

## Chapter 4- Walking in holiness and why

*1 John 3:1-3 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. (2) Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. (3) And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*

v.1 We **urge**- beseech, beg, plead- and **exhort**- paraklete, come alongside and encourage

- abound more and more- superabound, enough to spare- **superduper**

- as you received from us, again we see Paul holding himself up as a witness- called to make disciples not just believers

- **ought ( are obligated)** to walk and please God- we don't do this so that we would be holy, but rather this is the result of our relationship with Him, **to give people grace and not give them the power to walk in it is only half the gospel. It would be like giving someone in prison a full pardon but still keeping them in prison.**

- walk and please- we can obey yet not please God

*Hebrews 11:5 By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "AND WAS NOT FOUND, BECAUSE GOD HAD TAKEN HIM"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.*

v.2 Commandments – military term, an order from a superior, not Paul's but Jesus' commandments

- *John 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.35 "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

- *Acts 1:1 The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,2 until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen,*

- go and make disciples, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, preach the gospel, feed and tend the sheep

v.3 This is God's will for us

- sanctification- being set apart for His purposes

- abstain from sexual immorality- this was prevalent in their culture as it is in ours, we have become immunized to it because there is such blatant immorality and pornography that we allow other things on TV and movies because it pales in comparison but it is still immorality

v.4 possess your own vessel- your wife or spouse in honor and sanctification not as Gentiles- what God has given us physically far surpasses the sexuality the world claims to have

v.6 King James says in any matter- the word translated matter is pragma- business matter

- why is this connected with immorality ? I've known men who claimed to be scrupulous in business but cheated on wife, and vice versa but character is character.

- God is the avenger- if you're cheating on your wife, or in business God will take of it

v.7 We are called to holiness- the Lord has a purpose for us

look at precautions that are taken for Covid- 1) masks to keep from getting infected or infecting others, 2) social distancing, 3) constant handwashing and sanitizing, 4) always being aware of symptoms that might be a sign of infection

v.8 here is the key to walking in holiness and usefulness, the **Holy Spirit-**  
*Galatians 5:16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.*

v.9-12 Abound in love, let it grow in you, we should be progressing in love for the brethren.

- mind your own business means just that- don't pry or interfere, we are called to minister, if someone is in trouble or down, pray with them but don't pry , if they need you to know, they'll tell you. Sometimes people will draw you into things that they shouldn't be exposing because they don't want ministry, they want to revel in sin.

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v.13 Those who have fallen asleep- early church called their burial places koimeterions where we get our word cemetery, it meant resting places for strangers passing through, the same word was used for inns. Holiday cemetery, Red Roof cemetery, Cemetery 6.

- where are those that have died now? see Luke 16:19

- Sheol, Hades, Gehenna, Lake of Fire

- don't sorrow as those who have no hope- we will sorrow and grieve but it's not the same because we know the reality of the Resurrection.

- (2 Cor 5:8 NKJV) *We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.*

v.14 If= since we believe

v.15 Resurrection is not reconstruction- *1 Corinthians 15:51-53 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed; in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

v.16 Lord Himself will return for us

- *John 14:2-3 "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.*

- With a shout- some feel the voice of an archangel and trumpet are descriptions of His voice, others feel they will accompany His call- we will know, His sheep know His voice.

- dead will rise first-

v.17 Caught up- in Latin vulgate translation, rapture- snatched away with force, grabbed, taken from one place to another quickly and definitively.

- *Matthew 11:12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.*

*Matthew 13:19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.*

- *John 6:15 Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.*

*John 10:28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.*

- *Acts 8:39 Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.*

- *2 Corinthians 12:2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven.*

*Jude 1:23 but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.*

- in the clouds- some say literally the clouds which is true but others say cloud of believers, I think both are accurate

- in the air- atmosphere

- we shall always be with the Lord

v.18 Are these words a comfort to you today ? If not, why not, He wants to comfort you with the blessed hope of life with Him.

Robert Murray McCheyne a Presbyterian minister would ask people, “ Do you think the Lord is coming today?” If they answered no, he would say” Then my friend you had better be ready, for He is coming at such an hour as ye think not

1 Thessalonians 5

v.2 Day of the Lord- time of trouble- great tribulation - not the same as the Rapture in previous chapter