

Zion Christian Assembly Berean Hour
March 2013

Lesson Three: **Holiness in not an option**
Hebrews 12:14

“Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.” NIV

“Work at getting along with each other and with God. Otherwise you’ll never get so much as a glimpse of God.” The Message Bible

“Strive to live in peace with everybody and pursue that consecration and holiness without which no one will [ever] see the Lord.” The Amplified Bible

Romans 5:19 *“For just as though the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.”*

I Peter 3:18 *“For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to go.”*

- ❖ Active obedience: our salvation based on the obedience of Christ and His sinless life
- ❖ Passive obedience: Christ’s death on the cross paid the full penalty for our sins and satisfied the wrath of God against sin

There is:

- a holiness which we have in Christ before God
- a holiness which we are to strive after

Hebrews 12:14 speaks, however, of a holiness which we are to strive after.

- ❖ We are through Christ **made** holy in our standing before God and **called** to be holy in our daily practice of holiness as a lifestyle.

Titus 2:11-12 *“For the grace of God (His unmerited favor and blessing) has come forward (appeared) for the deliverance from sin and the eternal salvation for all mankind.”*

“It has trained us to reject and renounce all ungodliness (irreligion) and worldly (passionate) desires, to live discreet (temperate, self-controlled), upright, devout (spiritually whole) lives in this present world.”

- ❖ Grace brings salvation and teaches us to say no to ungodliness and worldly passions and to live self-controlled, upright

1. Holiness required for fellowship with God: Psalms 15:1- *“Lord, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill?”*
2. Holiness required for our wellbeing:
 - a. Hebrews 12:6- *“The Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punished everyone he accepts as a son.”*

- b. Psalms 32:3-4 *“When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped in the heat of summer.”*
- 3. Holiness necessary for service to God: II Timothy 2:21- *“Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.”*
- 4. Holiness is necessary for our assurance of salvation:
 - a. II Corinthians 5:17- *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”*
 - b. I John 3:3 *“All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.”*

PROBING QUESTIONS

- ❖ Is there evidence of practical holiness in my life?
- ❖ Do I desire and strive after holiness?
- ❖ Do I grieve over my lack of holiness in my life and earnestly seek the help of God to be holy?