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**IF GOD WEREN'T HOLY
And Other Sermons**

By Daniel Stafford

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INTRODUCTION

Through the years I have enjoyed the securing of a new message. I have tried to develop the habit of working out new thoughts as they have come to me. I can not claim originality for all of my little messages; I have been prompted, inspired, and helped by so many. No doubt, much of the thoughts, statements, and material I have gathered will be woven into these little messages.

Through the years I have had many to ask me why I did not put some messages in print. In their kindness they stated that my messages could be used by others. For this reason I have never refused to allow another minister to copy or use any of my little outlines. I have contributed to other outline books, but until now I have never tried to publish a book of my own.

Through the spiritual decline of the holiness movement my heart has been burdened and grieved. These little messages were prompted by the Holy Spirit, and my observation of things as they transpired. Many of them were developed with a broken heart. There was no delight in having to prepare them. Still, the truths were so evident, until I could do nothing but declare as I had seen. If these messages will stir up the pure minds of some; remind others; and awaken some; then my efforts will not have been in vain.

September, 1967
Daniel Stafford

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01 -- IF GOD WEREN'T HOLY

I Peter 1:15, 16 "Be ye holy for I am holy" v-16

Some thoughts stagger the imagination. Such a thought would be, "If God Weren't Holy"!

Disciples of every school of theology would rise up in protest at the very suggestion. Even the modernist would raise their hands in protest at such a suggestion. However, most people act, live, as though God weren't holy. In fact, most of those that claim to be Christian, act and live as though God weren't holy.

All would do well to make an honest check of their life, and see if they are serving a Holy God. Only our light can so shine before men until they can see our good works, and glorify our Father in heaven.

Even though these thoughts will be repulsive, still, each one should notice three horrible things that would have to be true, if God weren't holy:

First, **GOD WOULD BE ABSOLUTE POWER WITHOUT PURITY:** All of God's attributes are contingent of His Holiness. His mercy, justice, and impartiality, are all contingent upon His Holiness.

The Greek gods of mythology had power without purity. Many are the repulsive stories that were told about them. It was reported that they would seduce earth women. Being gods, but not governed by purity, they could do just as they pleased. Some of the modern theologians have tried to contend that Genesis 6:2 was making a reference to this. There we read these words, "The sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they those."

God, without, purity, would become a divine terror! It is really unspeakable, the terror that such a god would be. Having unlimited power, He could do whatsoever He desired. There would be no individual, or group, that could withstand His demands. If He were not governed by purity there is no depth of immorality to which He could not go. The horror of all horrors would be a God with absolute power without purity.

When one can seek power, or what they think the evidences of power is, and not a clean heart, he is serving an unholy god. In this closing day there are so many that feel they are super spiritual, that are caught in this very deceptive web.

In my second pastorate I was pastoring near Houston, Texas. The churches of the area were planning a union Thanksgiving service. As I was the newest pastor of the area, I was asked to be the speaker. One day I was in the study of the pastor, where the service was to be held; we were making the final arrangements. He spoke up and said, "Tell me something about your church; I don't know much about your church." He further asked, "What is the main difference between your church and mine"? I told him that our church was misunderstood by so many. It was accredited with preaching many things that it actually did not. I also said, "If you were to ask one of my members they would probably say, The major difference between our churches is the matter of speaking in tongues, but really, that is a minor difference" Needless to say, the pastor was shocked. I continued, "The real difference between our churches is this, We believe in holiness and you don't. You claim the baptism of the Holy Ghost, with the evidence of speaking in an unknown tongue; still, you claim the carnal nature always remains. For I have read in your written statements of belief, where you say there is no such thing as cleansing in sanctification. You believe that the Holy Ghost will suppress the carnal nature. We believe that the Holy Ghost baptism will purge out the old carnal nature, and make the heart pure and clean." He looked at me in utter amazement. I testified to, him and told him how I was gloriously converted. I told him how I broke clean with every sin, stopped every filthy habit, ceased going to every worldly place, separated from the ungodly crowd, and made every restitution. I, then, told him how I started tithing my income, attending every service of the church, testifying, witnessing, and having a joyful time in my regenerated experience. Then, I told him how I began to seek for the Holy Ghost to cleanse out the old carnal temper, jealousy, pride, self will, etc. I told him how I sought, without missing a service, for three months until the door of faith opened and the Holy Ghost, Himself, came and cleansed my heart. That Assembly of God pastor sat behind his desk and said, over and over, "That is a beautiful experience." I, then, asked him a pointed question. I said, "Your people come around my church and say, You are the cleanest crowd we have seen; but you just don't go far enough, for you don't speak in tongues. Do you have anything to offer me with your tongues theory"? The honest pastor answered, "No, I certainly don't" And he certainly didn't!

How sad! So many laymen and preachers are leaving the holiness movement for the tongues group, Which do not believe in a clean heart.

Second, GOD'S DEMAND FOR SEEING HIM WOULD NOT BE HOLINESS OF HEART AND LIFE: If God weren't holy, He wouldn't crave, or demand holy associates. "Like begets like," therefore, God would not want holy angels and holy men and women to live with Him.

If God weren't holy, He would probably be satisfied with any spiritual attainment. If one made any spiritual progress, although he might not meet the stated demands, God would be satisfied. That is -- if He weren't holy.

If God weren't holy, He would probably be satisfied if one were sincere. Even though he might be completely wrong in his actions and views; if he were sincere, the Lord would probably be satisfied. That is -- if he weren't holy.

If God weren't holy, He would probably be satisfied if one belonged to a church. If one identified himself with a church, especially, if that church claimed to be a holiness church, surely this would satisfy God. That is -- if He weren't holy.

If God weren't holy, He could possibly be bribed. There is a common expression which says, "Every man has his price." This expression is saying that every man has an amount, for which he can be bought over. Therefore, if one had a sizable amount to give God, even though his life was not in harmony with God's Book, God could possibly be bribed. That is -- if God weren't holy.

If God weren't holy, He could possibly be persuaded by crowd actions. Even though He might have writers to express His will on a matter in His Book, if enough of His, supposed to be followers took a different course, the Lord would probably be smart enough to get on with the crowd. That is -- if He weren't holy.

If God weren't holy, He could possibly be enticed by flattering words. Regardless of how one might look, act, or think, if he could shed tears and use flattering words, the Lord could possibly be enticed. That is -- if He weren't holy.

If God weren't holy, He would not pay any attention to such small things as temper, pride, jealousy, self will, love of material, etc. Even though there were temper tantrums, manifestations of pride, pangs of jealousy, revelations of self will, or display of love of material, God would not pay any attention to these. That is -- if He weren't holy.

When one can live a day with these things true in his life, he is not serving a Holy God. Each individual is more aware of these expressions of carnality in his life, than anyone else. I shall never forget when God turned the "Inner Lights" on for me. I was walking in every ray of light that God had given me. I was shouting happy in my justified experience. I was attending church, every service, and scotching the preacher. He could have preached against deodorant and I would have said, "amen." I did not use it then, but I do now. However, one night as the service progressed, God revealed to me that I was carnal. When I saw an old, hair spring, trigger temper, green-eyed jealousy, fickle pride, and a stubborn, bullish nature, I felt like I would drop straight into hell. From that moment until I was sanctified, three months later, I never missed an opportunity to seek the blessing. Sanctification was never optional with me from that very moment. God being my witness, I never had a carnal spell in that three months period. Never gave anyone a piece of my mind. I did not have enough to share. Even though people did not see me display the carnal traits; still, I was painfully aware that those traits were in my heart.

Third, GOD'S ETERNAL ABODE WOULD NOT BE FREE FROM SIN AND CARNALITY: Revelation 22:11 makes it very plain that one's moral nature will not be changed after death. If a change is ever going to be made, it will have to be made before death. For we read, "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, lath. him be filthy still: and he which is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still."

If God weren't holy, He would not demand holiness of heart and life to see Him; and certainly, He would not provide a way whereby one could be holy. He surely would not have a fountain opened in his own side, into which the believer could plunge by faith and be made every whit whole. Therefore, if He did not demand holiness, nor provide a way to be holy, then sin and carnality would be in heaven. The same nature that produced it here would surely, produce it there.

If SIN and CARNALITY will be in heaven, we must forget the heaven that John said he saw coming down. That heaven must be a myth, as the skeptics say. John must have stayed in the sun too long, until he only had an hallucination; for you remember he said, about the heaven he was supposed to have seen, "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away" (Rev. 21:4) Think of a place where no tears would ever come, no death would ever enter, no sorrow would ever be, experienced, and no pain would ever be felt! Still, we must face it if there is going to be sin and carnality in heaven, we can never expect the former things to pass away. Sin and carnality caused the former things.

When one can live another minute with sin and carnality in his heart, he is not serving a Holy God.

Thank God! We don't have to consider such a repulsive thought any more. "God is holy," and He demands, "Be ye holy." Only those that obey will ever live with Him.

God does have absolute power; and that power is governed by absolute purity. His demands for seeing Him are holiness of heart and life, and He has provided a way for this to be His eternal abode will be free from sin and carnality; and only those that are thus free shall ever enter there.

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02 -- HOUSE CLEANING -- 2 Tim. 3:1, 6

"Set thine house in order" 2 Kings 20:1

All men agree that these are perilous times, even though all may not agree on what has brought them on. The world strife, lawlessness, and moral decay are too evident to be overlooked. The Apostle Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, told, over "nineteen hundred years ago that these days would come. By the description he gives, in our scripture reading, he makes it very plain -- that houses would be out of order. Surely, no one can be blind enough to fail to recognize that this is true today. All of us need to heed the admonition to Hezekiah, given by the Lord, through the mouth of the prophet Isaiah. You remember he said, "Set thine house in order." It would be

profitable time spent if we would notice three houses in which most people need to do some cleaning.

First, **THE DOMESTIC HOUSE**: Few seem to realize how vitally important this house really is.

