

Discipleship 401 Chapter 10 Holiness Of God

Each should give brief statement on a couple of the most important things the Lord is teaching you through this study so far.

Hebrews 12:14, Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

This directive was given by Paul to a church that had some issues in being true to the Lord.

Revelation 3:1-6, To the angel of the church in Sardis write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits^[b] of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. ²Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. ³Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.

⁴Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. ⁵The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels. ⁶Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

This warning came directly from the Lord through John in a prophetic revelation.

Revelation 3:14-22, "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. ¹⁵I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! ¹⁶So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. ...

¹⁹Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. ²⁰Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

²¹To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²²Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

The rebuke above came from the Lord in a prophetic message through John. This group of people had turned their hearts on other things. This is a tendency of human nature, to follow with our hearts that which catches our attention around us.

Galatians 5:1-4, _ It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

² Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. ³ Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. ⁴ You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.

This passage is a warning by Paul to the Galatian church that they were putting trust in things being taught by those not teaching by faith in the Lord. They were starting to set their hearts on trusting in obedience in the Law for their righteousness. This weakened the relationship through the Spirit and Paul warned if they continued it would mean the loss of the relationship with the Lord. Perhaps you have come across people that are trying to justify themselves by the Law...

Discuss the concepts above. We have looked at different aspects of the mantle of Christ over the church. There are different ways the mantle can be strengthened. When we strengthen the work of the Spirit in Holiness before the Lord, the Spirit is working stronger to keep Holiness in his people before the Lord. It is always in the Mantle at work, but to increase it's work will have greater affect on his people in keeping them steadfast in faith. The Spirit convicts of the need for holiness and those things in a person's life that lead to holiness.

When you gather in corporate prayer you can pray that the Lord increase the holiness of his people. This works with praying for greater faith and a greater love for God. When you make declarations of Jesus as Lord, raising his Name, including praise songs, it increases the power of holiness in the church. Leading the people in praise of the Lord in his position on high increases his power of holiness in his people. If we lift the Name of Jesus high he will draw all men to himself. This applies to more than just salvation. People must decide to consecrate themselves to the Lord but it is the power of God that sanctifies and works holiness in the hearts of his people in response. The strength and power of that Spirit of holiness is what keeps their hearts in the Lord. This is a work of the Spirit in relationship with the Lord. Discuss these concepts.

You will now spend time praying for a few minutes in agreement for greater holiness in the church. Each one pray for some aspect of this holiness, greater sanctification and greater love for God. Then you will go one by one and pray these things for one another. You are imparting a greater strength into each one for this work of the Lord. May the Lord bless you each.