

BE YE HOLY IN PREACHING

INTRODUCTION:

1. 2 Tim. 4:2
 - A. The Lord has commanded *faithful* and *able* men to preach the gospel - 2 Tim. 2:2.
 - B. The preacher of the gospel is to give himself wholly *"to reading, to exhortation, to teaching."* - 1 Tim. 4:13-15.
 - C. The preacher of the gospel is to stand tall in the pulpit proclaiming with power the unsearchable riches of the ancient gospel of Christ.
 1. To fail in this is to fail in being holy in our preaching.
2. Our study concerns:
 - A. The Lord has told us the kind of preaching needed.
 - B. The Lord has told us what to preach.
 - C. The Lord has told us why to preach the word.
 - D. The Lord has told us how to preach.

BODY:

1. THE LORD HAS TOLD US THE KIND OF PREACHING NEEDED.
 - A. The kind of preaching needed is not what the majority likes or wants.
 1. Jesus warned about following the majority - Mt. 7:13.
 2. Many have been led astray by following the majority - 1 Cor. 15:33.
 - B. We need preaching that is distinctive.
 1. Imagine John the Baptist preaching, "Smile, God loves you."
 - A. Instead he preached, *"O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"* - Mt. 3:7; 14:1-12.
 2. Imagine Jeremiah preaching from the miry pit, *"I'm OK, you're OK."*
 - A. Instead he cried out against adultery, idolatry, and the evils of his nation - Jer. 36.
 3. Imagine Noah preaching while building the ark, *"Something good is going to happen to you."*
 - A. Rather, the preacher of righteousness condemned the evils of his world - 1 Pet. 3:20,21.
 4. Imagine Stephen saying, *"Bless your hearts, let's dialog."*
 - A. Instead he convicted his hearers of the crimes they were guilty of - Acts 7:51-60.
 - C. What is not needed today.
 1. We do not need a "social gospel."
 - A. The primary concern of God's people is not curing social ills.
 - B. Preaching the gospel to save the lost must be uppermost in our concerns.
 2. We are hearing: *"The church needs to find out where the community is hurting and heal that hurt."*
 - A. Consequently, congregations are seeking after ways to be more like the world instead of distinct from it.
 1. The church is the pillar and ground of the truth - 1 Tim. 3:15.
 2. The church is to make known the manifold wisdom of God - Eph. 3:10.
 3. The gospel is the only thing that will cure the world's disease - sin - Rom. 1:16.
 - D. We need preaching on fundamentals, the church, the cross, grace, faith, etc.
 1. Worldliness needs to be exposed, not grafted in!
 2. False doctrine needs to be exposed, not winked at!

- E. We need Christ-centered preaching.
 - 1. The world needs Jesus - not journalism.
 - 2. The world needs the Bible - not reviews of books.
 - 3. The world needs the Psalms - not soothing poems.
 - 4. The world needs God - not godless theological doctrines.
- 2. THE LORD HAS TOLD US WHAT TO PREACH
 - A. The Lord did not instruct men to preach their opinions, feelings, experiences, dreams, etc. - Jere. 23:25; Isa. 30:10; Jere. 5:31.
 - B. The Lord has commanded us to *preach the word* - 2 Tim. 4:2.
 - 1. We are to *"preach the gospel"* - Mk. 16:15.
 - 2. We should follow the example of Philip who went forth - *preaching the word* - Acts 8:4.
 - 3. Paul told Timothy to preach the things that Timothy had heard Paul preach - 2 Tim. 2:2.
 - C. What is involved in preaching Christ?
 - 1. His Sonship and divinity - Mt. 16:14-16.
 - 2. His authority - Mt. 28:18-20; 17:5; Acts 3:22.
 - 3. His doctrine - Mt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15,16; Rom. 1:16; 2 John 9; 1 Cor. 15:1-4.
 - 4. Faith in Christ - John 8:21-24; Acts 16:30; 8:12.
 - 5. His kingdom - the church - Mt. 16:13-19; Acts 8:5-12; John 3:5-8.
 - 6. Salvation in Christ - Acts 4:12; 2 Tim. 2:10.
 - 7. Unity in Christ - John 17:20,21; Eph. 2:14-16; 1 Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4:1-6.
 - 8. Worship through Christ - John 4:24; John 14:6; 1 Tim. 2:4-6.
 - 9. Loyalty to Christ - Mt. 16:24; Phil. 2:7-10; Acts 5:29-42.
- 3. THE LORD HAS TOLD US WHY TO PREACH THE WORD
 - A. The preacher must preach for salvation.
 - 1. His own - 1 Tim. 4:16.
 - 2. And those who hear him - 1 Tim. 4:16.
 - B. The gospel must be preached because of its power - Heb. 4:12; Rom. 1:16.
 - 1. The gospel is from God - not man - 1 Thess. 2:13; Gal. 1:11,12.
 - 2. The gospel anticipates man's needs.
 - A. It is not bound - 2 Tim. 2:9.
 - B. It cleanses - John 15:3; Psa. 119:9.
 - C. It is eternal - Mt. 24:35; 1 Pet. 1:23.
- 4. THE LORD HAS TOLD US HOW TO PREACH
 - A. The preacher is to preach with urgency.
 - 1. Jeremiah declared that the word of God *"was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones."* - Jere. 20:9.
 - 2. Paul declared, *"Woe unto me, if I preach not the gospel."* - 1 Cor. 9:16.
 - B. The preacher is to reprove - 1 John 4:1; 1 Thess. 5:21.
 - C. The preacher is to rebuke - 1 Tim. 5:20; 2 Tim. 4:2.
 - D. The preacher is to exhort - 2 Tim. 4:2.
 - 1. He is to be longsuffering.
 - 2. He *"Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men."* - 2 Cor. 5:11.