If we don't recognize it, the devil knows the nation or the church can't stand if the domestic foundation crumbles. Is it any wonder that, seemingly, everything is aimed at destroying the proper order in the home today? The domestic foundation seems to be the target of every ism, and every pressure. Even the communists knew they could have no hope of destroying this nation until they could, first, destroy the domestic foundation. This they have been doing steadily, as a termite, until now, the domestic foundation has crumbled for this nation. No nation is strong enough to stand when the domestic foundation has crumbled. When the home, which has been the anchor of any country, is no longer secure; then, it won't be long until the nation will no longer be secure either. The church, regardless of how bright the fires may have once burned on its altars, can not stand when the domestic foundation crumbles. The church is made up of people that live in homes. I am convinced that one of the reasons why we burn the old straw, over and over in the average revival, is because of this very fact. The average person comes from "Frustration" to "Emotional Release." Their domestic house is out of order; therefore, there is frustration there. They come to the altar and get an emotional release; but then, they go right back into frustration. Going to the altar will not do away with the frustration in the home unless the domestic house is set in order.

So very few have any resemblance today of God's plan for the home. Even of the best people, so few have any resemblance of God's plan for their home. They will admit that things are not desirable; but they will quickly say that circumstances demand the disrupted way in which they live. With the deadly economy of today, so many feel that both, mother and father, must work. Of course, the results of this is deadly. The family altar has little chance to survive under these arrangements. Small children are deprived of mother's love and training.

There are three cardinal sins in the average home. Oh, if eyes could be opened until, at least, the people that really want to make it to heaven could see this! The first sin is, **FATHERS ARE NOT BEING PROPER LEADERS**: If there were ever a day when we needed some more Joshuas, it is today. We need some men that would say as he said, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Men were ordained of God, to be the leader in the home. Men are not showing the leadership that they should show. Oh, how we need some men that will take the proper leadership. Some men that will say, "My wife will be Christian and modest, so her example will be set before my children. She will live in a way that will bespeak the fact that she has been touched by grace divine. My children are going to be instructed and controlled by God's teachings. Their actions, associates and engagements will not be determined by the crowd, but by the word of God. I am going to see that they shall be shielded from all the rot and filth that the world is trying to vomit out on them." We need men that will be spiritual leaders; men that will be virtually concerned about the spiritual welfare of the home. Too many have turned this over to the wife. God ordained her as a helpmeet, but not the leader.

The second cardinal sin of the home is, **WIVES ARE NOT SUBMISSIVE TO HUSBANDS**: Many people may smile at the mention of this; but this is not a smiling matter. This

is enough to make angels weep; for this is directly contrary to God's Word and plan. We read in the book of Corinthians, chapter eleven and verse three, "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God." If we are going to keep the divine order that God has planned; then God is the head of man; and the man is the head of the woman. I know that this will go contrary to the teaching of this day, but please notice where the teaching of this day has taken this nation. Again, we read in the Amplified New Testament, the first book of Peter, chapter three and verses one and two -- we will only read these two verses to conserve time and space; but it would be good for all to read the first six verses -- the first two verses read like this, "In like manner you married women, be submissive to your own husband -- subordinate yourselves as being secondary to and dependent on them, and adapt yourselves to them. So that even if any do not obey the Word (of God), they may be won over not by discussion but by the (godly lives of their wives, when they observe the pure and modest way in which you conduct yourselves, together with your reverence (for your husband, that is, you are to feel for him all that reverence includes) -- to respect, defer to, revere him; (revere means to honor, esteem (appreciate, prize), and (in the human sense) adore him; (and adore means) to admire praise, be devoted to, deeply love and enjoy (your husband)."

Oh, I've heard the protest given by little flippant, worldly women. They say that no man is worthy of this, and this is not fair. However, the truth still remains that (this is the Word of God. If one is not going to keep this command, then he may go ahead and break the other commands. You would not go to hell over committing murder or adultery, any quicker than you would over breaking this command. Now, before someone is tempted to say that Paul was giving his own idea, in the eleventh chapter of Corinthians; let me call your attention to chapter fourteen and verse thirty-seven. "If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the COMMANDMENTS of the Lord." No, not notions of Paul; but commandments that are as binding as the ten that Moses brought off of the mountain.

The third cardinal sin is, CHILDREN ARE NOT OBEDIENT TO PARENTS: This is exactly what the apostle said would happen in the last days. The, supposed to be, educated of this day are saying that the younger generation are taking liberties; but the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to say they would be disobedient. Today, it seems that the only way that parents can keep their children under obedience, is by having no rules. It seems that even the church parents are afraid the child will go into a fit of rage and maybe commit some act of violence. No wonder we have the "beetniks," "hippies," etc. who are so maladjusted, because we have allowed our domestic house to get out of order.

The second house is, THE ECCLESIASTICAL HOUSE: Few seem to realize how important their ecclesiastical house actually is. The church is, God's ordained organization for our spiritual enlightenment, instruction, fellowship, food. There is no other organization, that is ordained of God,, to furnish us with these most essential things.

Privileges always bring responsibilities. If I am going to accept these good things from the church; then I need to assume my responsibilities. of the church. There are three cardinal sins of the ecclesiastical house.

The first one is, **USING THE CHURCH FOR A MORAL COVER-UP**: This is what Paul meant when he said, "Having a form of godliness." Too many use the church as a little banner, or identification, to give them a sense of moral respectability. But their lives belie the genuineness of their affiliation, or testimony.

The second sin is, **MAKING THE CHURCH A SOCIAL CENTER**: Jesus was so zealous for His Father's house; until He was against anything that would keep it from being only a place of prayer. When the church becomes social enough to satisfy our social desires, it will no longer be spiritual enough to meet our spiritual needs. If the price of numerical gain is making the church a social center, then the price is entirely too high.

The third sin is, **BREAKING VOWS TO THE CHURCH**: Seemingly, people don't realize just what they are doing when they unite with the church. When they stand before God and man, promise what they will and will not do, become a representative of the whole group, it becomes very serious move. Still, .so many will make their vows and then break them. Vows broken to the church are vows broken to God. When I say that I will and don't, or I won't and then do; my honesty is no longer valid. How we all need to say, as the Psalmist said in the sixty-sixth Psalm, "I will pay thee my vows, which my lips have uttered."

The third house that needs to be set in order is, **THE SPIRITUAL HOUSE**: Few give the needed attention, that they should, to their spiritual house. Many who are careful with their physical house, are so careless with their spiritual house. It is amazing how many things have to be righted, in any group, when the Holy Ghost begins to move. When their eyes are enlightened, they have to face the fact that they have been spiritually careless. They have to face the fact they have become careless in their family and private devotion, witnessing and attending the services regularly. As none of us stand more than a foot away from death; surely, we should set our spiritual house in order.

There are three cardinal sins in the spiritual house. The first one is, **ASSUMING, WITHOUT KNOWING, THAT ALL IS WELL**: That is why we need to heed the admonition, "Search the scriptures." And, most assuredly, we need to follow Paul's direction, when he said, "Let God be true, but every man a liar." We can't allow ourselves to get caught up in this "mad rush" of today. It is too easy to assume that all is well when, in reality, all is not well.

The second cardinal sin is, **REFUTING THE DEMANDS OF THE SCRIPTURES BECAUSE OF ACTIONS, WORDS, OF OTHERS**: So many people, and many of them are conscientious, will refute the scripture because of the actions and words of others. It could be a kinsman, friend, minister or teacher. if we have confidence in them, in our effort to justify their actions or words, we will be guilty of refuting the scriptures. I have had so many that could not deny that the Bible forbids certain things; however, because someone they believed in was doing the very thing, they would say, "I know what the scriptures say, hurt I don't think it means it just that way."

The third cardinal sin is, **BECOMING SATISFIED TO STOP SHORT OF THE FULL WILL OF GOD FOR ONE'S LIFE**: Oh, the tragedy of human nature! The slipshod way that we do things, especially spiritual things. Entirely too many are satisfied with partial spiritual attainment.

If they make any move toward the will of God they, seemingly, feel that surely God will have to accept them. No wonder we read the words of Jesus in the gospel of Matthew, chapter seven and verse twenty-one, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." And so no one would have a justifiable reason for not knowing the will of God. The Holy Spirit inspired the Apostle Paul to write in first Thessalonians, chapter four and verse three, "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification." Only the judgment will reveal how many were affiliated with a holiness church, attended regularly; and even held office, without having the knowledge of the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit in His sanctifying fullness. They, seemingly, felt that, because they believed in the doctrine and supported the work, they would somehow make it in. Surely, we all need to see if our spiritual house is clean.

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03 -- HOLINESS BEHAVIOR -- Titus 2:1, 18

"Be in behavior as becometh holiness" v-3

Holiness behavior is the very greatest need of the church world today. We have more colleges, educated ministers, missionaries, instructors, and seemingly everything; but the church is failing to stop the great moral collapse that is taking place all around us. We get people to give mental assent to our theories, unite with organizations; but we fail to get them to behave as becometh holiness. Because of our failure; the devil has gotten the church world to subscribe to the theory that we can have holiness of heart, without having behavior that becometh holiness. However, the apostle to the church age put definite stress on the behavior. It seems that men in high seats of learning are trying to put the emphasis on one's faith and not on one's actions. The Apostle Paul put the stress on holiness behavior. So let us center our attention on this and notice three things.

First, WHAT IS HOLINESS? Adam Clarke said, "That state of continual sanctification, that life of purity and detachment from the world and all its lust, without which detachment and sanctity no man shall see the Lord."

Holiness is not sanctification, but it is the life that is lived after one has been sanctified wholly by the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Many people get confused in their terminology. Holiness and sanctification are not synonymous. Holiness is the life that is lived; sanctification is the act, when the heart is made pure. Holiness is only shown in one's living. How I wish that this truth could be ingrained into the mind of every one that is identified with a holiness church, and professes the experience of holiness. Thus we read from the Amplified New Testament, (I Peter 1:15) "But as the One Who called you is holy, you yourselves also be holy in all your conduct and manner of living." Here, Peter makes it very plain that you and I are to be as holy in our conduct as the God that called us is holy. It does no good to claim that our God is holy unless by our actions we prove that He has made us holy.

