

## STAYING CLEAN IN A FILTHY WORLD

Text: I Peter 1:13-21

■ There was this woman who had 16 children, all at home, and they lived next door to a construction site. One day one of her sons playing on the construction site, fell into a barrel of tar. The mother came running to his rescue and pulled him out. After doing so, she looked him over and said, "Son, it would be easier to have another one of you than to clean you up."

We live in a world where there is filth and sin on every hand and at times we find it is a full time job just to stay out of it. In addition, our world is saturated with an anti-God philosophy. Everywhere we look messages on billboards, TV programs, books, magazines and radios all try to force us to conform to the world's philosophy. It is a constant fight to keep that separation from the world. It is a constant fight to live holy.

What is living clean or living holy all about? What does it mean? Myron Augsburger writes, ■ The words holiness and sanctification are not prominent in much of Protestant theology. We have tended to speak of justification without a commensurate emphasis on sanctification. ... Holiness means that one belongs wholly to God. This is also the meaning of sanctification, being set apart as God's own possession. When this begins internally, with the heart, the transformation becomes something that affects the total person.

-- Myron S. Augsburger in *The Christ-Shaped Conscience*. Christianity Today, Vol. 37, no. 3.

In our text, Peter lays out five spiritual *incentives* to encourage us to walk a holy walk in this polluted and filthy world.

### I. **THE *GLORY OF GOD* IS AN INCENTIVE TO LIVE HOLY (v. 13).**

*"The revelation of Jesus Christ is another expression for the Living hope and the appearing of Jesus Christ."*

**A. We look forward to the Glory of God—Christ's return.**

■ Peter is saying **first** of all, “Have a **disciplined** mind.” *"Pull your thoughts together."* *"Get your minds on God."*

**Secondly**, “Have a **sober** mind.” *The word sober means "to be calm, steady, controlled; to weigh matters."*

**Thirdly** he is telling us to, “Have an **optimistic** mind.” The phrase *"Hope to the end"* means to *"set your hope fully"*.

■ Zig Ziglar said, "I'm such an optimist I'd go after Moby Dick in a rowboat and take the tartar sauce with me."

## II. **THE *HOLINESS OF GOD* IS AN INCENTIVE TO LIVE HOLY (vv. 14-15).**

■ A very simple point is made here in (vv. 14-15). **Children inherit the nature of their parents.** God, our Heavenly Father, is Holy, so we should be as well.

### A. **We follow as obedient children.**

We are not to live as we once did. **We were children of obedience, children of wrath, imitators of the world and more.** Why? Because of ignorance. But now, we have been called out of darkness into marvelous light.

### B. **The world no longer sets the standard for us.**

**Now God sets the standard.** The grace of God has made us one of His and all that we do should reflect His holiness. If we cannot glorify God in it don't do it!

## III. **THE *WORD OF GOD* IS AN INCENTIVE TO LIVE HOLY (v. 16).**

### A. **How does the word encourage us?**

- It is a sword for battle—Ephesians 6:17
- A light for guidance—Psalms 119:105
- Food for strength—Matthew 4:4
- It's water that washes us—Ephesians 5:25-27
- It sanctifies us—John 17:17
- It directs us to God's Blessings—Psalms 1:1-3

■ Some wrote, The Word reveals God's mind, so we should learn it. God's heart, so we should love it. God's will, so we should live it.

**B. In trying to stay clean in a filthy world all we need to ask is, "What does the Bible say?"**

■ Dwight L. Moody, *"Sin will keep you from this Book. This Book will keep you from sin."*

#### **IV. THE *JUDGMENT OF GOD* IS AN INCENTIVE TO LIVE HOLY (v. 17).**

**A. Judgment often strikes fear in our hearts and rightfully so.**

Yet this is not the judgment of final condemnation being spoken about - but of works. Christian's works. What is the motivation here? The fear of God's Fatherly discipline.

This verse speaks both of a time when Christian works will be judged and of God's present discipline in this life.

**B. God disciplines His children today and will judge their works in the future.**

Godly fear and reverence should motivate and be the trademark of the Christians.

## V. **THE LOVE OF GOD IS AN INCENTIVE TO LIVE HOLY** (vv. 18-21).

**A. Nothing should motivate the Christian to live Holy more than God's love.**

**And there is no greater reason to love God than because He has redeemed us.** Being redeemed had special meaning to these Christians because slavery was so common. You see a slave could purchase his own freedom, if he could collect sufficient funds (which would be almost impossible); or his master could sell him to someone who was willing to pay the price and set him free. Redemption was a precious thing in those days. Can you imagine the love involved in such a transaction?

**B. We were enslaved to sin with no way to free ourselves.**

But there came ONE who was willing to Redeem us. **To redeem means "to set free by paying a price."**

■ O' the price of the buyer, a price no pen could compute...

## CONCLUSION

■ A young lady named Frances Ridley Havergal saw a picture of the crucifixion with this caption "I did this for thee? What has thou done for me?" Quickly, she wrote a poem, but was dissatisfied with it and threw it into the fireplace. The paper came out unharmed! Later it was published and made into a song:

I gave my life for thee  
My precious blood I shed  
That thou might ransomed be  
And quickened from the dead  
I gave, I gave, My life for thee,  
What has thou given for me?

When we think about all that Jesus has done, all that He has said, all that He is, all that He promises, we can ask ourselves, "What greater *incentives* do we need to live a life pleasing to the Lord?"

