

A misty landscape with a lake and a tree. The scene is captured in a soft, atmospheric light, likely during dawn or dusk. The sky is filled with heavy, grey clouds, with a bright light source breaking through on the right side, creating a lens flare effect. The foreground shows the dark, silhouetted branches of a tree on the right, reaching towards the center. The middle ground features a calm body of water, possibly a lake or a wide river, which reflects the sky and the distant land. The background consists of a dark, forested hillside or mountain range, partially obscured by a thick layer of mist or fog that hangs over the water and the land. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

The Pursuit of Holiness

Chapters 9-12

Questions for Today

- Why should we pursue holiness?
 - “Be holy, because I am holy” Lev 11:44
 - “The challenge is not merely to pursue [holiness], but to prefer [holiness]” John Piper
- How do we pursue holiness?

Question: How do we pursue holiness?

Answer: Put sin to death

- Colossians 3:5

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you:

sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry

- Romans 8:13

For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you **put to death the deeds of the body**, you will live.

“We died to sin” vs. “Putting sin to death”

- We died to sin through our union with Christ
 - Sin no longer reigns in our lives
 - We cannot continue in sin
 - Our attitude toward sin has changed
- We still have our sinful nature
 - We still have the ability to sin
 - We now have the ability to **NOT** sin
 - This ability comes from the grace of God by the Holy Spirit whom He has given us
- We are responsible for the choices we make!
 - We need to make conscious efforts to not sin
 - We actively participate in the process of sanctification

Conviction of our sin

- What is a conviction?
 - “A decision presumed to be [true] based upon a careful and discriminating consideration of all the proofs offered” – ISBE Bible Dict.
 - The standard for our convictions must be the word of God
- Different types of convictions
 - “Black and White”
 - Rom 13:1 “Let every person be subject to the governing authorities.”
 - Speed limit: 40 mph. You drive over speed limit.
 - You should be convicted of your sin.
 - “Gray”
 - How do we determine God’s will and develop convictions for issues not specifically mentioned in Scripture?

Formula: How to Know Right from Wrong

- Question 1: Is it helpful-physically, spiritually, mentally?
 - “Everything is permissible for me” – but not everything is beneficial (1 Cor 6:12a)
- Question 2: Does it bring me under its power?
 - “Everything is permissible for me” – but I will not be mastered by anything (1 Cor 6:12b)
- Question 3: Does it hurt others?
 - “Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall” (1 Cor 8:13)
- Question 4: Does it glorify God?
 - “So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God” (1 Cor 10:31)

Make a Commitment to NOT Sin

- Put the sin you are convicted of to death
- This will not happen overnight!!!
- Humility, Humility, Humility!
 - “For when I am weak, then I am strong” 2 Cor 12:10
- Be consistent – Don’t ever give up!

Question: How do we pursue holiness?

Answer: Personal Discipline

- 1 Timothy 4:7
 - Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths.
Rather train yourself for godliness
- This doesn't happen overnight!!!
- List all your convictions of personal sin (ouch!)
- God hates all these sins, we should too!
- We're commanded to put all sin to death
- Where do we begin?

Our Spiritual Workout

- 2 Timothy 3:16 – Discipline begins with the Word
 - All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness
- Don't just come to ABF/church to **hear** the Word
- Don't just **read** through your Bible
- **Study** the Word in depth
- **Memorize** verses, sections, chapters...
- **Meditate** on the Word day and night
- “**Pray** in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests” Eph 6:18

Question: How do we pursue holiness?

Answer: Live a holy life – Just Do It!!!

- Holiness begins in our minds and works out in our actions
 - Right motivation – heart of faith
 - Right manner – according to the Word
 - Right end – to glorify God
- Guard your eyes and ears
 - TV, movies, books, magazines, music, conversations
 - Remove yourself from temptations
- Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit
 - Overindulging, laziness, sexual immorality
 - Deny the cravings of the body

Conclusion

- Philippians 4:8,9

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me – practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.