*THE PURSUIT OF HOLINESS* by Jerry Bridges

**Chapter Three– “Holiness is Not an Option” -Hebrews 12:14**

***“Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy: without holiness no one will see the Lord.” (Hebrews 12:14NIV)***

“Just what do these words, *“without holiness no one will see the Lord,”* actually mean? Does our salvation in the final analysis depend to some degree on our attaining some level of personal holiness?” pg.19

**H** earing what the scriptures say is crucial to finding the answers to these two questions!

**O** ur best deeds, first of all, can never merit salvation through our personal holiness. pg.19

**L** isten to what Isaiah 64:6NASB says, “all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment.” pg.19

**I** n light of God’s holy law, our best works are stained and polluted with imperfection and sin.

**N** one are righteous BUT by grace through faith in Christ’s perfect life we are made righteous.

**E** ven His penalty bearing work on the cross for us satisfied the Father’s wrath & will toward us.

**S** avor this, “And by that will, *we have been made holy* through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” (Hebrews 10:5-9NASB) pg. 20

**S** o, our holiness before God depends **entirely** on the work of Jesus Christ for us, by His will.

**I** n understanding Heb.12:14, we see the writer here speaks of a holiness that we are to pursue

**S** cripture speaks of both a holiness which we have *in Christ* before God(Justification), and a holiness which we are to strive after(progressive Sanctification-that will be seen by men). pg.20

**N** ow these two aspects of holiness, “Declared holy” and “Be holy” complement one another.

**O** ur salvation that declares us holy *positionally*, demands that we be holy *practically*(1 Cor.1:2)

**T** he writer of Hebrews is clearly telling those whose sins have been forgiven, to take seriously the necessity of personal, practical holiness. pg.21

**A** truly born-again believer desires to live a holy life--desires to live a life wholly pleasing to God

**N** ever must we forget that the Holy Spirit who creates within us saving faith also creates within us a desire for holiness. He simply does not create one without the other. pg.22

**O** ur God does not require a perfect, sinless life to have fellowship with Him, but He does

**P** rescribe that we be serious about holiness, that we grieve over our sin and not justify itand

**T** hat we earnestly pursue holiness “living our lives as strangers here in reverent fear” pg.23-24

**I** f we persist in disobedience, it will only increase our necessity for discipline from the Lord.

**O** nce God speaks to us through His Word about some sin, we need to heed and take action.

**N** ote this, if we know nothing of holiness, we may flatter ourselves that we are Christians but we do not have the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. pg.25

God is serious about holiness in the lives of His children. **“…without holiness no one will see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14).** It is not those who profess to know Christ who will enter heaven, but those whose lives are holy and do the will of God.” (Matthew 7:21-23NASB) pg. 25-26

Ladies, as we just learned, **HOLINESS IS NOT AN OPTION**! Praise God, “For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God (Romans 8:14NASB)! Christyn