THE PURSUIT OF HOLINESS by Jerry Bridges

**Chapter Sixteen– “Holiness In An Unholy World” -John 17:15**

**“I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.”**

**(John 17:15NKJV)**

*“All believers must live their Christian lives in the context of an unholy world. Some face extraordinary temptation as they live in the midst of a flagrantly sinful atmosphere…whether it is an environment polluted with sensuality, wantonness, and lust or being under tremendous pressure to compromise ethical and legal standards to satisfy the greed and dishonesty of associates…Unless the Christian is prepared for such evil assaults on his mind and heart, he will have great difficulty maintaining personal holiness.” (pg. 117)*

**H** ow should the believer respond when he finds himself surrounded by unrelenting pressures

**O** f this sinful world? If James says that part of true religion consists in keeping ourselves from

**L** oving the world and “from being polluted by the world” (James 1:27), and if Paul urges us to

**I** ntentionally be spiritually separated from unbelievers (2 Cor.6:17), how then should we live?

**N** ow there is no doubt upon reading the NT that Christians lived and will continue to live in

**E** nvironments where people choose to live unholy lives and in blatant rebellion against God.

**S** o what are we to do? Are we to withdraw from contact with the world of non-Christians?

**S** urely not! Jesus prayed to His Father in John 17:15 not to take His disciples out of the world but to protect them from the evil one as they live in the world. (pg.117-118)

**I** nstead of withdrawing from the world we are to be witnesses for Christ and His Holy Gospel!

**N** ever are we told in the Word of God that it will be easy to live in a godless environmentbut instead we are to expect ridicule and abuse as we testify to and live out the Gospel of peace (Jn.15:18-25; 2 Tim.3:12; 1 Pet. 4:1-6). (pg.118)

**A** s we by God’s enabling grace “let our light shine before men” and strive to resist the world’s

**N** oxious influences and temptations to engage in unholy living, we will be persecuted. (pg.118)

**U** nfortunately, many professing Christians are not resolved to live by the convictions God has

**N** otably given to us from His Word nor resolved to openly identify themselves with Christ.

**H** elp us Lord, not to be this way… The Lord will help us guard our hearts and minds from the

**O** verwhelming corrupting influences around us as we meditate on and memorize His Word.

**L** isten! The Bible is our best defense against the filth of this world (Ps. 119:9). (pg. 119)

**Y** ou and I *must* daily be in the Word in order to flee the daily temptations that bombard us.

**W** e must also be concerned not only for our own purity of mind, but for the eternal destiny

**O** f those who would pollute us. God has left us in the world to be both salt and light (Matt. 5).

**R** est assured that as we witness and testify about Christ in a spirit of genuine concern then we

**L** ikely will not be corrupted by others sinful lifestyles. Our own holy life will serve as a rebuke

**D** eclaring not only the saving power of God but declaring their need to be forgiven of their sin.

“Maintaining personal holiness in an unholy world is admittedly difficult…Above all, we must look to Jesus who, though He ate with tax collectors and sinners, was Himself “holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens” (Hebrews 7:26). And we must claim His promise that “No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And ***GOD IS FAITHFUL***; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so you can stand up under it” (1 Corinthians 10:13). (pg.121-122)

Wow! What a promise! Ladies, God is faithful! Do you believe that this promise in God’s Word will help you in the environments you find yourself in? By faith believe it and act upon it—Trust God and obey Him and pray for divine help to live out the transforming grace of the Gospel each and every day.

Pressing onward and looking upward,

Christyn