

## God's Plan for Holiness: The Spirit and the Word

Psalm 119:1-16/Romans 8:1-13

Sunday, August 7, 2011

**Intro:** Reflect with me over the past week. I want you to think through every source of input that came into your mind, whether good or bad, whether active or passive.

**Transition:** What consumes your thoughts controls the outcome of your life!!! Does it matter how much time you spend thinking about the things of God revealed in his word? Is this just a matter of personal preference?

**The central truth: You will be satisfied in life when strive and pray to have your whole life shaped by the Word of God**

### **1. Seek Holiness to be Blessed (1-3): the "What" question – what should I do?**

#### a. Holiness is the pathway to blessing

- i. Do you believe this? Do you believe that your greatest joy in life is going to come through obedience to God's commands?
- ii. For some of you today, the problem isn't that you **don't know** the ways of the Lord (rules, commands, etc.), the problem is that you **don't see any benefit** in obeying them. Why should I be holy? Why should I talk a certain way? Dress a certain way? Eat and drink a certain way? Go about marriage in a certain way? Is there any benefit to me?
- iii. You don't believe holiness equals happiness. Satan's greatest lie is to tell you that holiness equals unhappiness.
- iv. See the following texts: Ps. 16:11; 34:8-10; 36:7-9; 37:4; 119:14, 16, 24, 47, 72, 103

#### b. Apart from Christ, you won't delight in God's will

- i. **See Romans 8:7-8**
- ii. Ills: Eve in the Garden of Eden

#### c. Jesus frees you from the penalty of sin and the power of sin.

- i. **Romans 8:1-4**
- ii. What could the law not do? The law could not make me holy! It only revealed my sin.
- iii. Because of your sinful nature, you do not have the ability to seek the Lord with your whole heart apart from a relationship with Jesus Christ. You must first come underneath the authority and lordship of Christ before you will ever submit to the will and teachings of God. When you enter into a relationship with Jesus, he not only gives you eternal life, he changes your heart, your desires, your affections through his Spirit. How do you know if you have the Spirit?
- iv. **Romans 8:9**
- v. Have turned from your sin and believed in the finished work of Christ?

## 2. Delight in the Word to be Holy (4-16): the “How” question – how do I become holy?

- What is the solution: a life immersed with the Word of God
  - Guard my life by it (9)
  - Holding fast to the commandments (10)
  - Memorizing the word (11)
  - Learning the word (12)
  - Delighting in the word (14)
  - Meditating on the word (15)

### **How does doing the above produce holiness in your life?**

- a. The Word reveals knowledge of God’s will (teach me your statutes – 119:12).
  - i. Knowledge about Jesus
  - ii. Knowledge about life and godliness
  - iii. The Character of Scripture: trustworthy and sufficient
  - iv. We want to be a church that is founded on the Word
- b. The Word works powerfully in conjunction with the Spirit
  - i. **Romans 8:13; 8:5**
- c. The battle against temptation is a battle of the mind. It is a battle over competing truth claims (Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:17, 22-24; Col. 3:2).
- d. Whatever controls your mind will control your actions
- e. What do you choose to **believe?**
  - i. Failure: Eve in the garden (Gen. 3)
  - ii. Success: Jesus in the wilderness (Matt. 4)
- f. Do you lack faith?
  - i. **Romans 10:17**

Conclusion: There is a direct correlation between the time you spend in the word and obedience to it.