Second, WHAT IS HOLINESS BEHAVIOR? Matthew Henry said, "As beseemeth and is proper for holy persons, such as they profess: to be. Whatsoever things are becoming, or

unbecoming holiness, forms a measure and rule of conduct to be looked to." Matthew Henry, even though he was Calvinistic in his interpretations of the scriptures; realized that holiness behavior was those acts of conduct that were becoming to the profession. He knew that any act of conduct that did not come up to the high standard, would have to be forbidden in order for one to come up to holiness behavior. Adam Clarke said, "That they be in their dress, gait, and general deportment, such as their holy calling requires, that they be not like the world but like the church, decent without, and adorned with holiness within." He further said, "The people must not only be instructed, but they must be holy in their lives." He made it plain that principle and practice must go hand in hand. Oh, if this truth could take hold of every person that makes the profession of holiness, how different this world would be! Principle and practice must go hand in hand. The world must be able to see by our actions, dress and conduct, the difference in those that have been made holy, and those that are still within their depraved state. Our testimony will only be mockery and confusing, if it is not equaled by our actions. When behavior does not reach the standard of our profession, then we have become a means of confusion to those with whom we come in contact.

As Dr. James B. Chapman said, "There is a language in dress," I believe that we can safely continue to say that there is a language in associations, places of attendance, and practices. Dr. Chapman said, "How hardly can you feel you are in a holiness church when there is a gum-chewing, bobbed-hair, ring bedecked young lady on the piano stool"? He went on to mention the different worldly traits that are so prevalent in the churches today. In other words, Dr. Chapman said, even though the young lady may sing religious songs, may shed tears, may say she loves Jesus with all her heart; her appearance would scream, "This young lady knows nothing about the real experience of heart holiness;" for there is a language in dress.

There is also a language in associations. One can be affiliated with a holiness church and learn the terminology until he can get up and testify, seemingly, like one who knows the deep things of God; and yet by his associations can deny everything he has said. If he is associated with the "worldlings" which the Bible clearly forbids; then his association screams, "No, this person knows nothing about the real experience of heart holiness;" for there is a language in association.

There is also a language in places of attendance. The Bible makes it plain that we are not to love the world, or the things that are in the world. Therefore, even though one may be affiliated with a holiness church, may know the terminology, and be able to give testimony that sounds real; still, if he is going to the places that are not consistent with the profession of holiness, there is a language of attendance that will scream, "No, this person knows nothing of heart holiness." (They have been taught the theory. They have learned the terminology, until they can give what seems a convincing testimony; but the experience in their heart they have never had.)

There is a language in practices. If one claims to be given completely to God and separated from the world, yet he is engaged in worldly practices; then his worldly practices will scream in a language that can be heard clearly, "This person knows nothing about the real experience of holiness." This is what Paul meant when he urged Titus to speak the things which becometh sound doctrine; In the Amplified New Testament we find that sound doctrine means, "The character and right living that identify true Christians." It is not their church affiliations, or their testimony. It is not their theory, but it is their right living. It is their actions that prove conclusively that something

has happened in their heart. "From the heart comes the issues of life." Men can never act right until their hearts have been made right.

Third, WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF BEHAVIOR NOT BECOMING TO HOLINESS? Paul leaves no doubt here, for he said, "That the word of God be not blasphemed, reproached, discredited." Matthew Henry said, "What are they the better for the new religion? Would the infidel be ready to say." He also said, "Judge what a god is by these his servants, and what his Word and Doctrine, and Religion are by his followers." Adam Clarke said, "The enemies of the gospel will say, "Behold your boasted religion! it professes to reform all things and its very professors are no better than others." And that is exactly true, because our boasted religion does profess to reform all things. For, in second Corinthians 5:17 we read, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." Therefore our religion boasts that "All things" are made completely new. Paul made it clear that any person that was out of place by actions or looks, contrary to holiness, was blaspheming the word of God. This is far more serious than most people realize. So many would shudder at the thought of ever blaspheming the word of God. They think that this can only be done by word of mouth. However, when one that professes to be a holiness person is found in a place they should not be, look different from what the Bible prescribes, engage in things that the Bible forbids; he is blaspheming the word of God. By their actions, or looks, they are discrediting the word of God. This accounts for so many unsaved children, companions and neighbors. I held a meeting in the deep South. The pastor told me about one of the most radiant couples I have met in my travels. They were so faithful and so zealous. Their home had the atmosphere of God. He told me that one year before,, their home was on the verge of being broken up.

The lady was a member of the church, and had been for some time. The husband was not saved and drank heavily. He seemed to have too much interest in other women for his wife to be content. One day she came to the pastor and told him that unless her husband got converted in the revival that was soon to begin, she was going to apply for a divorce. I am sure that the pastor startled his member; because he asked her if she would be willing to pay the price for her husbands salvation? Before she fully knew what the price was going to be, she said yes. The pastor then asked her if she would clean up and look like a holiness woman should? She worked in an office.. He asked her if she would remove the paint, rings, lengthen her dresses, and stop cutting her hair? She began to cry and protest. However, the pastor did not relent until conviction gripped" her and she fell on her knees ad prayed through. The revival ended without her husband even attending. However, two weeks after the meeting he came staggering into the house one night, as though he were drunk, and fell across a chair in the kitchen. He said, "Wife, I have been under such conviction for the past two weeks until I can't stand it any longer." He was gloriously converted, and soon went on to sanctification. When I saw them they were one of the finest couples I have ever seen.

It is nothing short of blasphemy to keep the "Tag" of holiness on a church, college, individual, when the behavior does not become holiness. One of the greatest means of deception is to hold a tag on a church that is not living up to that tag. If we claim to be a holiness church we need to be exactly that. If we claim to be a holiness college we need to be exactly that. When we allow scholasticism to override spirituality and our emphasis is more on education than on the standards of holiness; then to be honest, we should take the tag of holiness off of the college. When

we leave the tag on, impressionable young people come and are deceived by the scores. They come feeling that all the professors are good holiness people; therefore (they are willing to follow their teachings, standards and practices. Is it any wonder we are turning out the little worldly, twisted group that we are turning out of our colleges today? Any individual that is not living up to holiness behavior should be honest enough, to admit that he is not a holiness person, and get out of the group. However, history has shown that this has never been the case. History has proven that they will remain in, and work to have the sanction put on their behavior. May I ask you, HOW IS YOUR BEHAVIOR?

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04 -- TIME TO BE ANGRY -- Mark 3:1, 5

"And when he had looked around about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand, And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other" v-5 "Be ye angry, and sin not" Eph. 4:26

In this world of hatred and strife it is high time for Christians to become angry. Martin Luther said, "When I am angry I preach and pray better." A small boy in the city of Indianapolis, Indiana told a preacher friend of mine, "I really love to hear you preach, but I especially love it when you get half mad." Harry Emerson Fosdick said, "In the face of some evils, you are no Christian if you are not angry."

Now before some holiness professor, who has not differentiated between carnal anger and righteous anger, says it is wrong to be angry, lets remember the sinless Jesus was angry. Also, it would be well if we would notice three things that He did, when He was angry.

First, HE LOOKED ROUND ABOUT: Surely, every professed Christian needs to look round about today. The devil will get us so occupied with things, and so self centered, until we won't ever look round about. In this day of materialism; in this day when people become so occupied with the material pursuit; it is so easy to become occupied with things, until we fail to take notice of the spiritual condition that is all about. Also, until our eyes are opened by God, we won't be able to see what we really need to see. Jesus said to His disciples, in mock rebuke, in Mark 8:18, "Having eyes, see ye not"?

The tragedy of this hour is the fact that too many people, that claim to be Christian, can stare right at a thing and, seemingly, never see it. The reason is because their eyes must be opened by God, if they are to see aright. Every professor of holiness needs to look around on the moral decay of the holiness movement. Those that are looking round about are alarmed, and can hear Jesus say, "Blessed are eyes which see the things that ye see." The needed look will not be taken, until Paul's prayer is answered.. In Ephesians 1:18 he said, "The eyes of your understanding being enlightened." The Holy Spirit will have to enlighten the eyes of our understanding, if we are to look round about and make a proper evaluation, and to see the moral decline that is going on. It is too easy to take the attitude, "So many are doing it, surely it can't be wrong." it is too easy to give "Crowd License," or feel that maybe it is not so bad, or as bad as once it was. One can take that

attitude until his eyes will become holden. They will stare but not be able to see the moral decay, that is so prevalent, in the holiness movement today. Truly we need to look round about!

Second, HE WAS ANGRY: Jesus was angry because He was grieved, for the hardness of their hearts. The most callous, heartless people, in all the world, are those with a profession greater than their possession. There is no group of people, in all the world, that can become so callous, and so hard, as those that profess grace. They profess a higher state of grace than they actually enjoy in their heart. Even the high priest that falsely condemned Jesus, and saw to it that, He was crucified, did it while he was clinging to his religious ritual. Even those that cried, "Crucify Him," "Crucify Him," did it feeling they were religious. They were doing away with one that was out of step with their practices.

Moses became angry because of the corrupt worship of the children of Israel. In the book of Exodus, when the children of Israel were dancing in a lewd way around the golden calf, Moses became angry. We read, "And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp that he saw the calf, and the dancing; and Moses anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount. And he took the calf and ground it to powder, and strawed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink it." When Moses saw that which had so attracted the children of Israel, until they had lost sight of God, he did not go into a "Controlling" program, but a "Destroying" program. Moses did not call the leaders together and say, "I'll tell you what we had better do. This has so attracted the children of Israel; and this has so dazzled their gaze; they have become so fascinated until they have lost sight of God. We will just insist that they use selectivity. We'll just demand that they will not look but just so long, and will be selective with their looking."

No, Moses did not go into a controlling program, but he went into a destroying program. He said, "This that has attracted the eyes of the people; this that has gained their attention, must be utterly destroyed. It is an enemy to God, righteousness and holiness; therefore, it must be literally done away with!" He did not let them argue; but he made them drink, or swallow their wrong. He did not let the, supposed to be, educated ones of the number come up and say, "Now really Moses, we must take a different view of this thing. After all, you know this is not the days of our fathers. This is a new day and we are going into new places; we are having to deal with people of different views. We are going to have to live with some things, and accept some things, so you had just as well face up to this fact. We just can't be as rigid as once we were." No, Moses did not let them argue at all; but he made them swallow their wrong. He not only did away with the thing that had attracted their attention; but he made them face up to the fact they had done wrong to try to have it. They had to admit, I AM WRONG.

