

Week 2 - The Holiness Tradition

Streams of Living Water

Sermon Notes for Housegroups

Key Questions

1. What is the Holiness Tradition?
2. Why should we explore it?

Song SOF 895 - Lord, I come to you,

Main Scriptures

Read: Matthew 4:1 - 11
 1 Timothy 4

Questions for individual or group discussion:

- A) What was the teaching of Pelagius and why must we be on our guard against it?
- B) In 1 Timothy chapter 4, what one verse could be used as a summary of a holy life?
- C) What was the main purpose of the temptations of Jesus and how did he overcome them? What lesson can we draw from this?
- D) From where do right actions flow?
- E) Zacchaeus, Athanasios of Constantinople, John Wesley and Phoebe Palmer all set out on a spiritual journey. What aspects of their lives is evidence that they wanted to live holy lives?
- F) The epistle of James is frequently thought to be a book of action. How would you correctly interpret the words, "Faith without works is dead?"

Song: SOF 58 - Change my heart, O Sod, SOF
 1057 - This is holy ground

Closing Prayer

John Bentall 14 January 2010

Introduction to the Holiness Tradition.

What the holiness tradition is not.

1. A set of rules and regulations
2. Does not separate sacred things from our secular life
3. Does not rely on good deeds to have a right relationship with *God*. That is by grace alone, contrary to the teaching of Pelagius a fourth century monk.

Before Jesus embarks on his ministry and a holy life, *God* commends him, - his son in whom He is well pleased. Then Satan tempts him.

1. To change stones to bread to satisfy himself and his own hunger.
2. To throw himself down from the highest point of the temple, to boast about what he had done.
3. To worship Satan to receive all the kingdoms of the world, to satisfy the "lust of the eyes."

In each case Jesus uses Scripture correctly to respond to the temptations. It is important for us to know the Scriptures so we can defeat the temptations which will come if we too determine to embark on a journey living a holy life.

What the holiness tradition is.

1. Holiness is concerned with transforming the core of our being. Paul wrote to the church at Rome about not conforming to the world but being transformed by the renewing of their minds.
2. Holiness is about being set apart for *God* for a divine purpose.
3. Holiness deals with the formation and transformation of the core of our being, the temple of the Holy Spirit.
4. Holiness is about knowing Christ, which leads to holy habits, which in turn lead to a holy life.

Examples from history include Athanasios of Constantinople, John Wesley, and more recently Phoebe Palmer. They all desired to live holy lives, where the fruit of the indwelling Holy Spirit was evident. A Biblical example is the write of the epistle of James, who writes about faith and deeds, taming the tongue, pure wisdom, and patience, but the letter is more about the source of the action rather than the action itself.