

## **“Without Holiness, No Man Shall See God”**

### **No. 299**

#### **Introduction.**

I. We sometimes sing this powerful hymn.

Take time to be holy, Speak oft with thy Lord; Abide in Him always And feed on His word.	Abiding in Jesus, Like Him thou shalt be; Thy friends in thy conduct His likeness shall see.
Make friends of God’s children; Help those who are weak Forgetting in nothing His blessings to see.	Take time to be holy, Be calm in thy soul; Each tho’t and each motive Beneath His control.
Take time to be holy, The world rushes on; Spend much time in secret With Jesus alone.	Thus led by His Spirit To fountains of love, Thou soon shall be fitted For service above.

II. With this powerful hymn in mind, I would like to begin this lesson by reading three passages of scriptures from the New Testament.

A. Paul wrote in Titus the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter. (Tit. 2:11-14).

**11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, 12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus; 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.**

B. The apostle Peter wrote these words in his first epistle. (1 Pet. 1:13-16).

**13 Therefore, gird your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, 15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; 16 because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."**

C. **The Hebrew writer wrote,** “Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification [holiness] without which no one will see the Lord.” (Heb. 12:14).

III. In our day and time many things in the church receive a lot of attention, but one thing that gets little attention and emphasis in the church is “holiness.” I have entitled this lesson, “Without Holiness, No Man Shall See God.”

I. **Define Holiness** - At the outset of this lesson it is important that we define holiness.

A. **A former missionary in India** once told of needing assistance in transferring a critically ill man from his house to the local hospital. She requested help from two “holy men” who were sitting not far away as they were intoning their devotions to God. She said she would never forget the fire of resentment that blazed up in their eyes as one of them responded to the request for help, “We are holy men, we are devoted to God, and we never do anything for anyone!”

B. **One thing is certain** - these men did not understand the concept of “holiness.”

1. **But they are not alone.**

2. Many others in our world do not understand the concept of “holiness.”

C. Some think “holiness” is:

1. Living apart from others	5. Holiness in the Bible is <b>always connected with actual lifestyles</b> , not just with some state of mind
2. Some spiritual state of mind that makes them more spiritual than others. <b>Spend life meditating</b>	6. It is a real change of how we live and what we think.
3. Others think it is <b>some negative constrictive lifestyle</b> where there is no joy or happiness. <b>Psalms 144:15</b>	7. It is <b>very powerful, and very practical, and very positive!</b>
4. In reality, however, holiness in the Bible is not just what we do not do, but it very much what we positively do.	8. The basic concept of holiness in the Bible is that of “separation,” a separation from sin, and a separation to God. (2 Cor. 6:17, 18).

II. **Some Characteristics Of Holiness** - Let us consider some characteristics of holiness.

A. The holy **trust in Jesus and His blood**. (Isa. 53:5; Eph. 1:7).

B. The holy do **not seek to impress men**. (Matt. 6:1-8).

C. The holy do not claim to be **sinless**.

1. Holy ones try to live above sin.

2. But holy ones know they cannot live above sin. (1 Jn. 1:8, 10).

3. They confess their sins. (1 Jn. 1:9).

D. The holy are not “stuck up.”

1. I heard about a **5<sup>th</sup> grader who came home from school one day** very excited. She had been voted “**prettiest girl in the class.**” The next day she was even more excited when she came home, for the class had voted her “**the most likely to succeed.**” The next day she came home and told her mother she

had won a third contest being voted **“the most popular.”** But the next day she came home extremely upset. The mother said, “What happened, did you lose this time?” She said, “Oh no, I won the vote again.” The mother said, “What were you voted this time?” She said, “most stuck up.”

2. There is a strong temptation for those claiming holiness and separating themselves from this world to be “stuck up.” We must remember that we are what we are by God’s grace and God does not want us to be “stuck up.” (Prov. 6:17; Jas. 4:6).

E. The holy seek **to please God.**

1. It causes one **“to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in this present age.”** (Tit. 2:12).
2. It causes us to **seek to transform the world rather than conform to it.** (Rom. 12:1, 2).
3. The holy life is described in the book of Colossians. (Col. 2:12).
  - a. Referring back to the fact they had been raised from the waters of baptism, Paul wrote. (Col. 3:1, 2).
  - b. Paul then proceeded to name the kinds of things that must not be named among them. (Col. 3:5-10).

**5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. 6 For it is on account of these things that the wrath of God will come, 7 and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, 10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him**

- c. **Paul** then penned these words. (Col. 3:12-17).

**12 And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. 14 And beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.**

F. The holy **reach out to others.**

1. The holy do not think they are too good to reach out and help others.
2. They seek to be like Jesus who went about doing good. (Acts 10:35).
3. True holy men and woman are willing to get their hands dirty and wear themselves out doing what the holy God demands.

### III. **Necessity Of Holiness** - Finally, I would like to stress the necessity of holiness.

- A. Holiness is necessary to **attract the world to God**. (Matt. 5:14-16).
- B. Earlier we cited the words of the Hebrew writer who said, “without holiness no one shall see God.” (Heb. 12:14).
- C. We cannot enter heaven without it. (Matt. 5:8; Rev. 21:27).
- D. **Let us live a life of holiness as we prepare and wait for the second coming of Christ.** (1 Jn. 3:2b-3).

### **Conclusion.**

- I. May we often sing the words of this great song, “More Holiness Give Me!”

<p>More holiness give me,          More striving within,          More patience in suff'ring,          More sorrow for sin,          More faith in my Savior,          More sense of His care,          More joy in His service,          More freedom in prayer.</p> <p>More gratitude give me,          More trust in the Lord,          More praise for His glory,          More hope in His word,          More tears for His sorrows,          More pain at His grief,          More meekness in trial,          More praise for relief.</p>	<p>More purity give me,          More strength to o'ercome,          More freedom from earth-stains,          More longing for home,          More fit for the kingdom,          More useful I'd be,          More blessed and holy,          More, Savior, like Thee.</p>
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### II. **Yes, we need to pray for “more holiness.”**

- A. It is vital that we separate ourselves from sin.
- B. It is vital that we recognize we are set apart to do His will by serving Him and others.

### III. **We now give you the opportunity to come to the Holy God.**

- A. Let the holy God of heaven cleanse you of all your sins. He promises to cleanse those who will confess faith in His Son, turn from their sins and then be baptized.
- B. At baptism God promises to wash away our sins through the blood of Christ. At baptism God sets us apart to be His saints. At baptism God makes us His spiritual children. At baptism God gives us the Holy Spirit as a

pledge of our future inheritance with Him.

**C. Submit to God through His Son Jesus Christ.** Come as we stand and sing.

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