



VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

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Study 18: THE BENEFITS OF RIGHTEOUS LIVING

Nehemiah 5:13-18

In contemporary times, holiness of life and conduct is often looked down upon as a kill-joy or anti-social in an age driven by endless search for fun and pleasure.

Holiness occupies a central place in the teachings of the scripture. God commanded Abraham to be perfect (Genesis 17:1), the Israelites to be holy as He is (Leviticus 11:45). Christ in the New Testament commanded his hearers to be as perfect as God is (Matthew 5:48) and prayed for the sanctification of the disciples (John 17). The central teachings in the epistles, is for believers to perfect holiness in the fear of God (2 Corinthians 7:1). It is sad, however, that today many who name the name of the Lord (2 Timothy 2:19) are not concerned about the things that interest God most. The decline of interest in Christianity, the weakness of Christians and the alarming rate of backsliding can all be traced to negligence of scriptural teachings and believers (including their teachers) commitment to the practically living out the life of holiness they profess / preach.

When Israel cast off that good thing, enemies pursued them (Hosea 8:3). When salt loses its savour, it is only good to be thrown away, to be trampled underfoot (Matthew 5:13). The way back to strength, power, lasting joy, divine pleasures, victorious and triumphant Christian living is through the way of holiness. All through the ages, the only category of people God would use to shape history were men and women of holiness. The holy conduct of Nehemiah's life gave him the power to successfully reverse the ills of the society. ONE HOLY LIFE IS WORTH A MILLION AIMLESS ONES.

1. THE PRACTICE OF HOLINESS:

Nehemiah 5:14-18; Acts 24:16; Matthew 5:14-16

Nehemiah's holiness was practical. It was founded on a heart totally yielded to God, and it so permeated his entire life, thought and actions that others could see the evidence of it in the form of:

1. Self denial in not demanding the bread of the governor throughout the 12 years of his governorship because of the recognition of the heavy bondage on the people, and therefore did not want to add to it (vs. 14,18).
2. Not following the example of previous governors who were chargeable unto the people by taking of them bread wine and 40 shekels of silver and allowing their servants to bear rule over the people – because of the fear of God (vs.15).
3. Concentrating his and his servant's focus on the work of the wall, and overcame the temptation to get rich through purchase of lands (vs. 16).
4. Made provision for his servants (vs.17)

The practice of holiness, though it starts from the heart, is not just a matter for the heart alone. The abundance of holiness in the heart will always seek for means of practical external expression in daily Christian living. IF YOUR LIFE WERE THE

Your Spiritual Welfare Is Our Concern

ONLY BIBLE SINNERS EVER READ, HOW MUCH OF HOLINESS WOULD THEY KNOW?

2. THE POWER OF HOLINESS:

Nehemiah 5:13; 1 Timothy 3:16

“... And the people did according to this promise” (vs 13). This highlights the power and potentials of holiness in effecting powerful response from others. It generates power (Job 17:9); attracts / retains the presence of God (2 Chronicles 15:2; 16:9); brings God’s favour and graces within the reach of His children (Matt 5:8); empowers for effective Christian service (Acts 2:1-3); illustrates godliness to a perishing world (1 Peter 2:9); brings conviction on sinners (1 Peter 4:1-4); challenges believers; facilitates daily victorious Christian living; enhances triumphs in the tests of life and faith (Romans 12:1-3) and reinforces scriptural teachings (1 Thessalonians 2:10; Nehemiah 5:10,14-18; 1 Samuel 12:3,4,19; 1 Corinthians 9:1-18; 2 Corinthians 12:11-18). **LET OTHERS SEE JESUS IN YOU!**

3. THE PRAYER OF THE HOLY:

Nehemiah 5:19; Matthew 5:8; Isaiah 59:1,2; John 17

“Think upon me, my God, for good, according to all that I have done for this people” (vs.19) was Nehemiah’s prayer. Short and simple, but pungent, powerful and effective. God answered it as it was in line with His word and will (1 John 5:14) and emanated from a righteous life (Psalms 66:18). God’s power is still much the same today as it has always been but all too often, believers rob themselves of divine blessings by allowing impurity, sin and unholiness to rob them of the potentials of prayer (compare 1 Samuel 28:6 with 2 Samuel 5:18,19). Let’s draw near to God in confidence and full assurance of faith having our hearts cleansed from every evil thing. **THE EFFECTIVE FERVENT PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN AVAILS MUCH** (James 5:16-17).

4. THE PRESERVATION OF THE HOLY:

Nehemiah 5:19; Psalms 73:1-24; 121:1-8; Daniel 1:21; Psalms 37:9-13,28,29; Ephesians 5:25-27; Revelation 22:10-15

Nehemiah’s prayer for remembrance was wonderfully answered in terms of the preservation of his testimony till date. God preserves the righteous; He guides their steps away from danger and leads them through the still waters. His ultimate plan for their preservation will be consummated in eternal bliss in heaven prepared for the saints. **WHEN THE ROLL IS CALLED UP YONDER, I WILL BE THERE!**