How we need some men, that have been on the mount with God, to get angry over the COMPROMISE, WORLDLINESS and INDIFFERENCE being shown in the holiness movement today. How desperately we need some men that have been up on the mount with God; until their hearts are warm, their eyes open, and they have a burning desire to glorify Him, that they would look around about and see the compromise that is so prevalent today. We need men that will see the worldliness that is nullifying the testimony of the holiness movement, and the gross indifference that is being shown.

Men are so absorbed in the material pursuit; and so cumbered with the "Cares of life," until they are doing so little to help God win a poor lost world. Men are not going to be lost.; they are already lost; they will soon be damned! How we need some men who are not trying to climb the ecclesiastical ladder, nor trying to see how much authority they can gain, or . how much finance they can raise; but men that would lift high, the blood-stained banner of true holiness.

Third, HE WAS MOTIVATED TO RESTORE THINGS: We read, "He saith unto the man, stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out; and his hand was restored whole as the other." Jesus had to go over the protest of religious leaders, prevalent religious doctrines and activities, in order to restore the lame arm as it needed to be restored. if anyone today will do what really needs to be done, he will not be able to do it in step with the crowd. He will be ridiculed and reproached; for he, too, will have to go against religious leaders, religious teachings and religious activities. This is the price that must be paid to restore things as they need to be restored. Could this be the reason, why no group has ever turned back, once they began to drift? Could it be that leaders are not willing to pay the price, that would have to be paid, in order to restore things as they need to be restored?

The two arms of the man could well stand for "Profession" and "Standards." The two arms are very representative. They could stand for his profession, (testimony of grace) and for his standards (conduct of living). The arm of standards had withered, and needed to be restored. How badly we need to make our standards as whole as our other arm of profession. if our standards are not on an equal with our profession, it won't be long until our profession will have no meaning, whatsoever. If we would really get angry, we would not only ask, but demand, the old paths. We read in Jeremiah 6:16, "Thus saith the Lord, stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." How we need to demand those old paths that took us to victory, where the fire fell the glory rolled, and conviction gripped hearts; when. men broke clean with sin, homes were rearranged, restitutions were made, and men went out to live totally new lives. The world would look on and say, "We don't understand it, but we do know that something definite has happened.

The real need of anger is among the older ones of the holiness movement; among us that have a little gray around the temple, have known "BETTER DAYS; have seen BETTER THINGS; and have heard BETTER SOUNDS" The younger ones are a product of what they were made by our partial messages, cold services and, supposed to be, religious training of colleges and seminaries. They can't turn back to something they have never known. My heart goes out in sympathy to the younger generation of the holiness movement today. Although I don't know everything, and I have not been every place; still, I have had a pretty fair chance to observe the situation. I have traveled a half of a million miles as an evangelist. This travel has taken me from coast to coast, both ways. I have lived at one of our colleges for seven years; all five of my children have gone through a church college; and one of my sons is teaching in a church college, My observations have made me want to apologize to the younger generation of the holiness movement. In a camp meeting, in Ohio one day, the Lord seemed to say to me, "The younger generation are not the compromisers, but those that have known a better day." The average young person today was just about "Still Born" in church without any fire, or glory. Then they were sent off to, supposed to be, religious colleges where natural enthusiasm was taken away; they were

taught not preach on things but in generalities. They were taught to say many things but none of them very definitely.

When they came out of school, the majority were twisted in their doctrines, and were married to a liability. They would usually marry, during their stay at college, some little, worldly girl that would refute the very standards of holiness; Therefore, their hands are tied. They could never afford to preach on things, because their wives could not stand such preaching. Is it any wonder, when they take a pastorate, that soon the general pattern of the church will be like the little, worldly pastor's wife? Does it not also follow that they will soon be careful to not call some radical evangelist that might preach on things? They become very selective in who they call for an evangelist. Still, even though they are poison to any real holiness movement; they are just a product of what we have made them.

Some of us that have known "BETTER DAYS," seen "BETTER THINGS," and heard "BETTER SOUNDS"; how desperately we need to demand the old paths. We need to try to salvage the few, of the younger generation, that will listen to our message. If we don't get angry soon, it will be too late!

Not only the arm of standards, but the arm of doctrine will also go lame. There are those who once championed the cause of holiness; but they failed to get alarmed when the arm of standards began to get lame; and today they refute the very doctrine of holiness. They once were just as orthodox, clear and concise in their presentation, of the doctrines of holiness, as any, supposed to be, holiness group is today. Yet, when their arm of standards began to go lame and worldliness began to creep in; they did not get alarmed. They did not look round about. They were so intoxicated with the desire to grow numerically, and having beautiful buildings, and prestige with the religious world; until they allowed the arm of standards to grow lame. For a short while, they bragged on the strength of the arm of doctrine. However, history has shown that it was not long until the arm of doctrine went lame also. DON'T YOU FEEL IT IS TIME TO GET ANGRY?

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05 -- THE DAYS OF NO REPENTANCE

Jer. 8:6, 16 "No man repented him of his wickedness, saying, what have I done"? v-6

One has said, "Life is a continual repetition." Poor fallen man seems to run in rebellious circles. His history has been a turning from God, and going farther and farther, until a spiritual awakening would bring him back. At different times, in history, men became so rebellious that they would not listen to God's efforts to bring them back. They refused to repent! These periods can be called "The Days Of No Repentance." When these days came, the judgment of God always followed. Some of these notable periods were the antediluvian world, Sodom and Gomorah, men in Jeremiah's day.

It is not hard to see that history has come to point again, today. With all the rebellion, lawlessness, and defiance of moral standards, it is easy to see that we are in a "Day Of No

Repentance." It would be most profitable if each person would observe three things about this "Day Of No Repentance."

First, **THE SPIRIT OF LAWLESSNESS PREVAILED:** Little wonder we read these words, "No man repented." There is so little true repentance today, until few people even know what repentance actually is. There are so few preachers that ever preach true repentance. Many of them will mention the term; but seemingly, neither they or the ones to whom they preach, have any real conception of what true repentance includes. Many of the, supposed to be, popular preachers of this day who use the term, repentance, are actually the leaders in the "No Repentance Crowd."

True repentance is threefold: it means a change of mind, change of attitude, and change of direction. I tried to bring this fact out in a sermon one night, in the university city of the state of Missouri. After the service a professor from the University came to me and said, "You were right in your presentation of repentance tonight; from the original Greek, the word, repentance, means a turning of the mind." Until the mind can actually be changed, about sin; there is no hope of ever becoming a real Christian. So many people, who have not gone to the gutter in their moral living, have been "talked through" and placed in leadership, until only a miracle will ever bring them to true repentance. They have such a fuzzy conception of sin. I can speak from experience, and say, they are harder to preach to than, out and out, prostitutes or alcoholics.

Repentance will bring a real shock of sin. The attitude toward sin will be altogether different. This light, flippant attitude toward sin is nearly an impregnable barrier. This "nothing is really wrong and nothing is really right" attitude is one of the very hardest things to try to preach against.

True repentance will bring a change of direction. Men that come to Christ in true repentance never go from Him "their way," they always go another way. This is the blight of, supposed to be, Christendom today. So many are urged to believe, but so few are demanded to repent.

In the day of Jeremiah there was no relish to be told the true way of God. The, supposed to be, wise had rejected the word of God. God said in verse nine, speaking of the wise men, "They have rejected the word of the Lord." Each person had just about become a law to himself. They were determined to not be governed, or directed, by the moral standards of God.

This spirit carried into the realm of the Clergy -- "From the prophets even unto the priests every one dealeth falsely." Whenever the ministry begins to let down, it won't be long until it can be said, "Like Priest like people." When the supposed to be, wise of any group begins to explain away the meaning of the word of God, it isn't long until there is no absolute authority among them. Then, each one turns to his own understanding. They make their own intellect the supreme court. When a moral issue comes up, they will not say the word of God says this; but they will usually say, "I don't see any harm in it." That statement usually means, "Shop is closed, there is no need for you to try to do business here, on the authority of God's word." If you finally get them to the place they can't give a satisfactory answer of their own, they will fall back on the statement of some false prophet or priest. Usually, this makes a barrier that truth will not penetrate.

Jeremiah was thrown into the role of being a radical, fanatic and legalist. No wonder, he dared to proclaim what God had said to the people, about the people, and what he would do to the people. What he was saying, was so different from what the false prophets and priests were saying. He was condemning things that the false prophets and priests were giving license to. He was pronouncing coming judgment; when the prophets were saying, Peace, peace.

Second, A SPIRIT OF SINFUL TOLERANCE PREVAILED: This spirit reached the point until the scriptures said, "No man repented him of his wickedness." Sin is a progressive, and a deadening thing. Step by step, it will take one to lower levels of degradation. Like the steady eating away of the rock, by the running water; so sin continues to take one lower and lower. It will deaden your sense of shame. This is true of an individual, group, or nation. Israel had committed abominations, extremely disgusting, and shamefully vile. And yet, they were not at all ashamed, nor could they blush. For we read in verse twelve, "Were they ashamed when they had committed abominations? Nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush."

The tolerance that is shown nationally, toward Immorality, Sex, Homosexuals, Legalized Gambling, Prostitution, etc., shows the nation has lost its ability to blush. Only fifty years ago all of these things were only mentioned in nearly a hushed voice. Now they are so common, and so universally accepted; until they are common subjects among us.

The tolerance that is shown in religious circles with worldly activities and pleasures, immodest attire and following worldly fashions, promiscuous petting, etc., prove that religious circles have lost their ability to blush. The most amazing thing today is not the fact that worldly activities, immodest attire and worldly fashions, and promiscuous petting among the young people are so prevalent in church circles; but there is no sense of shame toward these things. The only time you see any expression of embarrassment on the faces of, supposed to be, Christians is when some preacher will dare to declare these things are wrong. Then they seem to be embarrassed because such an ignorant person would be in their ranks.

Some that don't actually engage in these ungodly acts, have so much tolerance for those that do, until a, spiritual awakening can't come. They either have children, or friends, that they want to protect; until their spirit of tolerance will nullify the preaching of one that will dare to be faithful. So many will quickly tell you that they do not do certain things, and could not do them, but they just can't condemn those that do. Is there any wonder that we are not having a spiritual awakening, or deep conviction coming on the people? When the good people have such a spirit of sinful tolerance, of course, they can have no deep concern over sin. When there is no deep concern over sin on the Christian, there will be no deep conviction on the sinner.

