

John Hannah
HOLY LIVING in a HOSTILE WORLD

To live a holy life (often called a “sanctified” life) is to live a godly life, i.e., one that reflects the very character and nature of God Himself. However, how are we to live such a life when we are surrounded by so much that violates His will and His character?

It is important to understand that there are two elements to holiness:

1. Positional Holiness: We have already been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. (Heb.10:10). Because we are “in Christ” and by virtue of His blood we will stand before God with all sin obliterated.

Practical Holiness: Nevertheless, there is an expectation that all Christians will live holy lives (I Peter 2:9-12; Heb.2:14). In other words, as long as we are on this earth we are given the task of living a life that is consistent with our calling. But why might this be important?

Because it provides an unambiguous declaration to a pagan world that we are God’s children.

Because the quality of our reward in eternity depends upon our behaviour in this life – see the parables Jesus told about the servants and the talents.

Because, ultimately, it leads to the greatest joy and satisfaction in life.

THE PROBLEM

By reversing the beatitudes (or beautiful attitudes) in Matt 5:1-12, we can characterise accurately Western culture.

Instead of	<i>poverty of spirit</i>	we find	the worst kind of pride.
	<i>mourners</i>	we find	pleasure seekers.
	<i>meekness</i>	we find	arrogance
	<i>hungering after righteousness</i>	we hear	“I am rich and in need of nothing”
	<i>mercy</i>	we find	cruelty
	<i>purity of heart</i>	we find	a hideous corruption of heart.
	<i>peacemakers</i>	we find	quarrels and resentfulness
	<i>rejoicing in persecution</i>	we find	fighting back with every available weapon

This is the moral atmosphere that we live and breathe day and night. Indeed our struggles are compounded by the fact that the natural inclinations of the human heart are destructive. We are drawn towards wrong attitudes rather than right attitudes. This is at the heart of the struggle that Paul speaks of in Romans 7.

THE EXPECTATION

God expects His children to take forceful and drastic action, “*Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord*” (Heb.12:14).

We are engaged in a bitter warfare that has the power to destroy., c.f., I Peter 2:11 “*Beloved, I beseech you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh that wage war against your soul*”.

What are these passions? I John 2:15,16 gives us the necessary information

- *The lust of the flesh* [the desire to indulge]
- The lust of the eyes* [the desire to possess]
- The pride of life* [the desire to impress]

This is a battle that we will all fight throughout life.

If you are new or visiting; a special warm welcome to you. We trust you enjoy your time with us.

Today we will be having communion. If it is your practice to participate in this we welcome you to join with us in celebrating the Lord’s Supper. If this is not your custom or if you are unsure of what to do please just pass the emblems (bread and wine) to the person next to you.

This Morning

Speaker John Hannah

This Evening

- JCF 5.00pm

Next Sunday

8th November - Ross Pettigrew

Thursday Kidz Club

6:30 - 8:00 pm

7 - 12 year olds

Ph: Allan Maguire - 4767197

Prayer Items

Roger and Julie, Asia, ask for prayer as they continue to help victims of the typhoons and floods. Many parts of Manila and areas north remain flooded with stagnant water causing disease.

Please pray for the family of New Hope’ Manila jeepney driver who has died from Leptospirosis (an infection caused by dirt water). Armando was serving with them in the relief work and was always the first to jump into the dirty water to give help. Unfortunately he did not inform anyone of the wound he had on his foot where the infection entered until it was too late. The funeral will be this Tuesday 3rd of November.

Chris and Lee, Japan, write; We are flying home to New Zealand from Osaka on an overnight flight this Friday. Lee is 8 months pregnant and Grace is the typical 3 year old. Please ask God for safe travels, comfort for Lee and that she and Grace will be able to get some good rest.

Craig and Darlene, Thailand, ask for prayer for Darlene as she is battling an infection and currently not responding to antibiotics.

Irene, France, writes; Marcia and I will be away from 27th October to 5th November at a conference on Islam. Please pray that the Lord will teach and show us the best way to communicate the love He has for Muslims.

Vivienne, New Zealand/Fiji, asks for prayer that God will raise up someone to take her place to assist Tema in the overall care of the Hostels for Deaf children in Suva, Fiji.

