

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 12

Colossians 3:14



And above all
these things put on
CHARITY, which
is the bond
of perfectness.

HOLINESS HONORS GOD

Scripture Texts: Titus 1:15-16; 2 Corinthians 5:17-18; John 8:34-36; Colossians 3:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Revelation 22:14

“Be ye holy; for I am holy.” This is a direct command. If we have learned nothing more this quarter than that God commands us to be holy, is not this enough to settle all questions about it? He gives good reason for His command. A holy God must have a holy people. None other could He tolerate. None other could He work with. None other could be His children. “Like Father, like son.”

The life of a Christian is a holy life. It is a changed life, one made new, free, bonded by love. The holy life continues through this world and the next.

MEMORY VERSE: *And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.*

—*Colossians 3:14*

Honor to God’s Name

Titus 1:15-16 It is impossible for an unregenerate, sinful world to bring honor to God’s name. Paul speaks here of a people who **profess that they know God** but are reprobate in every good work. It is not possible for nominal religion that does not teach or practice holiness to honor God’s name. Their teaching of sin-you-will and sin-you-must, and still claim that they are God’s people is a reproach upon the very character of God. Nominal religion is damning souls by the millions with this false doctrine. For one to walk with God and bring honor to His name, a distinct and definite change must take place in his heart and life. Old things must pass away, and all things must become new.

Where Salvation Rests

2 Corinthians 5:17-18 **A new creature.** Most every person has a wish to go back and start over in life and wipe out what has been and begin anew. Jesus offers exactly that. He makes people new from the inside, new in heart and spirit. He promised this in **Ezekiel 36:26**. This is the only way to really be made new. When the heart is changed, all else follows. Old guilt is gone. Old habits, old desires, old fears, and old bondage are all gone. In the new **all things are of God**. No more is life filled with self and the world, but with God. The power is God’s. His life fills one. There is a new Master, new purpose, new joy, new love, new desires, new strength, new vision, and new work – showing others the way of this **reconciliation**. This comes when one enters into Christ by repentance. This is a new beginning of the life, the holy life.

Salvation does not rest in joining church, in believing doctrines, in following rules, or in supporting a movement. Many think they are going to Heaven because they have been baptized and joined a church and supported it. These are outside or external things. Consider these in the light of today’s Scripture: Being made a new creature, knowing God, being set free from sin, being preserved blameless. Count the virtues named: charity, purity, mercy, and the rest. These are inside or internal things. These leave one changed, different on the inside and outside. Salvation makes one a new man or woman.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 12

Free Indeed

John 8:34-36 There is much talk of freedom and seeking for freedom, but little knowledge of what true freedom is. As is said, “Some rattle their chains to show they are free.” Most people are bound by their habits, passions, fears, and sins. **Whoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.** There is only one way to be free. That is by trusting in Jesus. **If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.**

The holy life is a life of greater freedom than anyone outside of Christ ever knew. Even though the body may be bound or persecuted or even killed, the spirit is free (**Romans 8:2**). Holiness brings perfect freedom.

The Bond of Perfectness

Colossians 3:14 Put on charity. This is the love of God, not human love. Read its description in **1 Corinthians 13**. We put it on by receiving in our hearts He who is love (**Romans 5:5; 1 John 4:16**). This charity or love is **the bond of perfectness**. It is the one virtue that binds all others together into a perfect whole. Holiness is not perfect until godly love permeates it. Love is the catalyst that stirs to action every other virtue. Love can make up for many other lacks. Nothing can make up for the lack of love. The holy life is a life of love.

Read **James 3:17**. Here we find the description of a beautiful Christian life, the holy life pictured. The nature of God in one makes him ready to listen, be considerate, humble, and compassionate. What does this quality mean in the settling of differences of opinion that are bound to arise? What would it do to touchy, selfish, hard, bitter, or vindictive attitudes too often displayed?

Weighed in the Light of Eternity

1 Thessalonians 5:23 God is able to sanctify **wholly**. He keeps the **whole spirit and soul and body** free from sin. His sanctifying power can reach the whole breadth of life for the whole time of the life until Jesus comes. Godliness is provided for both this earthly life and the one to come. (**1 Timothy 4:8**). Yes, God is concerned for our whole being. If we could only realize the value God wrapped up in one human being – in spirit, soul, and body; the price He paid to redeem that one; the purpose He has for that life; the beauty and worth of a holy life. This should cause everyone to desire to make that life a holy life.

Revelation 22:14 This is the blessing spoken upon holy people. This is for those that **do His commandments**. The blessing is twofold. (1) To partake of the **tree of life**, the tree that was forbidden man when he had sinned. Now it is opened freely to God’s holy children, giving eternal life to them. (2) To enter **into the city of God** – the Church of God, the New Jerusalem – where there is **no more curse** and the **Lamb is the light thereof**. The final blessing is to dwell in Heaven – a holy place with holy Jesus – and with holy people forever and forever!

JUST A THOUGHT

One man rose from his prayer of repentance exclaiming joyfully, “I’m a new man!”

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
It is revised and posted here with written permission from
(c) Bible Paths Publications, PO Box 299, Keithville, LA 71047