Poor Jeremiah met this spirit in priests and laymen. As long as the ministry is a united voice against all forms of sin, there is hope of spiritual awakening. When this spirit of sinful tolerance gets into the ministry, the chance of awakening is gone. Those few that will dare to cry out are placed in such a small minority, until they appear as being radically different, taking a fanatical stand, following a legalistic course.

Third, A SPIRIT OF SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS PREVAILED: It is sad when people are wicked and know it; but it is so much worse when they are blind to their sins. Because the general

standard had fallen so low, the personal acts of the individual did not seem wrong to them. That is why they refused to repent and said, "What have I done"?

Today the moral foundation has crumbled; man has gone to such low extremes in his living, until the average person around a church feels no guilt for his personal actions. Usually he isn't living in the gutter; and he isn't going to the very extremes on many things. Therefore, he concludes that the little things he is doing, or failing to do, have no meaning in comparison with other things.

Of course this spiritual blindness had a cause; the corrupt religious teachers had made the word of God a falsehood. God makes a strong indictment against them in verse eight. Let's read it as it comes from the Amplified Old Testament: "How can ye say, we are wise, and we have the written law of the Lord (and are learned in its language and teachings)? Lo, the truth is, the lying pen of the scribes has made of the law a falsehood."

Jeremiah faced the same impossible situation that the few faithful messengers are facing today. People are lawless, tolerant with sin, and blind to spiritual truth. If he gave them the word of God, as it actually was, they had false scribes that had already explained, the word away; so they continued in their blind way. Can one wonder why Jeremiah wept so? His one desire was to help the people, to whom he was ministering. He was prevented from doing that, by those that should have been engaged in helping him, the prophets and priests. Therefore, those that should have been helpers were hinderers. Jeremiah was cast into the role of fighting his own crowd.

I have felt, so many times, that I could see an awakening, in many places, if I had an enclosed arena where people could be locked in long enough to hear the message long enough for the Holy Spirit to deepen conviction, so they could not run to some tolerant preacher, or get the writing of some tolerant writer; until they had to look right into God's mirror and see the magnitude of their sins, in the light of God's word, and truly repent.

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06 -- DESIRING TO RIDE WITHOUT PAYING THE FULL FARE -- Acts 5:1, 11

"Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, and kept back part of the price." v-1,
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Human nature has been, is, and will be, basically the same until Jesus comes. This is why civilizations, churches and individuals have run in a repetitious circle from the fall of Adam. Of course, each civilization, church and individual feels it is much smarter than those that went before. Still, history proves that they fell into the same old trap, and were no smarter than those that went before.

Every church, from the church of Acts until today, has lost its original identity and purity because too many desired to ride, without paying the full fare. I have heard the question asked, so many times, about those that were letting down the standards of holiness, "If they don't want to pay the price, why don't they go with some other group"? In the actions of Ananias and Sapphira, we

have the answer to this question. There were three things that stood out so noticeably about them, that each one should give careful heed to.

First, **THEY WANTED WHAT THE CHURCH COULD OFFER:** There is no doubt, from what they had seen and heard, Ananias and Sapphira were convinced the teaching of the apostles was correct. The miracles that had been performed, and the anointed ministry, had erased any doubt from their minds that the things they were teaching were correct. Being convinced, they could never feel satisfied with any other group. So many today are convinced that the Bible teaches the necessity of holiness; therefore, they would not feel safe in a group that did not advocate this theory.

The sad situation today, and it has been in the waning days of every spiritual awakening, is the fact that so many are clinging to the theory, while they deny the reality by their actions. Even though the scriptures condemn their actions; standards of the former generation condemn their actions; so many will soothe their conscience over the fact they still believe in the theory of holiness. They will say, "We may not look at things in the same way that some of our founding fathers did; but we still believe the very same doctrine." The judgment will reveal how many have been deceived and damned by this cover-up.

Second, **THEY WANTED THE EVALUATION OF THE PEOPLE:** This is a much stronger desire than the average person realizes. Most secular writers agree that the basic reason that young people give up their virtue, commit so many unnatural acts and go to so many extreme fashions, is because of this desire. They desire to be accepted, or to have the evaluation of the others, until they will go to nearly any extreme. Those that are supposed to know tell us that they may not really desire to do the things they do, but do them for the evaluation of the crowd.

This desire is manifested in religious areas more than most areas. If we could know the thought life, motives and desires of a person, as God can, we would be startled at how many of the supposed to be, religious services were done for this very motive. The evaluation of the people was so strong until Saul was more concerned about that than he was the disapproval of God. In the fifteenth chapter of First Samuel, we have the sad account of the failure of Saul. There we find that Saul was so drunk, with this desire, until it blinded his eyes to the truth. He met Samuel with a triumphant cry, "Blessed be thou of the Lord: I have performed the commandments of the Lord." A man under whisky, or dope, could not have been any more intoxicated than Saul was, with the evaluation of the people. What a rude awakening he had when Samuel was not impressed with his accomplishments, but confronted him with his disobedience. He tried to defend his actions, then he tried to blame them on others. However, Samuel would not allow him to refuse to face his guilt. Finally, he had to say, "I have sinned; for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice." You might think that his; desires for the evaluation of the people, would vanish after this honest confession. However, this was not the case. He urged Samuel to let him go worship the Lord. This would have put him before the people; and they would have felt that Saul had done the Lord a great service. Samuel did not want to be a party to this deception. He turned from Saul; but Saul took hold of him and tore his garment. Saul was then told that God had rent the kingdom from him, as he had rent the garment. Even this did not seem to be as important to Saul as what the people thought. So we read the sad words of

verse thirty, "Then he said, I have sinned: yet honor me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the Lord thy God."

It will be amazing, when God reveals things as they actually happened, to see how many leaders, preachers teachers and lay members compromised because they desired the evaluation of the people.

This is what makes backsliders continue to fill offices and give testimony. When one has given testimony to grace and functioned in some office, he is very reluctant to give up the esteem of the crowd. This will even keep some preachers preaching when they have been immoral. I ask the question my own self; and I have heard so many others ask, "How could he continue to preach when he knew he had committed adultery"? There may be many factors involved but, without doubt, the greatest would be the evaluation of the people. The dislike of "losing face" is not only true with the Orient; but it is definitely true in the spiritual realm. When a man has stood before a congregation as a spiritual advisor and drunk in their esteem for his office; he will not be quick to give this up. Even though he may know that he has sinned; he lives with the hope that they will never have to know.

There is no satisfactory explanation for Ananias and Sapphira, appearing at church at separate times, except to have two performances before the people. One might allow twenty or thirty minutes for those last few things, which most women feel they must do, in order to be ready. But even these needed things would not consume three hours. It is amazing how silent commentators can be on the very things you desire them to speak freely on. I have never seen an explanation for the three hours difference in the time of the appearing of Ananias and Sapphira. I am convinced it was this very deadly desire to have the evaluation of the people. No doubt they thought, "Ananias will have his chance to drink deeply of the peoples esteem when he lays the money at the apostles feet." Then Sapphira could have her long, sweet drink, when she came triumphantly in, three hours later.

Third, **THEY WANTED THESE THINGS AT THEIR OWN PRICE:** We must not forget that Ananias and Sapphira "Brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles feet." The very fact that they brought any, put them far ahead of the scribes and Pharisees, those of another religious persuasion, for they brought nothing. Is this not the reason that so many have been deceived in the holiness movement? The doctrine of holiness is so much ahead of Ritualism, Catholicism and Calvinism until, when one lives only part of his profession, it still puts him far ahead of these other groups. Then when he judges his actions by others, instead of the word of God, he feels secure.

When Peter confronted them with their hypocrisy, had God not seen fit to kill them then, they would have clung to their lie and merged right into the crowd. No doubt they would have begun an effort to get rid of Peter, the radical, if God had not struck them dead. The fate of all spiritual awakenings have been the fact that so many got in at their own price, until the ministry would not expose, or the exposers were crowded out. It takes lots of spiritual backbone, and devotion to God, for a preacher to withstand the majority of his crowd. It is too easy to say, "I will use wisdom." However, whether we call it wisdom or compromise, the results are identically the same. One can use, supposed to be wisdom so. long until the congregation will be made largely of

those that desire to ride at their own price. They will soon begin to make sure that they call only those men that will confirm them in their error, or have "itching ears."

Multitudes will ride with the church, through life, at their own price. However God, who is no respecter of person, has the final word for those that have a right to the tree of life. His price is recorded in His Book! It has been recorded there for many years. In spite of the, supposed to be, new interpretations that men may put on that price; that price has not gone up or down one bit. That price has five aspects to it; and they are all recorded in the Word of God. Those five aspects are these: Confess and forsake every sin, make every restitution, be sanctified wholly (not only separate, but to remain separate from the world), and gladly bear His reproach. Let's give each of these a little more consideration and scriptural backing.

CONFESSING AND FORSAKING EVERY SIN: We read in Proverbs 28:13, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." Too many fail to see that the forsaking is as much a demand as the confessing.

MAKE EVERY RESTITUTION: We will either make things right while the Holy Spirit will illuminate our minds; or we will have to face them at the end of the way. There are two definite types of restitutions to be made. One has a monetary factor involved; the other has feelings involved. We read the instructions for the restitution that has a monetary factor in Ezek. 33:15; the feelings in Matthew 5:23, 24. So many times the latter is the harder of the two to make.

BE SANCTIFIED WHOLLY: The word "wholly" in First Thessalonians 5:23, means completely, entirely.

NOT ONLY SEPARATE, BUT TO REMAIN SEPARATED FROM THE WORLD: Second Corinthians 5:17 tells us the need of separating. James 1:27 tells us the need of continuing to keep separated. Just as one can't coast from the altar into heaven, but must keep adding fuel to the fire; so one will not stay separated because of his initial separation. He must make this a daily pursuit.

GLADLY BEAR HIS REPROACH: This is the aspect of the price that so very few ever really pay. The Hebrew writer reminds us, in chapter thirteen and verse twelve, of the price that Christ paid for our sanctification. He made it plain that Christ did not only physically suffer for our sanctification; but He did that suffering in a place of shame, or reproach. When the Hebrew writer said, "Suffered without the gate," that spoke of real reproach. Every Israelite had been taught, in Deuteronomy 21:23, "For he that is hanged is accursed of God." So Jesus not only suffered for our ransom; but He did it in a place of shame. In the light of this fact; is it not reasonable for us to gladly carry out the admonition, "Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach"? Let us bear the reproach of Christ, as a color guard would bear the colors of this country.

