



Repentance Toward Holiness

February 25th 2024

Josh Macha

1 Thes 4:1-12 - As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. 2 For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

3 It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, 5 not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; 6 and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. 7 For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. 8 Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.

9 Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. 10 And in fact, you do love all of God's family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more, 11 and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, 12 so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

Repentance is a change in direction, a Spirit-empowered turning around...turning away from our sins and toward the living God. - Esau McCaulley

Our pursuit of holiness is a problem of body and soul

Union with God (knowledge of God) draws into a life (body and soul) that pleases Him (holiness).

Two disciplines for training for holiness

We are part of a created order, a harmonious whole, that is brought into being and held in existence by a loving Creator. We are unities of body and spirit; our bodies are an integral part of our identity that connect us to the created order and serve as a bridge between our inmost being and the outer world, and a sacramental sign of the hidden mystery of God. - Abigail Favale

We need to realize that while God's acceptance of each Christian believer is perfect from the start; our repentance always needs to be extended further as long as we are in this world. Repentance means turning from as much as you know of your sin to give as much as you know of yourself to as much as you know of your God. As our knowledge grows at these three points so our practice of repentance has to be enlarged. - J.I. Packer