

TAKE TIME TO BE HOLY

Introduction

- 1) **“Take Time to Be Holy”** is a well-known hymn about the importance of personal holiness
 - a) It began as a poem written by William Dunn Longstaff, a wealthy British businessman, first published in 1882. It was later set to music by composer George Stebbins in 1890
 - b) It is said that Longstaff wrote the words after he heard a sermon on the text “Be ye holy, for I am holy” (1 Pet. 1:16), where the speaker told of a missionary in China telling his audience to “take time and be holy.” He was struck by this thought and that evening wrote the poem that would become the words of the popular hymn.
- 2) Indeed, the Bible teaches that it is vitally important to “take time to be holy”!!
 - a) “Pursue...holiness, without which no one will see the Lord” (Heb. 12:14)

I) **Taking Time**

- A) While “the world rushes on,” we should seek God and live for Him (Titus 2:11-12)
 - 1) Need persistence and steadfastness in spiritual things, not short attention spans (1 Cor. 15:58)
- B) Make plenty of time for...
 - 1) **Prayer** – “Speak oft with thy Lord” (1 Thess. 5:17; Lk. 18:1)
 - 2) **Bible Study** – “Feed on His word” (1 Tim. 4:6; 2 Tim. 2:15)
 - 3) **Fellowship** – “Make friends of God’s children” (Rom. 12:10)
 - 4) **Benevolence** – “Help those who are weak” (Rom. 12:13; Gal. 6:10)
 - 5) **Spiritual Growth** – “Abiding in Jesus, like Him thou shalt be” (Jn. 15:7-10)
 - 6) **Willing Obedience** – “Each tho’t and each motive, beneath His control” (Col. 3:17)
- C) Being holy does not happen by accident, but by desire and effort; don’t waste time – pursue it!

II) **Being Holy**

- A) **“Holy”** (Gk. *hagios*) – different, sacred, set apart by and for God
 - 1) Being *different* from the world because you are *like* the Lord God (1 Jn. 2:15-17)
 - 2) Opposite of what is common, unclean, unholy (Ezek. 22:26)
- B) The essence of holiness is revealed in God’s nature (Isa. 6:3; Rev. 4:8; 1 Jn. 2:20; Eph. 1:13)
 - 1) Holiness is associated with the things of God (*presence* – Ex. 3:5; Heb. 9:12, 24; *people* – Ex. 19:6; 1 Pet. 2:9; *word* – 2 Tim. 1:9; *commands, worship, etc.* Psa. 93:5)
 - 2) God’s holiness is the high standard for our own holy conduct (1 Pet. 1:13-16)
 - a) **Reverent** (1:17)
 - b) **Honorable** (2:12)
 - c) **Pure** (3:2)
 - d) **Good** (3:16)
 - e) **Obedient** (4:2)
 - f) **Humble** (5:5)
- C) Our holiness must begin with setting God apart in our heart as holy (1 Pet. 3:15; Lev. 10:3)
 - 1) This means that God will always be *first* in our lives (Matt. 6:33)

III) **Being Holy Before a Holy God**

- A) A “new man” created in true holiness and trained in righteousness (Eph. 4:24; Heb. 12:10-11)
- B) We are to be “holy and without blame before Him in love” (Eph. 1:4)
- C) Be separate, cleanse ourselves, and perfect holiness in the fear of God (2 Cor. 6:17–7:1)
- D) God calls us to holiness (1 Thess. 4:4, 7) and to present our bodies a holy sacrifice (Rom. 12:1)

Conclusion

Does your life reflect the holiness of God? Have you set Him apart from everything else in your heart? Without holiness, we will not see God! Let God sanctify you today (Eph. 5:25-27)!