In your heart does it kinda irk you to have to suffer reproach, or do you gladly bear it? **ARE YOU PAYING THE FULL FARE?**

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07 -- WHO WAS LOYAL?

"From the prophets even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely. For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace." Jeremiah 8:10, 11

It is strange how much easier one can see some things from a distance than they can on the scene. This is especially true in spiritual things. Now that years have passed and we can see all that has happened; it is easy to see who was actually loyal to Judah. We all know it was Jeremiah, and not the false prophets and priests, that was loyal to Judah. However, every one then thought Jeremiah was the disloyal one.

Would it not be good to take a good look and see just who is loyal to God and His church today? In this hour of turmoil and divisions of opinions; in this day when there are two decided camps in the church; would it not be a wise thing to see who is actually loyal?

I think that it would help for us to notice three things:

First, **THOSE THAT THE PEOPLE LISTENED TO WERE NOT SINCERE:** Notice what the Bible said, "From the prophet even unto the priest, every one dealeth falsely." Isn't it sad that every spiritual awakening has been defeated by insincere leaders? Uncle Bud. Robinson said, "The tree always dies from the top down." A tree never dies from the root. This is certainly true in the church. One can check church history from the dawn of time. Never has there been a group that failed unless it failed because of insincere leaders. Leaders that were not true to the faith, and the whole council of God. The Apostle Paul was lamenting about this. in the early church. He was warning the people that soon grievous wolves would come in and destroy the flock. There would be those that would not be sincere in their offices. Of course, the insincere leaders are always broadminded; and they lower the demand of the word of God in order that they might secure their position. They always become broadminded and they don't see that it is absolutely necessary to do certain things and they are not just as sure that you have to keep preaching things that once you did. They always have a tendency to lower the demands of the word of God. Listen to what God said to them:

"How can ye say, we are wise, and we have the written law of the Lord? Lo, the truth is, the lying pen of the scribes has made of the law a falsehood" (Jeremiah 8 :8-Amplified Old Testament) He said, deliberately, on purpose: "You know what God has said. You have, as scribes, written things that are false. You have written to the people; and by your propaganda through the literature they read, you keep injecting a false idea into their mind." Is this not the situation that so much of the holiness movement is faced with today? One of our greatest propaganda devices today is the different periodicals. The liberals have taken over; they have control of the editorship. They have control of what will be allowed to be printed and what will not be allowed to be printed. Therefore, everything that is being printed today has the liberal trend. They give license for this and license for that. They always dig back into the archives and bring out those statements, many of them out of context, of the leaders of the yesterday that seemingly are trying to refute standards that they held so tenaciously then. They take catch phrases and statements

and interpret them totally different from the meaning of the speaker. That is exactly what was happening in the days of Jeremiah. The scribes, willfully on purpose, were making a lie out of the law of God. They were deliberately writing falsehoods, and by these falsehoods they were deceiving the people.

Jeremiah called their sins by name as all sincere preachers have. Jeremiah did not hint or preach in generalities; but he called the sins of the people by name. Insincere leaders gave license for their actions, but God told Jeremiah to say: "Behold, ye trust in lying words that cannot profit. Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not; And come and stand before me in this house," God said, "Will you have the audacity to go out and commit the very sins that I have forbidden? Will you dare to commit those things that are wrong; yet come with a callused heart into my house, go through the form of worship and act as though you are religious? Do you have the unmitigated gall to do such a thing as that"? Now, of course, the reason they were doing these things was because of insincere leaders. Scribes had made a lie of the word of God; they had deliberately written lies until they had given license unto the people that justified them in their transgressions. People had become so callused until they could commit sins and then come and carry on in their religious practices. Today you listen to people sing in a holiness church that look more like the fallen woman than the women that Paul commanded in First Timothy 2:9, 10. You see people take leadership positions that have no markings of those that have had their moral desires purged by the cleansing baptism of the Holy Ghost. Preachers, who are being paid well by those worldly people, contend they have to use them because they can't afford to discriminate.

Listen to why Jeremiah failed! He said, "The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their name; and my people love to have it so." Jeremiah did not fail because of supposed to be outward circumstances, or outward opposition. Nor did he fail because the devil had arrayed his big guns from without. But Jeremiah failed because, from within, there was a moral decay. Leadership became false; they were not sincere. They were men servers getting a lucrative amount for their services. They were living it up and riding it down; and they were giving license to the people. And so, because leadership was not sincere, Jeremiah failed to turn the people.

Second, **THOSE THAT CLAIM TO BE WISE WERE ACTUALLY SPIRITUAL FOOLS:** Too many make the mistake of making scholasticism synonymous with spirituality. In this day in which we live when we are bowing at the altar of learning, when knowledge is seemingly increasing in the land we are turning out more college graduates than ever before; it seems that a man with a P.H.D. degree has more authority than the Word of God with the average individual. Too many people have made scholasticism synonymous with spirituality. In supposed to be holiness colleges, if a man has a P.H.D. degree, young people, who are very impressionable, feel he has to be deeply spiritual because he has such a high scholastical rating. However, this is not so, it has never been so; and it will never be so! Scholasticism and spirituality have never walked hand in hand. Always When men go on to higher degrees of education they begin to refute the word of God. They do not have child-like faith. They will not accept the word of God and let it stand just as it is written.

Seemingly, no group has ever learned this! We are in that deadly falsehood today. One of the most deadly things that we are facing today is men that are supposed to be religious and have gone on to higher education. Because of their degrees we seem to think that scholasticism is synonymous with spirituality. We listen to them as they slowly and methodically tear down the things that our founding fathers counted dear and precious to them. Listen to God tell the truth about them. He said, "How do you say we are wise and the law of God is with us? The wise men are ashamed -- they have rejected the word of the Lord." God said, How do you claim to be wise? Regardless of your degrees, regardless of your positions, you are a shame and disgrace. The truth of the matter is, you have rejected the word of God!

When Jeremiah dared to tell the people that the leaders were false the people thought he was a fanatic. They felt he was disloyal to Judah. When Jeremiah dared to call the sins of the people by name; when he dared to touch them in high offices and declare they were false, the people felt he was a fanatic. No doubt they said, "He is a radical, he is disloyal to Judah, how dare he even mention one of the leaders name? Doesn't he realize he is getting his living out of Judah"? They set at nought his warnings because they felt he was disloyal to Judah. How sad the people did not know that those that claimed to be wise were actually spiritual fools!

Third, **THOSE THINGS THEY PROMISED DID NOT HAPPEN:** Oh! listen to the lament that Jeremiah made, "They have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace." Man has always wanted things he desires at a lower price. That is why these, supposed to be, discount houses are selling such tremendous amounts today. Man always wants what he wants at a lower price. If you offer him what he wants at a lower price he will be inclined to take it. That is why most people go with the sinning religion group. The reason why the majority of supposed to be, Christendom subscribe to the theory that one must commit sin every day in thought and deed (they can commit their sins and yet are redeemed) is because that is a lower price. They think they can go where they want to go, do what they want to do, act like they want to act, look like they want to look; and yet they think they are going to make it into heaven.

Man's first regard is for his own self preservation. If he can escape hell and make it to heaven; then of course he wants it at the lowest price. Not only that, but that is why most, supposed to be, holiness people seek the no reproach preachers and teachers today. The reason why men that will dare to call sin by name and preach it gun barrel straight are not being called to the larger churches; and the reason why they are being pushed to the side in the holiness movement is because men and women want what they want at the lowest price. If they have to give mental assent that it is "Holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord," then they want holiness at the lowest price. They want men that are broadminded, men that will preach without any reproach, men that will preach in generalities. They will not call things by name nor make demands on their conduct. They want preachers that will justify them in their inconsistencies. They want things at the lowest price.

Jeremiah knew they weren't going to have peace. He knew that awful slaughter was coming. Jeremiah heard the lying promises of the leaders when they cried peace, peace; and yet he had it on the authority of Almighty God that there was not going to be any peace. He tried to share the burden of his soul with the people that should have listened, but they would not. He tried to

give them the message; for he said, "The carcasses of this people shall be meat for the fowls of the heaven, and for the beast of the earth." He said, There is not going to be any peace, but destruction is coming. The carcasses of the people are going to be piled in piles until the fowls of the air and the beasts of the field can come and eat.

Too bad that the people died, thinking that the lying prophets and priests were loyal and Jeremiah was disloyal. What a tragedy; the people were caught in their transgression and had to pay the awful price. They were slaughtered and their bodies piled in piles. But they died, thinking the lying prophets and priests were the loyal ones. They thought they had been their friends because they said peace, peace. They died thinking that Jeremiah was a radical, disloyal to Judah, and untrue. Oh, listen to Jeremiah! He said, "Oh, that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people." Jeremiah's heart was broken. People that he had ministered to, people he had tried to be faithful with, people he had warned and given the very message that God had given him, they had gone and run the red light and gone into destruction. They died thinking that the lying prophets and priests that had sent them to their destruction were the loyal ones, and that Jeremiah, the man that tried to be faithful with them, was disloyal to Judah.

Time will prove who is really loyal to the holiness movement today. The conflict is on and those that will dare to cry out are being pushed to the side. They are being called radicals, and against." With their tongues they are smiting them and pushing them aside. One of these days God is going to prove who was loyal to the holiness movement.

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08 -- SITTING ON A SPIRITUAL POWDER KEG

Jer. 8:10, 11 "... from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely. For they have healed the hurt of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace."

Normally, one would not be counted a glowing success when he could not change conditions, he could only weep over them. However, Jeremiah was a success although this was his situation.

If ever a man sat on a "Spiritual Powder Keg, he did. His actions have been recorded for all others that find they are on the same "Hot Seat."

Faithful men and women are placed in this position in the decline of every spiritual awakening. History has been a repetition. Every time there has been a decline, men and women that would dare to be true and keep their protest, have found they were seated on a "Spiritual Powder Keg." Therefore, each person that has actually known the Lord, tasted of the heavenly vision, and desires to make it into the city of God, should examine the situation of Jeremiah carefully and prayerfully. It would pay to notice three things very carefully.