E. The preacher is to speak *"the truth in love."* - Eph. 4:15; 1 Cor. 13:1,2.

CONCLUSION:

1. Preachers, follow these divine admonitions - 1 Tim. 4:16; 2 Tim. 4:1-6.

A. *"Preach the preaching that I bid thee."* - Jonah 3:2.

B. *"It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."* - 1 Cor. 1:21.

BE YE HOLY AS CHRIST WAS HOLY

INTRODUCTION:

1. As we bring this series of lectures to a conclusion we want to discuss the subject of "Be Ye Holy As Christ Was Holy."
2. There can be no doubt that the Bible clearly indicates that Deity is holy.
 - A. Within the pages of the Bible we find several hundred passages which refer to the holiness of Deity.
 1. If we were to begin to read them all we would soon finish with the time allotted long before we finished reading them all.
3. Christ has left us an example that we should follow his steps - 1 Pet. 2:21.
 - A. With this in mind, let us turn to the Scriptures to see how we are to walk when walking in his steps.

BODY:

1. First, let's notice a few scriptures which point to the holiness of Christ.
 - A. Mk. 1:24
 1. The one making this confession is very important to a proper view here.
 - A. It is not an Apostle, disciple, or friend of Jesus.
 1. Instead we see one who has been possessed with demons who confesses that Jesus was indeed "the Holy One of God."
 2. In many places within the N.T. we find such references which carry great weight in this matter.
 - A. When the enemies of Christ confess his holiness we see a greater proof than when his friends do.
 - B. Luke 1:35 prophetically speaks of Jesus as "that which is to be born shall be called holy, the son of God." (footnote A.S.V.)
 1. Here Gabriel affirms the holiness of Jesus even before his birth.
 - C. In Acts 2:27 we see Peter refer to Psa. 16:10 as he speaks of the Holy One not partaking of corruption.
 1. This, of course, speaks of the time of which Jesus' body was in the grave and his soul was in Hades.
 - D. Peter refers to Jesus as the Holy One in Acts 3:14 as he seeks to glorify Jesus instead of himself.
 - E. Many other places point to the holiness of Jesus - Acts 4:27,30; 13:35; Rev. 3:7; 6:10; 15:4.
 - F. So, the point is, as we seek to follow in the steps of Jesus we seek to attain the same degree of holiness that he attained.
2. Christ Was Holy In Deeds
 - A. When one examines the life of Christ one thing instantly comes to the forefront - Christ was holy in deeds.
 1. He was without sin - Heb. 4:15; 1 Pet. 2:22.
 2. He was morally good - Rev. 5:2-5.
 3. He complied with the will of the Father - John 5:19,30; 6:38; Mt. 26:42.

