Make Church a Part of Your Life WEEKLY SERMONETTE

"Holiness in a Sin-Cursed World"

By Preacher/Teacher Terry Laughlin, CrossRoads Ministries

Books Are Noble

take them out of the world, change their environment. but that you protect them 17:15) The Holy Spiritinspired writers of the New in the midst of an unholy world. As a matter of fact Christians are warned to expect ridicule and abuse. (1 Peter 4:3-4; 2 Timothy 3:12; John 15:18-21) Living in this world has its difficulties and temptations. Jesus said, "I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33) Regarding sin He said, "Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin! Such things must come..." (Mat-

thew 18:7) Christians will face daily battles against a critical spirit and other temptations that cause unholy thoughts, which unchecked will cause them to express unholy actions. All of us can easily slip into the character trait of Mr. Talkative, in "Pilgrim's Progress." prided himself on being adaptable to any kind

from being polluted by the 119. He writes, "How can a

Here is a truth that must of company, any kind of talk. world." A victorious life has young man keep his way be understood, Christians When Christians fail to set the heart cry of King David pure? By living accordmust live this life in a sin-their focus on the holiness of when he faced the results of ing to your word." (Psalm cursed world. Jesus' prayer God, they can find themselves his willful sin, "Have mercy for the children of God is, like chameleons, changing on me ... according to your upon your precept and con-"My prayer is not that you their color every time they unfailing love and compassion..." (Psalm 51:1) "Create in your decrees; I will not Victory in a sin-cursed in meapureheart, OGod, and from the evil one." (John world begins with a deter- renew a steadfast spirit within mined reflection on James me." (Psalm 51:10) It is com-1:27, "Religion that God the monly believed, King David, Testament make it clear. Father accepts as pure and the man after God's heart. It takes focus, sacrifice, Christians will have to live faultless is ...to keep oneself (Acts 13:22) wrote Psalm

119:9) "I will meditate sider your ways. I delight neglect your word." (Psalm 119:15-16) .

Nothing in this world worth doing comes easily. and hard work to become a world class athlete, gain a college degree or achieve high goals in anything. Holiness in a sin-cursed world is not easy! It takes focus, sacrifice and the hard work of prayerful study of God's Word to enjoy His holiness. Placing the Word of God in your minds gives you the weapon you need to overcome those temptations that attack your spiritual heart. Surrendering to God's Word enables who to enjoy the Holy Spirit's empowerment to flee from adultery, murder, covetousness, a bitter and critical spirit, etc. Holy Spirit illumination of God's Word changes the Christian's vocabulary and life style.

Dr. Jim Berg wrote about the truth to enjoying the blessings and holiness of God. He wrote, "There are only two choices on the shelf, pleasing God or pleasing self." Holiness in a sin-cursed world is possible and leads to a satisfied

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10/8/10 7:36:29 AM

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