First, **HELPERS HAD BECOME HINDERERS**: Notice the sad words of Jeremiah, "From the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely." We usually think of prophets and priests as being the greatest helpers in spiritual things. This is true when they are true. When they have a divine passion, when they have one concern and that is to exalt the name of Christ, and to forward the work of the kingdom. When they do not have a monetary interest, when they are not trying to climb up the ecclesiastical ladder, but they are true and sincere, what a great help they can be. However, all through the Bible and religious history every spiritual falling away has always been accompanied by false prophets and priests. Seemingly, after the first group of leaders, or maybe the second ones had passed on, the succeeding generation starts the decline. By the time the movement had grown and reached a little place of prestige, and had a little of the finance of the world; seemingly, they become so absorbed with material things, with such a burning desire to be recognized among other groups, until they did not have the passion and burden for purity that their founding fathers had. And so it has been from the dawn of time, that every spiritual awakening has been brought to its sad ruin because of false prophets and priests.

Carnal men have always wanted teachers with "Itching Ears." It has always been basic of the fallen nature of man to desire teachers with "Itching Ears." Teachers that would not condemn their transgressions: teachers that would give them a license for their base desires; teachers that would confirm them in their error. Men have always wanted teachers with "Itching Ears" so they would not protest when prophets and priests begin to deal falsely. You would think that men would riser up in holy protest when prophets and priests begin to deal falsely; but not so, it always satisfies the carnal hearts of people to have their sins condoned instead of condemned. Therefore, when the prophets and the priests begin to deal falsely it is always satisfactory to carnal hearts.

Always there have been a few, or at least one, that would try to be true. However, they could not turn the tide because of the false prophets and the carnal desires of the people. Always history has proven there were a few faithful ones. They have been pushed to the side, and many of them had to walk in the vale of obscurity. Still, they tried to be faithful and call the people back; but they were outnumbered and they were not successful. Jeremiah summed it up "The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so." He said, "It doesn't do much for me to tell the people that the prophets and the priests are false. They delight in the fact they are, because they love to hear the things they are hearing." Therefore, Jeremiah wept on!

Second, **HEALING WAS PARTIAL**: Jeremiah gave the sad report, "They have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly." Listen to the prophet Isaiah tell how great the hurt actually is -- "The whole head is sick, and the whole heart is faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrefying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment." If this was actually, physically true, men would demand everything needed to bring healing. However, because it is spiritual they are satisfied with being healed slightly. If it were physical they would demand that a specialist be summoned; they would demand that the best hospital facilities would be available; they would not be satisfied until all that medical science had to offer had been tried. However, because this is spiritual they are satisfied with being healed slightly. Men are, seemingly, more concerned about their physical body than they are about their spiritual condition. They demand a complete healing physically, when they will accept a slight healing spiritually.

Always, there have been a few people, or at least one, that would try to get the people to see that they were not healed. Always, there have been a few people that kept their eyes open, wide, spiritually speaking, and therefore, they were not satisfied with a partial healing. Neither were they satisfied to let the people go on in their deceived state. They would warn and tell the people that even though the physicians were saying, "You are healed", they were not really healed; they were only healed slightly. But they failed because people always had rather listen to lying prophets and priests. Always, those faithful few that would dare to be faithful, and try to warn the people of the deception, and try to make them see they were not fully healed, have failed in the decline of every spiritual awakening. They failed because people's carnal hearts delighted in the words of the lying prophets and priests. They would rather be told the deceptive things than to be told the truth. Therefore, Jeremiah wept on!

Third, HOPE WAS FALSE: promise of the false prophets and priests, "Saying, peace, peace, when there is no peace." It is hard to convince one of danger when he thinks he is safe. It is a hard thing to get a person excited, and get them on the alert that danger is about to sweep them away, when they feel they are safe and all is well. No doubt, this was the condition of the people in Noah's day. It was a strange message that Noah was preaching; that God was going to destroy the earth with a flood, that rain would descend on the earth, and that everything would be swept away. They had never seen the skies turn dark with a black cloud; they had never heard the mutter of thunder, or seen the lightning go flashing across the heavens. They had never seen a drop of rain fall. They did not know what rain actually was and therefore, they would not see that danger was actually near. They could look into the clear sky and it looked like all was safe. The skies did not seem to give any evidence of what Noah was preaching. Therefore, Noah could not convince the people of their danger. It is too hard for a faithful few, or only one, to convince the people of their danger when false prophets are chanting, "Peace, peace."

It is hard for a faithful few to turn a group back; when their leaders, those who are held in high esteem are chanting, "peace, peace." They'll say, "Well, we are just like we have always been. We are still holding to the same doctrine that we have always held to. We are not giving up any of the basic things; the things that really count we are holding to. Oh, we may have changed in some of our practices; in some of our procedures; and we may not preach on some things as once we did, or hold the same value for some things as once we did. But, after all, these things are trivial. The essential things we are holding fast. We are still all right, "peace, peace." Our doctrine has not been changed; our theory has not been altered. We are making it and will continue to make it." Oh, how hard it is to turn people back when the leaders are chanting, "peace, peace."

Jeremiah had the last word, however. He said, "The harvest is past." This broke his heart, to think that the people had turned down his faithful warnings, and had been deceived by the lying prophets and priests. Now the time of ingathering was past; the door of mercy was closed; and the judgment of the wrath of God was going to break upon the people. Jeremiah wept on!

Too many give in to the pressure, and lose their protest when they find they are sitting on a "Spiritual Powder Keg." When they find they are in the minority and are out of step with the group; when they find they are being called disloyal to leadership and people are making false statements about them, saying their attitude is wrong; too many people succumb to the temptation and give up

their protest. Many of them find that their children and friends have become so emerged into the group, until there is no hope of getting them out. Therefore, they give in to the false idea, "If I keep quiet maybe somehow they will make it anyway", and therefore, they lose their protest. Listen to the pressure that Jeremiah had to withstand, in order to keep his protest. "Then said they, come, and let us devise devices against Jeremiah; for the law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophets. ,Come, and let us smite him with the tongue, and let us not give heed to any of his words" (Jer. 18:18). Oh, they said, "Let us devise devices against this Jeremiah."

We are not going to let his words supersede the words of our leaders. We are going to keep the law with our priests, because they say our acts are all right; therefore, we are going to keep the law with them. We'll just smite him with the tongue." There is not a more deadly weapon in all the world than the tongue, in a, supposed to be, spiritual group. The best way in the world to kill the influence of one and make his efforts null, in a, supposed to be, religious group, is to just start smiting him with the tongue. Say, "He is a good fellow, he seems to be sincere, he has lived consistent but his spirit is bad and he has become soured." Or, you might say, "The things that he is preaching against are not nearly as bad as his attitude." These are the deadly blows that will render ineffective, the efforts of a conscientious, sincere individual that will dare to keep his protest and try to warn the people. This was exactly the situation that Jeremiah had to face. He did not turn the crowd; neither did he lose his protest! Therefore, God has recorded his actions in holy writ, to say to all men, "It is not demanded that you shall succeed in turning a, falling away group, back. But it is demanded that you shall be faithful. And when you find yourself sitting on a "Spiritual Powder Keg" don't give in to the pressure. Don't lose your faith, hope, protest, but be true and faithful. God will take note of your faithfulness. A good question for every heart would be, "How comfortable have you made your seat"?

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09 -- NOT FOR SALE

I Kings 21:1, 13 And Naboth said to Ahab, The Lord forbid it me, I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee." v-3

Some men are never known for what they possess, but are better known for what they are. This is true of Naboth of old. He is not remembered for what he had for sale, but because of what was "Not For Sale"! In spite of the trite statement, "Every man has his price," there are those that do not have a price.

The piece of land that Naboth owned was not so large. Had it not been located just where it was, it would have had no worth, or attraction to Ahab. For Ahab to offer to buy it and for Naboth to, so steadfastly, refuse to consider the proposition, seems strange on the surface. However, when one remembers the express command of God to not sell the land in Leviticus 25:23, then the whole transaction takes on greater significance.

Surely, Ahab and Jezebel represent the world and the devil. Ahab offered the material gain that the world has to offer; Jezebel told the lies and brought death as the devil is constantly doing. Thank God, both of these could not make Naboth sell, or disobey God.

There are three offers that Naboth had to refuse. In this day when so few are holding true to God's Word, each one should give careful notice to these three offers.

First, HE REFUSED THE FLATTERY OF THE WORLD: Naboth was not flattered by the interview with the king. So many people would have felt they were so highly honored for the king to try to have a business transaction with them.

The fickle nature of people is shown daily, but revealed in the extreme, in so many places. A few years ago a very popular worldly singer came to a large city in the Southwest. The teenagers were so anxious to have something that the singer had touched, until they looked with envy on the girl that got the face towel he had used. The girl's mother was an employee of the hotel, and thereby secured the towel the singer had used. This was held as a rare treasure by the other teen-agers. If such extreme fickleness was shown for a singer, think how much greater would have been the fickleness for a king.

Naboth was not bought by the invitation to the royal palace. No doubt the one that brought the news to him, that the king desired to see him on a matter, felt that a very high honor was being bestowed on Naboth. So many would have been so elated to say the king wanted to buy something that they had, until they would not have hesitated for a moment.

Principle, with Naboth, meant more than worldly honor. Worldly honor is temporary, at the very best. What a sad thing that so few people have the same set of values that Naboth had. So many today are selling out for the flattery of the world. Just to be like, and to be accepted by the crowd, is all the price that they demand. For this, they will sell God-given convictions, Bible standards, and the presence of God. For this, so many will sell virtue, morals, faithfulness. The price of flattery is so great, with so many.

Second, HE REFUSED THE PULL OF THINGS: Naboth would not be influenced by money. Because Ahab was the king, his actions proved he was so anxious to have his way, there is no doubt that Naboth could have set his own price. He could have gotten a price large enough to be well fixed for life. If his only thought, or even his main goal, was to take care of self; this was his chance in a lifetime. He could have fixed things so that when people asked, "Who is that, well-to-do, man that lives here?"; the answer would have been, "That is Mr. Naboth, the man that sold his vineyard to the king." And those that passed by and saw his lovely place, would no doubt have said, "He surely was a wise business man." Naboth could have done this, but he did not.