3. Christ Was Holy In Word
 - A. Jesus spoke those things which he had been taught by the Father - John 8:28; 12:48-50.
 - B. Jesus spoke the truth - Mt. 22:16.
 - C. Jesus was full of grace and truth - John 1:17.
 - D. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life - John 14:6.
 1. Lying is contrary to the will of God and will condemn men to hell eternally - Psa. 5:6; 101:7; Prov. 12:22; Col. 3:9; Rev. 21:8.
4. Christ Taught Holiness In Respect To Marriage and The Home
 - A. Mt. 5:27,28; 19:4-9
5. Christ Taught Holiness In Respect to Judging
 - A. Mt. 7:1
 1. Here hypocritical judging is forbidden - v. 5
 - B. Jesus taught to judge righteously - John 7:24.
6. Christ Was Holy In Living
 - A. Both the Bible and history verify the fact that Jesus lived a holy life.
 1. We have seen that there was no guile nor deceit in the life of Christ.
7. Christ Was Holy In Preaching
 - A. Contrary to many preachers today Jesus preached the truth - John 8:31,32.
 - B. Jesus taught what needed to be taught regardless of the outcome - John 6:59,60,66.
 1. We too must preach the word regardless of the outcome - 2 Tim. 4:2.
8. Christ Taught Holiness In Regard To Thoughts
 - A. Mt. 15:19,20
 - B. We must remember that the Word is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of one's heart - Heb. 4:12.
9. Christ Taught Man To Be Holy In His Promises
 - A. One's word must be that which binds him - Mt. 5:37.
 1. One who makes idle promises normally ends up committing other sins to cover up his first sin.
 - A. For example, the person who asks for the loan of money but fails to repay on time sins - Rom. 13:8.
10. Christ Was Holy In Respect To Worship
 - A. Christ customarily attended the service of the synagogue - Lk. 4:16.
 - B. He taught and practiced the necessity of worshipping the One True God - Mt. 4:10; Lk. 4:8.
 - C. He further taught that true worship was to be in spirit and truth - John 4:20-24.
11. Christ Taught That We Are To Be Holy In Respect To Our Relations To Others
 - A. We are to love our neighbors - Mt. 5:43.
 - B. We are to love our enemies - Mt. 5:44.
 - C. We are to forgive those who sin against us and who repent of their sin - Mk. 11:25,26; Lk. 17:10.

CONCLUSION:

1. Are we walking in the same footprints of Jesus when it comes to these things?

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HOLY

INTRODUCTION:

1. As far as God is concerned being holy is the difference between being what He wants us to be and what Satan wants us to be.
2. The word "holy" is found 637 times in the K.J.V. of the Bible in 537 verses.
 - A. It is found 457 times in 399 verses in the O.T. and 180 times in 168 verses in the N.T.
3. The words "holiness", "holy", and "holily" are translated from eight different Greek words indicating the various shades of meaning not necessarily seen in the other translations.
 - A. The Greek word "HAGIOS" is the one most often translated "holy" where it is used of men and things in so far as they are devoted to God.
 - B. The basic meaning of each of the Greek words is "a separation to God...in its moral and spiritual significance, separated from sin and therefore consecrated to God, sacred."
 1. Holiness "is a state into which God in grace calls men."
 2. This is a result of men being consistent with their calling (2 Tim. 1:9), cleansing themselves from all defilement, forsaking sin, living a holy manner of life (1 Pet. 1:15; 2 Pet. 3:11), and experiencing fellowship with God in His holiness.
 - C. Certain Greek scholars have said that "HAGIOS" "is characteristically godlikeness."
 - D. The concept here of holiness always stands as opposed to what is unrighteous or polluted.
 1. It indicates the opposite of evil conduct.
 2. Holiness always indicates a right relation to God.
4. We, of course, do not have time to cover all of the almost 700 passages within the Bible which include the words holy, holiness, or holily.
 - A. We do want to examine as many as possible in the time allotted to help us better understand what it means to be holy.

