

“Holiness is not Sin Management”

Introduction

- New series, “Holy Cow, Living for God in an ungodly culture”
 - Acknowledge it’s challenging Living for God in today’s world; competing priorities

Tension: We hear the words “be holy because God is holy” and we wonder what the heck is that? And we want to sin less, we want love God more, and we want to love others more, but it’s tough, and we need help.

1 Peter 1:1-12

- Peter’s Authorship
 - Pre Spirit vs Post Spirit
 - Contrast of Peter, and see continued to growth in Peter - to Apostle / Author
 - Peter is different- grown in holiness
 - Apostle/Author
 - Writing a letter to all these churches in all these regions
 - Theology
 - Not trained or learned or striving to sound fancy
 - At this point it is who Peter is= The truth of Gospel is Peter/embodiment of the Gospel
- Various Aspects of Gospel in these verses
 - Atonement; New Birth; Resurrection; Theology of Suffering; Faith / Salvation
 - Inheritance [Elianna - able to enjoy ALL rewards of daughtership, including to inherit; same true to for us - all believers share in the inheritance and rewards of Jesus
 - Gospel / Sonship = Peter’s Story; Gospel / Sonship = Our story - who we are to be as believers
 - Rewards are ours; Expectations of what it means to be a Gilstrap; Expectations of what it means to be a Christ-follower: “Be Holy”

1 Peter 1:13-25

- Bottom line of these verses v. 16 “Be holy, because I am holy”end of sermon, alright good luck with that Haha
 - What does that mean and how do we accomplish that?
- Holy Living is NOT Sin Management
 - Sin stems from love of self and self gratification
 - Pride
 - Sin Management:
 - Trying on our own power to sin less/ Trying harder
 - Whack a mole, Jesus is the club and smacking it down only for it to pop up later in a different location because nothing has really changed, just managed
 - Sin Management Motivation: Guilt/shame; Make yourself feel better
 - Jesus Band-Aid: Sprinkling Jesus in your life to cover/hide sins; Like whipped cream
 - Examples: Anger=lash out, feel guilty, try harder next time, for it to pop up somewhere else
 - Retail therapy; pornography; chemical abuse [Instant Gratification]
- Holy Living
 - What does holy living look like - boils down to verse 22b - passage boils down to these 7 words
 - Holy Living= “love one another deeply, from the heart”
 - Greatest Commandments love of the Lord and others
 - Peter at this point in his life was successful in his ability to love one another deeply, from the heart; how??
 - Spend lots of time with Jesus, Did the stuff that Jesus Did, Became Like Jesus

- How
 - Spend lots of time with Jesus
 - Peter= Being taught and mentored by him for 3 years
 - Us
 - Can't spend 3 years with him in the flesh
 - Acts 2:42 "they devoted themselves to apostles teaching (reading Bible), fellowship (going to church/being with other believers= small groups/accountability partners), breaking of bread (Communion/shared meals with other believers), and the prayers. (praying)
 - Struggled with this, didn't want to be "go to church, read your Bible, pray"
 - Fact is in 2019 this is how you Spend time with Jesus
 - Did the stuff Jesus Did
 - Peter
 - Proclaim (Acts 2= Pentecost), Heal= (Acts 5:15 Shadow), Deliver= (Acts 5:16 unclean spirits)
 - Us
 - Proclaim the Gospel
 - Heal= Two weeks ago healing prayer
 - Deliver
 - Become like Jesus
 - Peter
 - Over time, just poured out of him
 - Us
 - Over time= I pray often people would see Jesus and not us
- Peter
- Fleeting of life
 - V. 24-25= Grass withers, flowers fade, but the word of the Lord endures forever
 - David Walters post "Yesterday, I made a hospital visit to provide pastoral care to a family of a 43-year-old who was receiving emergency, critical care. Tragically, he passed away last night. Here's something I want to say to all the dads out there:
 - 1. Tell your wife and kids you love them...tell them a lot...annoy them with that truth!
 - 2. Take care of yourself. Make decisions today that will increase your chances of being around tomorrow.
 - 3. If something is wrong, tell someone, especially a doctor. (You know when something's wrong, and it's worth a doctor telling you that it's nothing in order to treat it if something's wrong. Swallow your pride and go to the doctor).
 - 4. Know where you're going beyond this life on Earth. (As C.S. Lewis said, "You're a soul with a body." This life is temporary. Your body won't last forever. While you're still breathing, you can know that you'll spend eternity with God in heaven by trusting in Jesus as the forgiver of your sins and leader of your life.)
 - 5. Live for eternity now. Salvation is not just getting into heaven when you die, but heaven getting into you so you can live. This is abundant life! (People make the mistake of thinking that "eternal life" begins when we die. It actually begins now. Do what you know you'll do in heaven right now. Don't do what you won't do in heaven right now.)

Response : Do that next thing need to do in order to move towards greater holiness