

## Sermon Outline for FBC June 09, 2019

### **“Take Time to Be Holy!”**

#### **Communion – Benevolent Offering**

**Good morning!**

**Today my message is entitled “Take Time to Be Holy!” One of you asked if we could sing Hymn #155 which has this same title. I looked at the words and realized that many of us sing songs but do not always read and heed the words. Today, I want to look at the words of this Hymn and God’s Word to better understand how and why we need to “Take Time to Be Holy!”**

**Paul, in his letter to the Thessalonians gives us this direction on being “holy.”**

**1 Thessalonians 4: 7 NIV**

*For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.*

**Before we look at the Hymn, we should understand the basic premise of “being holy.”**

**Webster’s New World Dictionary; Spiritually pure; sinless. Deserving reverence or adoration <sup>1</sup>**

**The Lion Encyclopedia of the Bible gives us these thoughts on Holiness.**

“The basic idea of holiness is ‘separate (set apart) for God. In the Old Testament, places, things, people and seasons were called holy when they were set apart for God.’....

“The people of God have always been expected to reflect the holiness which they see in God. God wants His people to share His holiness. So in the New Testament the common word for Christians is ‘saints’...”

“It meant ‘the holy ones’, those who are set apart and dedicated to God’s service. And ‘saints’ are meant to grow in holiness and likeness to God.” <sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Webster’s New World Dictionary, Pg. 289

<sup>2</sup> The Lion Encyclopedia of the Bible, Pg. 148

**1 Corinthians 7: 1 NIV Apostle Paul writing to the church in Corinth.**

*Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.*

**1 Peter 1: 15-16 NIV**

*15 But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do.*

*16 for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”*

**Now we know what being holy is and how Christianity teaches us to live a holy life, let’s look at Hymn 155 “Take Time to Be Holy.” (William D. Longstaff and George C. Stebbins) New Church Hymnal.**

Take time to be holy; **Speak** oft with thy Lord;  
**Abide** in Him always, And **feed** on His Word.  
**Make** friends with God’s children; **Help** those who are weak,  
**Forgetting** in nothing His blessings seek.

Take time to be holy; The world rushes on;  
**Spend** much time in secret With Jesus alone.  
By looking to Jesus, **Like** Him thou shalt be;  
Thy **friends** in thy conduct His likeness shall see.

Take time to be holy; **Let** Him be thy guide;  
And **run not** before Him, **Whatever** betide.  
In joy or in sorrow, Still **follow** thy Lord  
And, **looking** to Jesus, still **trust** in His Word. <sup>3</sup>

**Now we can look at other Scriptures that discuss Holy living.**

**1 Timothy 2: 8 NIV**

*I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing.*

**Matt 7: 24 NIV**

*Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.*

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<sup>3</sup> The New Church Hymnal, Pg. 155

**Luke 1: 74-75 NIV Part of Zachariah's song:**

*74 To rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve Him (God) without fear*

*75 in holiness and righteousness before Him all our days.*

**Ephesians 4: 23-24 NIV**

*23 To be made new in the attitude of your minds;*

*24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*

**Eph 5: 8-9 NIV**

*8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light*

*9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)*

**Back on Feb 05 2017, we were doing a walk through Colossians and I did a message entitled "Rules for Holy Living" looking at Col 3:1-17. I want to reread verses 15-17 to close this message.**

**Colossians 3: 15-17 NIV**

*15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.*

*16 Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.*

*17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*

**Let's pray!**

**Bibliography:**

**The Experiencing God Study Bible (Broadman & Holman Publishers, Nashville, Tennessee, 1994)**

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**“Scripture taken from the the Holy Bible, New International Version. Copyright 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers.”**

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