



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Pursue Holiness

SPEAKER DSP Chua Seng Lee

THEME What to Pursue in Life?

DATE 21 & 22 August 2021

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

We are defined by what we pursue. It reveals our value system – a reflection of what is important to us. In his sermon, DSP Seng Lee wraps up the five-part series on the things believers should pursue. He starts by unpacking what it means to be pursuing holiness from Hebrews 12:14-17 and other parts of the bible.

PURSUING HOLINESS

Why pursue holiness?

1) See God

Seeing God is more than the visual ability to see God – it is about experiencing and knowing God – which is our birthright as believers. Living a life of holiness and purity helps us to truly see Him (Matthew 5:8). However, if we reject the concept of holiness, it means that we are also rejecting God, and hence will be unable to see Him (1 Thessalonians 4:7-8).

2) Command of God

1 Peter 1:14-16 – Peter invoked the command in Leviticus to remind all believers that we are commanded to be holy. When we do not pursue holiness, we are disobeying God. When we pursue holiness, we are essentially pursuing God, because He is holy.

What is holiness?

1) Set apart from the world

The word 'holy' (first mentioned in Exodus 3:5) is 'Kadosh' which means 'set apart'. Among God's characteristics, as He has revealed himself, none is more significant than His holiness (see Lev 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:7). We are holy because God has touched us. And therefore, holiness is something that we strive for and emulate, in order to set us apart from the world.

2) Set apart for God

Isaiah 6 details Isaiah's encounter with the holiness of God, where he was caught up with the dreadful presence of the holiness of God which reminds him that we are sinners. The holiness of God both attracts and alarms us. Encounters with God in his holiness brings about great transformation in believers, which we all yearn for, so that we can know that our faith is real.

How does one pursue holiness?

- 1) Be set apart from the world
- 2) Be set apart for God

There are 3 stages of holiness – Positional, Progressive and Perfect. There are different expectations of holiness of us at our different stages of growth. God’s emphasis is not about achieving perfection, but about improvement.

Holiness is not about our outward appearances, but our hearts. We need to guard against the root of bitterness. If the roots are not dealt with, they will produce toxic fruits that will defile us.

Holiness requires us to put God’s standards first, and to deny earthly pleasures, unlike what Esau did (Hebrews 12:15).

The total time we have on earth is the length of our life. We will always make time for what is important for us. Hence if we believe pursuing God is important, we will demonstrate our faith by surrendering our time to pursue and worship Him (Hebrews 11:6).

CONCLUSION

We can bring holiness into our lives, in our coming and going. We should not let the defeats and successes of yesterday stop us from continuing in our pursuit of God. God has called us to live a holy life. He gave us the Holy Bible to guide us, the Holy Spirit within us to teach us and the holy community to support us so that we can be holy as He is holy, shining His light into the unholy world. What is your response to the Lord today?

QUESTIONS

1. Matthew 5:8 says that “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” How shall we position our lives such that we strive and quest for holiness in our motives, thoughts, actions, and speech? Share one example where our decision to be holy enabled us to witness God’s presence or power in our lives.

2. In the sermon, Ps Seng Lee highlighted that the path to holiness is a process (positional, progressive, and perfect sanctification), and God’s emphasis is on improvement and progressive. What stage of growth are you at now and how have you grown spiritually in holiness this year?

3. Our Holy God has provided us with the Holy Bible, the Holy Spirit, and a holy community to encourage us to grow in Holiness. How might we be good stewards of our time to pursue holiness? Share with your cell specific areas of your life which you would like to set apart for God in the remaining four months of 2021.