

For Our Information

Gracie Simpson injured her knee playing basketball. She is in an immobilizer brace and on crutches. She will get an MRI to determine if something more should be done.

Brenda Keisler got a shot in her back last week to help with her neck pain. Ruben Keisler is doing well with his recovery.

Hudson Wright is doing much better.

Remember one another as we pray to the Father each day

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about our work in the Lord's Kingdom.

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We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13). To fear God is to hold Him with the greatest adoration (reverence) and awe, based upon God's goodness, but also being mindful of the consequences of disobeying Him. Thus, it is an attitude emanating in a life which will *"offer service well-pleasing to God... for our God is a consuming fire" (Hebrews 12:28).* Reverence is not spasmodic, depending on circumstance nor present company, but will be a present directive in daily living as Solomon admonished, *"be thou in the fear of Jehovah all the day long" (Proverbs 23:17).*

(God expects us to strive for holiness in the way we live. We must remember that our character should reflect the character of Jesus. This will help us draw near to God and help us encourage others to follow His Word. Each encounter we have is an opportunity to let the light of the Lord shine as we strive to be holy. DLH)

Seeking His Righteousness

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Perfecting Holiness

Dan Richardson

"Having therefore these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

2Corinthians 7:1

This inspired directive on holy living is given for those who yearn for heaven. However, merely desiring heaven falls short of actually going there. We all know where the road paved with good intentions leads. In this verse the apostle Paul teaches that much more is involved if we would spend eternity in God's glorious presence. Consider the contents of this scripture.



You shall consecrate yourselves therefore and be holy, for I am the Lord your God.

Leviticus 20:7



Meet With Us

Worship Services

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

Bible Classes

Sunday 9:30 AM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

1512 Tanner St. Malvern, AR

TannerSt.com

The Value Of God's Word: *"Having therefore these promises"*. We have the promises of God through his word. Therein contains God's *"precious and exceeding great promises"* (2Peter 1:4). The word "therefore" contextually connects this verse with this divine promise previously expressed: *"And will be to you a Father, and ye shall be to me sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty"* (2Corinthians 6:18). Only through the knowledge of God's word can we know his promises for us. They will anchor our souls (Hebrews 6:18-19; Romans 4:20).

The Reality Of A Spiritual Relationship: *"beloved"*. While many may quickly overlook this word, it suggests the presence of a special relationship which both Paul and the Corinthians had with God and one another. He had spent a year and a half in Corinth teaching many God's word and baptizing those who were receptive to truth (see Acts 18:7-11). When he left Corinth, the scripture says he *"took leave of the brethren"* (Acts 18:18). Paul wrote in his first letter to the Corinthians, calling them his *"beloved children... for in Christ Jesus I begat you through the gospel"* (1Corinthians 4:14-15). Their fellowship together was based on their relationship with God in Christ as they walked in the *"light"* of truth (1John 1:6-7).

The Power Of Human Choice: *"let us cleanse ourselves"*. There was something for these Corinthian Christians to do. Their involvement, however, did not mean that salvation relied on their human wisdom and strength, but rather describes their dependence on, and faithful response to, God for their holiness.

Store In My Heart

Psalm 91:4

He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

Another Psalm that speaks of God's protection for those who are His. As a bird will cover her little ones to give shelter in times of difficulty, God will spread over us as a protection from the trials and difficulties of this world. A bird will rarely protect those that are not her own and God's protection is reserved for those who follow Him.

The second image is of shield and buckler. God stands between us and the enemy as protection. Again it is conditional. We must put our trust in God or His protection will not be ours. Submit to God as supreme and you will have the protection you need.

That they could be cleansed from *"all defilement of flesh and spirit"* could only be accomplished by the effectual working of the blood of Christ (Ephesians 1:7; Revelation 1:5; 1John 1:9; 2:2). But that these Christians could cleanse themselves also suggests the power of their will. Through Jesus, as our High Priest (Hebrews 7:26-28), Christians may *"draw near with boldness unto the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help us in time of need"* (Hebrews 4:16).

The Necessity Of Spiritual Growth: *"perfecting holiness"*. *"Perfecting"* suggests a process of spiritual growth and maturity. W. E. Vine says it denotes "an end accomplished as the effect of a process" (Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, Vol. 3, pg. 175). One doesn't receive holiness directly by a miraculous working of the Holy Spirit, but by working out his own salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12). Recent converts to Christ (*"newborn babes"*), must *"long for the spiritual milk which is without guile, that ye may grow thereby unto salvation"* (1Peter 2:2). But those who have achieved a greater level of spiritual maturity must *"abound more and more"* (1Thessalonians 4:1ff.). Factors which necessarily enter into the equation of spiritual growth are time (Hebrews 5:14) and diligence (2Timothy 2:15; 2Peter 1:10).

The Requirement Of Reverence: *"in the fear of God"*. Any spiritual *"perfecting"* that will be done in one's life will be accomplished in the fear of God. Such describes God's purpose for man upon this earth: *"Fear God and keep his commandments, for*