

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

"Holiness in a Sin-Cursed World"

By Preacher/Teacher Terry Laughlin, CrossRoads Ministries

Here is a truth that must be understood, Christians must live this life in a sin-cursed world. Jesus' prayer for the children of God is, "My prayer is not that you take them out of the world, but that you protect them from the evil one." (John 17:15) The Holy Spirit-inspired writers of the New Testament make it clear, Christians will have to live 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..." (Matthew 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." He prided himself on being adaptable to any kind of company, any kind of talk. When Christians fail to set their focus

on the holiness of God, they can find themselves like chameleons, changing their color every time they change their environment.

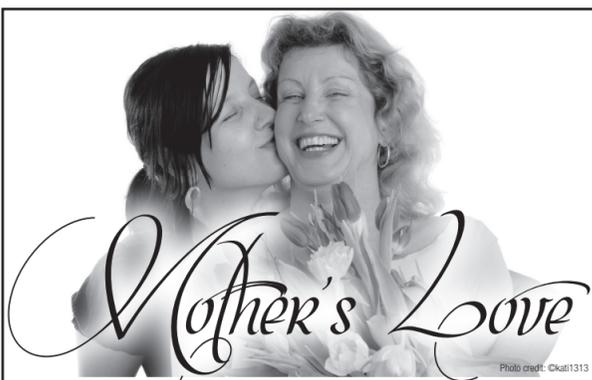
Victory in a sin-cursed world begins with a determined reflection on James 1:27, "Religion that God the Father accepts as pure and faultless is...to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." A victorious life

has the heart cry of King David when he faced the results of his willful sin, "Have mercy on me...according to your unfailing love and compassion..." (Psalm 51:1) "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." (Psalm 51:10) It is commonly believed, King David, the man after God's heart (Acts 13:22) wrote Psalm 119. He writes,

"How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word." (Psalm 119:9) "I will meditate upon your precept and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word." (Psalm 119:15-16)

Nothing in this world worth doing comes easily. It takes focus, sacrifice, 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 you 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 life.



A mother's love begins before she feels the first faint flutter of life. It continues through endless diaper changes and sleepless nights, through report cards and puppy love, graduations and weddings. She rejoices in each triumph and grieves with each tragedy, always there, nurturing and loving. God is like that, too, always there, watching over us as we learn and grow. His loving care can guide us along as we travel through our lives. Worship with your mom this week, and give thanks for mothers everywhere.

Weekly Scripture Reading

1 Corinth.	1 Corinth.	John	John	Psalms	John	John
15.1-34	15.35-58	8.12-30	8.31-59	85	10.1-21	10.22-42

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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Riverfest
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Caldwell 140th Anniversary Celebration & Kansas 150th Anniversary Cattle Drive
September 3-5, Caldwell
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