

# **The Old Hickory**

## **Bulletin**

### *Old Hickory Church of Christ*

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*Jackson, TN 38305*

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## **God's Call to Holiness!**

Holiness is a theme which runs throughout the Old Testament book of Leviticus. A key word in the book is "holy," which appears eighty-nine times according to Strong's Concordance. For example, the lesson of holiness was taught to the people of Israel by a distinction in foods, the clean and the unclean. "You are therefore to make a distinction between the clean animal and the unclean, and between the unclean bird and the clean; and you shall not make yourselves detestable by animal or by bird or by anything that creeps on the ground, which I have separated for you as unclean. Thus you are to be holy to Me, for I the LORD am holy; and I have set you apart from the peoples to be Mine." (Lev. 20:25-26). Certainly the priests were to be holy, but holiness was also required of all the Israelites.

**Holy is “set apart!”** The word “holy” is the same as “sanctified.” They mean “set apart” for a special purpose, as the priests were, who had responsibilities outlined in this book. To be “set apart” is to be separated from what violates the will of God, from what is sinful and evil, and it includes being separated for a higher and better purpose: the pursuit of God and His will. Recall, “I have set you apart from the peoples to be Mine.” (Lev. 20:26b).

**What a blessing!** People today have a great blessing in being invited to separate themselves from sin and become holy unto God! Paul reminded the Colossian Christians what God’s call to holiness had accomplished in them: God “has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” (Col. 1:12b-14). Paul pointed to the same blessing of holiness that was found in the Christians in Rome: “But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.” (Rom. 6:17-18). These Christians had obeyed the gospel of Christ from the heart, separating themselves from “darkness” and “sin.” In so doing, they obtained a “share in the inheritance of the saints in Light,” they were “transferred ... to the kingdom of His beloved Son,” they possessed “redemption, the forgiveness of sins” and they were “freed from sin.” What great blessings are found in holiness!

**Cleansing is necessary!** As those who have departed “from the domain of darkness” in pursuit of God’s holiness, Christians are instructed to “not go on presenting the members of your body to

sin *as* instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God.” (Rom. 6:13). These actions have everything to do with holiness. Notice Paul’s encouragement to the Corinthian Christians: “Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” (2 Cor. 7:1).

**May we help you find holiness?** Friend, would you like to enjoy the blessings of God that are available in His “spiritual house,” as a part of His “holy priesthood,” (1 Pet. 2:5)? Peter went on to say, “This precious value, then, is for you who believe.” (1 Pet. 2:7a). Would you leave the realm of unbelief and become a believer? Peter described believers in this way: “But you are *a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession*, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;” (1 Pet. 2:9). The “benefit” is holiness, or “sanctification,” and the “outcome” is “eternal life.” (Rom. 6:22). God has called us for this holiness (1 Thess. 4:7). We will not see the Lord without it (Heb. 12:14). May we help you find it today?

- GFS

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### **PONDER THESE THINGS**

- If one can be saved without faith, why are we told that it is impossible to please God without it? (Heb. 11:6)

- If God promised to give faith when we ask for it, why are we told that faith comes by hearing the word of God? (Rom. 10:17)
- If "faith only is a most wholesome doctrine and very full of comfort", why did James say that we are NOT justified by faith only? (James 2:24)
- If God has promised to save men regardless of the kind of faith they have, why did Paul make it so plain that there is ONE faith? (Eph. 4:5)
- If one becomes a Christian the very moment he believes, as most denominations teach, why was not King Agrippa a Christian? (Acts 26:27-28)
- If one can be saved without wholehearted obedience to the Lord, why did Paul, "Obey from the heart"? (Rom 6:17)
- If the Lord will save us without baptism, why did he command us to be baptized? (Mk. 16:16)
- If the Lord has promised us salvation without baptism, as most denominations teach, why did Peter say, "Baptism doth also now save us"? (I Pet. 3:21)
- If sprinkling and pouring constitute scriptural baptism, why did Paul say that baptism is a burial? (Col. 2:12)
- If we receive remission of our sins without baptism, why did Peter say that baptism is for the remission of sins? (Acts 2:38)
- If one can get into Christ without baptism, why did Paul say that we are baptized into Christ? (Gal. 3:27)

- If the baptism of infants is scriptural, why did Christ command us to baptize individuals who have heard and believed the gospel? (Mk. 16:15-16)
- If God has promised salvation outside the church, why did Christ die for the church? (Acts 20:28)
- If the church has nothing to do with our salvation, as most denominations teach, why does the Lord add us to the church? (Acts 2:47)

-Gospel Digest.

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**SUNDAY'S LESSONS:** Sunday morning: *"Living Things!"* (text: Rom. 6:7-14);  
Sunday evening: *"What Happened At Bethlehem?"* (Micah 5:1-3).