in your life! (Phil. 4:13) Don't expect God to come down and take tobacco out of your pocket or some great act of

power to make you quit things that are wrong! If you will get willing to lay these things down, Jesus will certainly give you the power to do His will. I have heard different ones testify as to how Jesus "took certain things away from them, etc." Jesus will not take a thing away unless you are first willing to "lay it down" - Then He will give you the strength to lay them aside and go on in holiness.

Heaven is a holy place and everyone that goes there is going to be holy. God said, the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murders, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake of fire which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death (Rev. 21:8) God said the ones who would be in the first resurrection would be blessed and holy (Rev. 20:6) A little sinning religion might be alright to live with in this world but it is going to take holiness to abide the high lights of God's judgment! World loving church members are headed for a heart breaking disappointment! Judgement will be severe and hell will be terrible for the lost!

I take this opportunity today to call upon Christians everywhere to search your hearts in the light of the scriptures and see if there be any wicked thought or way. Search your heart for the sin of jealousy, envy, strife, evil speaking or any such thing. God said His church would not have spot, or wrinkle, "or any such thing," (Eph. 5:27) but it would be holy and without blemish. There is no danger of living too close nor too good! However, there is a grave danger in being too slack and allow "little foxes" to spoil the vine. Let us be diligent that the day of the Lord not find us sleeping nor loose in our living.