BODY:

1. Let us begin by looking at 1 Peter 1:14-16 which will serve as our theme text for this series of lectures.
 - A. Note the contrast being drawn between verses 14 and 15.
 1. In verse 14 Peter speaks of being obedient children as opposed to those who follow after the former lusts of their previous lives outside of Christ.
 2. Then in verse 15 he issues the command to "be ye holy in all manner of life."
 3. Verse 16 gives us the reason for doing so - "for I am holy."
 - A. Here reference is made to such passages as Lev. 11:44,45; 20:7.
 - B. The point that has to be kept in mind here is if we are to be pleasing to the Lord, we do not have a choice in the matter of holiness.
 1. We will be holy!
 - A. We will be separated from the lusts of the world!
 - B. We will be consecrated or set apart unto God!
 - C. We will forsake sin!
 - D. We will be in fellowship with God in His holiness!

2. Romans 12:1
 - A. Here Paul gives instruction as to how the Christian is to present his body unto the Lord.
 1. Holiness is to be seen in our lives as Christians as we present ourselves as living sacrifices unto God.
 - B. I want to ask, when a sacrifice of one's life is given, how much is held back?
 1. Then if we are to present ourselves as living sacrifices it necessitates that we totally commit ourselves unto the Lord and His service - Lk. 14:33.
 - A. There is no holding back!
 1. We are not walking with one foot in the kingdom and the other in the world - Mt. 6:24.
 2. True holiness demands of us complete commitment.
3. 1 Corinthians 3:17; 6:19,20
 - A. The Christian is the temple of God.
 1. The word temple comes from the Greek word NAOS meaning a shrine or sanctuary.
 - B. It must be understood that God only dwells in that which is holy or set apart for His service.
 1. In the O.T. God did not dwell in just any temple.
 - A. The same is true today.
 - C. God only dwells in the temple which seeks to glorify Him in every aspect of life.
4. Ephesians 1:4
 - A. God has predetermined that those who are in Christ must be holy and without blame.
 1. The word blame comes from the Greek word AMOMOS meaning to be without blemish.
 - A. Remember the Christian is to keep himself "unspotted from the world" - Jas. 1:27.
 - B. The sacrifice of olden times was to be without blemish - Ex. 12:5; Lev. 9:3; 14:10; 23:12; Num. 6:14, etc.
 1. Since we are to be living sacrifices we too must be free from the blemish of sin.
5. Ephesians 5:27
 - A. In speaking of the church we see the contrast being drawn here by Paul.
 1. The church is to be glorious, with no spot or wrinkle.
 - A. It must be holy and without blemish.
 - B. In offering the church before the Father as a living sacrifice Jesus, as high priest, cannot offer that which has spot or wrinkle.
6. Colossians 1:22
 - A. Here we see the point being made that Jesus gave his life so as to be able to present the Christian as being holy and unblameable.
 1. Notice, though, that this depends upon our continuing in the faith, being grounded and settled and our not being moved from the hope of the gospel - v. 23.

7. Titus 1:8

A. Something that is very badly needed in the world and church today is a strong leadership in the church.

1. Paul has clearly shown that the bishops must (v. 7) be holy (v. 8).

A. In other words, he must be set apart from the world.

B. Notice that Paul sets forth a list of negatives (v. 7) and then a list of positives (v. 8) that are to be found in the Bishop's life.

8. 1 Peter 2:5,9

A. Here it all comes together.

1. The Christian is an holy priesthood, offering up spiritual sacrifices by a life set apart to holiness.

2. We are a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession.

A. As such we show forth the praises of him who has called us out of the darkness of sin into the marvellous light of the gospel.

B. We must remember that God is holy, and will only be in fellowship with that which is holy.

1. Holiness demands that we love not the world - 1 John 2:15-17.

2. Holiness demands that we hate evil and love good - Amos 5:14.

3. Holiness demands that we should not serve sin - Rom. 6:6.

4. Holiness demands that we do not yield our members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin - Rom. 6:13.

5. Holiness demands that we mortify our members which are upon the earth - Col. 3:5,6.

6. Holiness demands that we take upon ourselves the fruit of the Spirit - Gal. 5:22,23.

7. Holiness demands that we seek to develop the Christian graces in our lives - 2 Pet. 1:4-10.

8. Holiness demands that we walk in the light - 1 John 1:7.

CONCLUSION:

1. Conclude with this question - "ARE YOU HOLY?"