

THE PURSUIT OF HOLINESS

Message 3: EVERY EFFORT

Discussion Questions:

Why did/do we need salvation?

What is the effect of true salvation?

What is it to be “**righteous**”?

1) There is a righteousness we _____

Romans 3:21-26 (NIV)

²¹ But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²² This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished-- ²⁶ he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)

²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2) There is a righteousness we _____

Hebrews 12:14 (ESV)

Strive for peace with everyone, and for the **holiness** without which no one will see the Lord.
(NIV - “*Make every **effort** ...*”)

2 Peter 1:5-7 (ESV)

⁵ For this very reason, **make every effort** to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and

steadfastness with godliness, ⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

True salvation brings with it a desire to be made holy.

— Jerry Bridges, *The Pursuit of Holiness*, p.33

How do we pursue?

- 1) Through the _____
 - a. The Spirit strengthens us with power in our “_____”
Ephesians 3:16
 - b. The Spirit is not only our power, but our _____.
He exposes _____ - John 16:7-11
He illumines the _____ - 1 Cor. 2:16
He removes the ‘veil’ and spotlights _____ - 2 Cor. 3:18

- 2) Through the _____
 - a. The Gospel encourages godliness out of a sense of _____.
Romans 12:1-2

Beware a “debtor’s ethic” ...
Romans 11:35
 - b. The Gospel tells us the _____ about who we are.
Romans 6:1-4, 8:1, 11, 16-17, 38-39, etc., etc.

- 3) Through the _____ of God
 - a. Faith is required for _____.
Romans 3:28

“God’s promises fuel the engine of obedience”. - Kevin DeYoung
Examples: The Sermon on the Mount, Hebrews 11:39-40, Romans 8:28-29
 - b. Faith is required for _____.
Philippians 2:13

- 4) Through consistent _____.
Examples:
 - a. By the Spirit, we put to _____ the works of the flesh. - Rom. 8:13

- b. _____ the old self and _____ the new. - Eph. 4:22-24
- c. Put to _____ what is earthly in us - Col. 3:5
- d. _____ the good fight - 1 Tim. 6:12
- e. _____ to enter the narrow gate - Luke 13:24
- f. _____ the race; _____ the body - 1 Cor. 9:24-27
- g. _____ on; _____ forward - Phil. 3:12-14
- h. Toil and _____ with all His energy - Col. 1:29
- i. Make _____ - 2 Peter 1:5
- j. _____ and _____ - Rev. 2-3

Striving for Holiness

Adapted from *The Pursuit of Holiness*, chapter 3

- 1) Holiness is not necessary as a _____ of salvation (that would be salvation by works) but as a part of salvation that is _____ by faith in Christ.

- 2) God's _____ demands holiness in the life of a Christian.
1 John 1:3,5

- 3) Holiness is required for _____.
Psalm 15:1
Psalm 66:18

- 4) Holiness is required for _____.
Hebrews 12:6
Psalm 32:3-4

- 5) Holiness is necessary for _____.
2 Tim 2:21
Ephesians 4:30

- 6) Holiness is necessary for _____.
2 Cor 5:17
1 John 3:3
Romans 8:15
Matthew 7:21-23

“Spiritual Altitude” Test from *Pure Desire* by Ted Roberts

Please rate yourself on a scale of 1 to 5 in the following areas:

1 = rarely; 2 = occasionally; 3 = sometimes; 4 = weekly; 5 = daily

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. I read the Bible and apply it to my life. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2. I pray and praise the Lord personally. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3. I confess my shortcomings and my sins. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 4. I am accountable to a small group. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 5. I put forth time and effort to serve the Lord. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6. I allow the Holy Spirit to flow through my life. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Total score: _____