



Separate Yourselves to God

By Ken Terry on April 29, 2022

TODAY'S READING: 2 Corinthians 7

As God's New Covenant people, we must set aside all our old ways of life that promoted pride and selfish desires, all fueled by our sinful nature. Those activities kept us distanced from the Lord. This is most certainly much easier said than done because it takes much work and commitment and a desire that many do not possess. I am sure that is why Paul started the chapter in this way, *"Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God"* (2 Corinthians 7:1, NKJV).

My friends, we must do our best to live a holy life as we discussed in yesterday's reading. Our lives belong to the living God. We are His temple and any sin that is practiced in His dwelling place will be destroyed. *"Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are"* (1 Corinthians 3:16-17, NKJV).

This is a very hard concept to receive. However, as we engage in the world around us, we need to do so with our hearts and minds opened, having a biblical worldview. Scripture gives us the pathways to live in godliness. Therefore we must be obedient to the Word of God and separate ourselves from all filthiness and uncleanness associated with sin--specifically people, places and things. *"Therefore 'Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you'"* (2 Corinthians 6:17, NKJV).

In our reading, Paul speaks to godly grief. Do you experience this type of grief, characterized as repentance? Do you feel remorse caused by having lost God's approval and the consequent resolve to reverse your conduct and live in a godly way? Or do you have worldly grief--remorse caused by losing favor and approval in the world--and then seek to regain said favor from the world? We will all experience one of these two conflicting levels of consciousness, but understand there are consequences for those who do not choose to separate themselves for God, *"For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death"* (2 Corinthians 7:10, NKJV).

Let all of us be the obedient children of God. We have been given all we need, His divine nature, to live a godly life. Let us do so with fear of God, through the Word of God. Let us follow the prime example set before us by Jesus Christ. Let us walk in the manner by which we have been called in Christ Jesus--holy, merciful, gracious, kind and forgiving! Let Him who indwells us be seen readily in the world around us!

PRAYER: Our Father in the heavens, Jehovah God, we thank You for loving us and saving us from our sin. Thank You for Jesus and all He represents for us. He is our Great High Priest.

Jesus is the Mediator between You and Your created beings. Jesus is the One who makes intercession for us in our prayers. Father, please forgive us when we sin and inadvertently distance ourselves from You. Father, please help us focus on You and continue to grow as we separate ourselves from the world around us and seek to become more like Jesus. This is our hearts' desire. We ask all these things in the matchless name of Jesus, amen.

TOMORROW'S READING: Weekend is for catch-up and review
MONDAY'S READING: 2 Corinthians 8

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