

HOLINESS LESSON #2 | 1.27.2016

The Church at Trace Crossing

Opening Scripture:

- Eph. 1 and 5
- Colossians 1 – delivered and transferred

Thoughts from last week's video of Kevin DeYoung:

- A Quote from his book: There is a gap between our love for the gospel and our love for godliness. This must change. It's not pietism, legalism, or fundamentalism to take holiness seriously. It's the way of all those who have been called to a holy calling by a holy God.

Review from Lesson 1:

- Holiness is:
 - A position
 - A process
 - A partnership
 - Between us and God
 - Bridges: No one can attain any degree of holiness without God working in his life, but just as surely no one will attain it without effort on his own part.
 - Between us and our faith family

Bridges' endorsements – What would people write about our pursuit of holiness? What would we write about it.

Who can give us a succinct summary of the Preface, Chapter 1 and Chapter 2?

- Christians are not pursuing holiness as they ought
- God is holy and expects us to be too

Bridges:

- With regard to holiness, we greatly enjoy talking about the provision of God but we do not as readily talk about our own responsibility – AGREE OR DISAGREE
 - How often do you talk about having received the Holy Spirit?
 - How often do you think on the indwelling of the Spirit?
 - Which dominates your thoughts – what you've been saved from or what you've been saved to? Both should be in our minds.
- Why we don't
 - We are simply reluctant to face up to our responsibility
 - We do not understand the proper distinction between God's provision and our own responsibility for holiness
- Walking in obedience to God's Word and living a life of holiness is not only expected but the "promised birthright" of every Christian
 - Sin shall not be our master
 - How often do we consider the implications of our union with Christ?
 - How often do we consider our union with Christ?
 - This is what Paul is doing in Romans 6 and Galatians 2
- Misconceptions of holiness
 - LIST SOME
- Holiness = separation to God, and the conduct befitting those so separated
 - Live in conformity to the Word and in contrast to the sinful ways of the world
 - Put off and put on – EPH. 4:22, 24
- Two great questions:
 - If holiness, then, is so basic to the Christian life, why do we not experience it more in daily living?
 - Why does the Church of Jesus Christ so often seem to be more conformed to the world around it than to God?
- His answers:
 - Our attitude toward sin is more self-centered than God-centered.
 - We are more concerned about our own "victory" over sin than we are about the fact that our sins grieve the heart of God. We cannot tolerate failure in our struggle with sin chiefly because we are success-oriented, not because we know it is offensive to God.
 - God wants us to walk in obedience – not victory. Obedience is oriented toward God; victory is oriented toward self.
 - Victory is a byproduct of obedience.

- We have misunderstood “living by faith” to mean that no effort at holiness is required on our part.
 - We must face the fact that we have a personal responsibility for our walk of holiness.
- We do not take sin seriously.
 - We have mentally categorized sins into that which is unacceptable and that which may be tolerated a bit.
 - We cannot categorize sin if we are to live a life of holiness.
- Others from DeYoung:
 - The fear that a passion for holiness makes you some kind of weird holdover from a bygone era.
 - Our churches have many unregenerate persons in them.
 - Our culture of cool is also partly to blame
 - Some have willingly embraced Christian freedom but without an equal pursuit of Christian virtue.
 - Among more liberal Christians, the pursuit of holiness can be suspect because labeling any behavior as “ungodly” feels judgmental and intolerant.
 - Among conservative Christians there is sometimes the mistaken notion that if we are truly gospel-centered we won’t talk about rules or imperatives or moral exertion.
 - Then there’s the reality that holiness is plain hard work, and we’re often lazy.
 - We like our sins, and dying to them is painful.
 - Almost everything is easier than growing in godliness.
 - So we try and fail, try and fail, and then give up.
 - Many Christians have simply given up on sanctification.
- The Holiness of God (Chapter 2)
 - God expects us to be holy because He is.
 - Holiness is nothing less than conformity to the character of God.
 - “Cultural” holiness
 - Because He is holy, God always does what is just and right without the slightest hesitation.
 - His holiness = perfect freedom from all evil and perfect conformity to His own divine character
 - His holiness should be a comfort to us b/c we can be confident that His actions toward us are always perfect and just.
 - To complain against God is in effect to deny His holiness and to say He is not fair.
 - Acknowledging His holiness is one of the ways we are to praise God, but more than that He demands holiness in us.
 - God cannot possibly ignore or approve of any evil committed. He cannot for one moment relax His perfect standard of holiness.
 - God does not accept the excuse, “Well, that’s just the way I am,” or even the more hopeful statement, “Well, I’m still growing in that area of my life.”
 - His holiness does not make allowance for minor flaws or shortcomings in our personal character.
 - Because God is holy, He cannot ever tempt us to sin.
 - As we grow in holiness we will grow in our hatred of sin.
 - We may trifle with our sins or excuse them, but God hates them.
 - Every time we sin we are doing something God hates.
 - We become so accustomed to our sins we sometimes lapse into a state of peaceful coexistence with them, but God never ceases to hate them.
 - We need to cultivate in our own hearts the same hatred of sin God has.
 - Playing with temptation by entertaining the thought that we can always confess and later ask forgiveness is exceedingly dangerous.
 - Frequent contemplation on the holiness of God and His consequent hatred of sin is a strong deterrent against trifling with sin.
 - God’s love should be our primary motivation for holiness but being motivated by God’s hatred of sin and His consequent judgment on it is no less biblical.

Statement from DeYoung in his book:

- No matter what you profess, if you show disregard for Christ by giving yourself over to sin – impenitently and habitually – then heaven is not your home.