

CHAPTER 1
(HOW TO GET STARTED LIVING A GOSPEL-DRIVEN LIFE)

SUMMARY: God in his law calls you to live a holy and righteous life. In order to do this, you first have to learn the only possible way you can live a holy life. p. 15

INTRODUCTION:

- A. STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK:** Directions 1-10 discuss the only effective way you can live a holy life. Directions 11-14 discuss how to put these principles to work in your life.
- B. GOAL OF THE BOOK:** *"My goal is to tell you why God has saved you. He has saved you for a purpose: to live a holy life. Therefore, I want to teach you how you can live out the way of life that the Bible calls holiness, righteousness, godliness, obedience, and true religion..."* p. 15
- C. THE PURPOSE OF CHAPTER 1:** To prepare the believer's understanding and attention for the truths that follow in this book (original)...My real purpose is to show you how you can actually keep these laws once you know what they require of you (revised)." p. 15

"I want to keep you and others from killing yourselves through failed attempts at holiness! And, for God to enlarge your heart, and the hearts of many, to run in the way of his commandments with great cheerfulness, joy and thanksgiving!" p. 23

- D. CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING 3 TRUTHS PERTAINING TO GOD'S LAW: P. 15-16**
1. THE HOLINESS THAT GOD WANTS YOU TO HAVE IS SPIRITUAL. p. 15
 2. TRUE HOLINESS IS NOT SIMPLY A MATTER OF REFRAINING FROM ACTING OUT YOUR SINFUL LUSTS. p. 15
 3. THE LAW YOU ARE AIMING TO KEEP IS EXCEEDINGLY BROAD. p. 16
 - a. You are called to love God with your entire being. p. 16

- b. God requires complete spiritual obedience- total love for God from your whole heart. p. 16
- c. God created you to live a holy life. p. 16
- d. Every man is naturally obligated to obey God, natural law, pp. 16-17
- e. Mere morality does not fulfill the Bible's requirement for holiness. p. 17
- f. Men reject God's requirements in His law because the standard is impossible to do. p. 17

E. THEOLOGY ALWAYS PRECEDES MORALITY: It is critical to learn how to live the kind of Godly life required by God's law. pp. 17-18

- 1. Don't ask: What good thing shall I do, that may obtain eternal life? p. 18
- 2. Ask: How can I be empowered and enabled to do anything that is good? p. 18

PROPOSITION: 8 REASONS WHY YOU MUST FIRST SIT DOWN AND LEARN THE POWERFUL AND EFFECTUAL MEANS BY WHICH YOU CAN KEEP THE LAW OF GOD (I.E., PURSUE HOLINESS; GROW IN SANCTIFICATION), pp. 18-23

LESSON:

- I. BY NATURE, NO ONE CAN KEEP THE LAW. PP. 18-19
 - A. The doctrine of original sin is the foundation for what Marshall will say in this book. p. 18
 - B. The doctrine of original sin has one major implication: You CANNOT live a holy life by your own power. You have to be empowered by God to live a holy life. p. 18
- II. THOSE WHO DOUBT OR DENY ORIGINAL SIN MUST KNOW THAT GOD'S EXACT JUSTICE IS AGAINST THEM AND THAT THEY ARE UNDER THE CURSE OF GOD AND SENTENCE OF DEATH FOR THEIR ACTUAL SINS, SHOULD GOD ENTER INTO JUDGMENT WITH THEM (ROM. 1:32; 2:2; 3:9; GAL. 3:10). P. 9 (ORIGINAL ONLY)

III. NATURAL LAW (I.E., NATURAL REASON) IS NOT SUFFICIENT FOR SANCTIFICATION (I.E., TO DISCOVER THE MEANS TO KEEP THE LAW), pp. 19-20

IV. SANCTIFICATION IS A GRACE OF GOD AS WELL AS JUSTIFICATION p. 20

*The means of sanctification is faith in Christ. p. 20

V. GOD HAS GIVEN US IN THE HOLY SCRIPTURES PLENTIFUL INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS, I.E., TO BE EQUIPPED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK (2 TIM. 3:16, 17)...LUKE 1:78, 79). p. 20

VI. THE ONLY WAY TO LEARN HOW TO LIVE A GODLY LIFE IS BY READING THE SCRIPTURES. p. 20-21

A. The Scriptures tell you two things about living a godly life: p. 20

1. They tell you what God wants you to do (i.e., the law)
2. They tell you how you can actually do it (i.e., the Gospel)

B. The Scriptures give two reasons why the way of true godliness requires double the work: p. 21

1. Because you have to unlearn many of your old, deep rooted notions of how to become godly and become a fool that you might become wise. p. 21
2. You must pray earnestly to the Lord to teach you the true way of godliness and search His word to get this knowledge. p. 21

VII. IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO LEARN THE ONLY POWERFUL AND EFFECTIVE MEANS BY WHICH YOU CAN LIVE A HOLY LIFE. p. 21

VIII. WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO LIVE A HOLY LIFE UNLESS WE BELIEVE THIS: THAT GOD WILL NOT HELP YOU LIVE A HOLY LIFE UNLESS YOU USE THE MEANS GOD HAS APPOINTED; GOD ONLY BLESSES HIS ORDAINED MEANS. p. 22

CONCLUSION:

4 WRONG APPROACHES TO SANCTIFICATION:

1. Many Christians fail in Christian living because they are satisfied with keeping only the external requirements of the law. p. 23
2. Other people give up the way of holiness because they think holy living is totally unpleasant. p. 23
3. Still others work very hard to produce holiness, but they work in the wrong way. p. 11, 23
4. Some of the most zealous people actually punish their bodies with fasting and other austere measures to try to kill their lusts. p. 11, 23

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