

Take Time To Be Holy

by Wayne Goff

“But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy.’” -- 1 Peter 1:15-16

CHRISTIANS ARE HOLY

God’s command through the apostle Peter to **“be holy”** should not be taken lightly. One cannot have fellowship with God unless he is holy. The blood of Jesus Christ sanctified (made holy) those who have been washed by it (Heb. 13:12). This is how we **began** to be in fellowship with God, calling Him “Abba Father!”

Christians are called to maintain that holiness; thus the command of 1 Peter -- **“BE HOLY!”** In the Gospel records and the book of Acts, the word **“holy”** is most often used to describe God, or things associated with the worship and service of God. But in the New Testament epistles we see an amazing shift -- people who are Christians are now being called **“holy”!**

The congregation of God’s people is the church. Of it Paul writes: **“for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are”** (1 Cor. 3:17, KJV). Again in Ephesians 2:21 - **“in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.”**

Of God’s eternal scheme of redemption, Paul writes again: **“just as He 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). God’s eternal plan was to have holy, blameless children who could be in fellowship with Him.

The term **“holy”** describes brethren (1 Thess. 5:27; Heb. 3:1), the hands of saints (1 Tim. 2:8), our calling (2 Tim. 1:9), elders (Titus 1:8), the priesthood of believers (1 Pet. 2:5), the royal nation (1 Pet. 2:9), and our Savior Jesus Christ (Heb. 7:26).

If people could have been saved without holiness, then Jesus Christ would not have had to die on the cross for the sins of the world! But those who are eternally saved are those whom Jesus has **“...loved ... and washed ... from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father...”** (Rev. 1:5-6). None shall see God in eternity without this moral, spiritual transformation.

“THE WORLD RUSHES ON”

I have sung the song, **“Take Time To Be Holy”** hundreds of times in my life. I have always been impressed with the solemnity of the words. It reminds us that holiness is not a happenstance but a cultivated condition. **“Take time to be holy, the world rushes on...”** If we do not take time to be **holy**, then we are not taking time to be **saved**. It’s one thing when the world finds the word **“holy”** to be strange and foreign, but I am greatly concerned when we -- God’s children -- find **“holy”** to be vague and peculiar.

So for those of us who wish to take time to be holy, notice some of the suggestions in the song on **how** to do that:

1. **Pray:** “speak oft with thy Lord”
2. **Study:** “and feed on His word”
3. **Fellowship:** “make friends of God’s children”
4. **Benevolence:** “help those who are weak”
5. **Meditate:** “be calm in thy soul”
6. **Obey:** “each thought and each motive beneath His control”

THE RESULTS?

By obeying the command of God to **“be holy, for I am holy”** we can fulfill the promise found also in the song: **“Thus led by His Spirit to fountains of love, thou soon shalt be fitted for service above.”** Yes, heaven will be your blessed reward -- unearned, undeserved, but given to those that love God.

To those who do not take time to be holy, the sad words will echo in their ears for all eternity: **“Depart from Me, I never knew you!”**