His principles, or convictions were worth more to him than "Things." He knew that God has said, "The land shall not be sold for ever; for the land is mine; for ye are strangers and sojourners with me." Even though he could have gone against God's command and profited financially, for the short duration of life, he would not. He made the choice to deny himself of temporary gains, and remain true to God's command.

Naboth is only one of a long list of men and women that refused to go against his God-given convictions for temporary gain. In that day when God reveals all things; he will reveal the long list Of those that refused to sell. There will be many that did not rise on their job, as they could have risen, because they would not sell. There will be many that did not receive the rightful promotions that were due them, because they would not sell. There will be many preachers that labored in the valley of obscurity; not because they were not far more qualified than those in high positions, but because they would not sell. More than once, I have been told that if I would stop preaching against women cutting their hair I would be called to different camps. Many other preachers have been confronted by the same situation. Thank God, as Naboth of old, they did not sell!

God will also have to reveal the longer list of those that did sell. They increased financially because they did sell, a little of their convictions here and a little there. They did acquire higher positions because they were willing to sell. Many a preacher rose higher up on the ecclesiastical ladder, because he was willing to sell. Some of them sold by claiming to use wisdom, which resulted identically with compromise. All too many of them sold by failing to correct, and preach against the worldliness of their own children.

Third, HE REFUSED TO BE SWAYED BY THE PRESSURE OF SATAN: Surely, the devil is the master of pressure. As we move nearer to the end, it seems that his pressure steadily mounts. Rightly has this been called the "Pressure Age."

Pressure always grows greater in the decline of a Holy Ghost movement. Those that will be true not only have the pressure of the world; but they also have the pressure from their own compromising brethren. In so many cases this is the strongest pressure that many are called to face. With Naboth, Satan came through Naboth's own compromising crowd. It was those of his own nation, his own group, that falsely accused him. This accusation was brought about by a mixture of the bad and, supposed to be, good. The men that accused him were sons of Belial. This meant they were base men, as the Amplified Old Testament states it. The elders were, supposed to be, leaders in material and spiritual things. They were supposed to be a help to the needy. However, the two joined together to destroy Naboth.

Naboth was not stoned for what he had done, even though they said he had blasphemed; he was stoned for what he refused to do. When God reveals things as they actually happened, not as people said they happened, He will show that this was true in the life of so many of the faithful ones. The opposition, rebuke, and criticism, that were brought against them, did not come from what they had actually done. Even though many that professed grace said that they did many things. God will show that they were persecuted, slandered, and pushed aside because of the things they would not do.

Naboth lost his vineyard and his life; but he gained the reward for his encouragement to the host that has followed him into becoming one of those that were "Not For Sale."

On the surface it seems that Naboth was completely wiped out. In all probability, Naboth's entire family was stoned when he was stoned. That was the custom of his day. That is why Ahab could take the vineyard without any protest from any of Naboth's heirs. However, Naboth was not

wiped out; his eternal rewards continue to increase with each new one that his faithfulness encourages, to be also faithful.

In that day when the books shall be opened, if I can look over the shoulder of the recording angel and read, Sins-forgiven, Nature-cleansed, Integrity -- "Not For Sale"; then I will need all of eternity to have long enough to shout over the good things that God has prepared for those that are true.

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10 -- BEYOND THE AREA OF DEBATE

Daniel 3:16, 18 "We are not careful to answer thee in this matter -- be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up." v-16a, 18

Many times we see only some spectacular phases of an event, and fail to see the most important thing of the event.

The most important thing of this event was not the overheating of the furnace, their walking, unaffected, amidst the flames, one like the Son of God walking with them, their coming out of the furnace without the smell of smoke on them; it was the fact they had it settled "Beyond The Area Of Debate." Had they not had it so settled, there would have been no need to heat the furnace; they could not have withstood the flames; one like the Son of God would not have walked amidst the flames with them; and certainly, they would not have been able to come out without the smell of smoke on their garments. They would have bowed down at the playing of the music, just as the others did.

Oh, how we all need to reach the same place the three Hebrew children had reached. If we would reach that place, it would save us from three things.

First, **WOULD SAVE FROM FRUSTRATION:** Rightly has this been called, "The Frustrated Generation." Even though we are rushing at the maddest pace that history has ever recorded; so few have any idea of what, Or where; they are madly rushing. At least most people can, rightly, claim to be a "wheel," if we take the new definition for a "wheel." The new definition is, "Blessed are they that do run. in circles, for they shall be called "wheels."

In the spiritual realm, this frustration seems to be even more pronounced. So few, actually, know where they are spiritually, what they actually do believe, and what they refuse to budge from. Personally, I have a few guide lines in my life. I am aware Of the fact that there is much room for growth in grace. All men have not had the same training and light. I want to be tolerant in these areas. I also know there is a level that is too low, for one to be in good grace. I call this the "Spiritual Minimum." When one goes below his point, regardless of who he is or the office he may hold; I do not look on him as a Christian. When the Bible makes it plain that something is wrong for one, knowing that God is no respecter of person, I know the same thing is wrong for all.

Therefore, when I find a person guilty Of this thing, I know they have gone below the Spiritual Minimum."

We have entirely too many "Spiritual Chameleons" today. Many are familiar with that little lizard that has the ability to change his color, so that he will merge into his surroundings. This was given to them by God so they could have a means of protection. Entirely too many change their color to fit any crowd they are in. Some of them have, seemingly, tried to take this to the same extreme, that I heard a little boy did. The boy's father was going away for a few days. Trying to compensate for the fact the boy could not go along with him, the father bought the little boy a chameleon. When the father returned from his trip, the little boy met him in tears. The father said, "Son, what did your chameleon do"? The boy answered, "I put him on a piece of dark cloth and he turned dark; then I put him on a piece of light cloth and he turned light." At this point the boy broke into, seemingly, uncontrollable weeping. The father said, "Son, why are you weeping so"? The little boy said, "I put my chameleon on a piece of plaid cloth to see what he would do; and he burst himself, trying to make good."

Sustained frustration can cause both mental and spiritual insanity. It has been proven, by controlled electric shocks, that a cat can be kept in constant frustration until he is driven into insanity. Sustained frustration, in the spiritual realm, will do deadly harm to any individual. I was holding a meeting in the Southwest: a young lady, whom I had known for years and whose father was a district leader, proved this to me at my altar. I had known her since she was a small girl; I had known her father over fifteen years. Most of that time he had been looked on as a rugged, radical, holiness preacher. The churches he pastored had a name of having high standards. I heard him, as he gave his report at a district assembly, say to the presiding General Superintendent: "Dr. I don't receive anyone into my church that has television, wears any kind of ring, or any woman that cuts her hair." Under this kind of preaching and instruction the girl held high standards. Sad to say, the father was elected to a place of leadership. When this happened, he began to see things differently. The daughter came to the altar, in my meeting, and prayed so earnestly. Finally, she looked up at me and asked, "Bro. Stafford, who can we believe"? That young lady is now married, and has refused the things she once held and believed. She has become bitter on those that hold to the kind of preaching that her father did for so many years. Again, I say that each one needs to get things settled beyond the area of debate.

Second, WOULD SAVE FROM VACILLATION Rightly, can this be called the "Unstable Generation." Every pastor knows the heartbreak of this, and the harm it brings to the church's progress. We can still get people to come to our altars, get them to even shed tears; but we cant get them to become settled in the Lord. So many are up and down, until they should have a kindred feeling to a Yo Yo. They are at the altar in the revival, at the district camp, and then, back to the altar, at the next revival.

So few have any conception of a "Rooted and Grounded" and "Established" experience. I have had pastors to tell me that they did not expect their people to hold steady; they expected them to backslide. I would hate to come to that frame of thinking!

Most of, supposed to be, Christendom teaches a "Sinning Religion," and most of the holiness movement practices it. Most of, supposed to be, Christendom contend that one cant help

but sin daily. They unashamedly tell you that they sin; and they won't hesitate to tell you that you sin also. We, in the holiness movement, just as vigorously contend that we don't have to sin. Still, so many that contend this have to come back to the altar, over and over. I have no desire, or intention, of trying to be just critical. But, oh, how I wish I could get people to see that one can't avoid vacillation, unless he gets beyond the area of debate!

I am firmly convinced that three things must happen, for an individual to get beyond the area of debate. He must get an experience he knows about; he must let God be true and every man be a liar. He must be true to his "Best Light," even if he is the only one that will. When these three things are true in a person's life, he has gone "Beyond The Area Of Debate."

We are not all of the same temperament; neither do we have the same emotional manifestations. We don't all have the same points of temptation; neither do we all have the same manifestation of carnality. Thanks be to God! He knows each one of us individually. He has an experience that will fit each of us, just like a glove. Unless we have such an experience, we will constantly vacillate.

I know from experience that you can't seek for another's experience with God. My mother prayed me out of the pit; she was my spiritual example, and I wanted her religion. I even made the mistake of seeking for a like emotional trait that she had. I am so thankful that God did not allow me to get such an emotion. Thank the Lord, He made me keep seeking until I had an experience that was exactly what I needed, to satisfy the cry of my heart. I can't tell anyone how they will feel, demonstrate, or think; but I can tell everyone that God has an experience that will fit them, just like a glove.

When one goes "Beyond The Area Of Debate," he must let God be true and every man be a liar. One might think that this would be easy to do; but it has proven to be the hardest thing for most people. When the Word of God says that something is wrong, how hard it is, for most people, to face up to the fact that everyone that does the thing is wrong. Especially is this true, if they happen to be relatives, friends, fellow members, preachers or leaders. It would be well for all to remember that just as sure as some relative, friend, fellow members, preacher or leader, can get one to doubt God's Word, the devil will see that that person comes around. It will grieve you when you see so many begin to do things that once they held to be wrong. However, if you have gone beyond the area of debate, regardless of who or how many does it, you will still let God be true.

Light is the most debatable field that any preacher can venture into. I am aware that there is a vast difference between light and the notions of men. I also know that light doesn't come flowing forth every time I open my mouth. When I have admitted all this, then I must, quickly, reiterate the need of one walking in his "Best Light," if he is going to reach the "Area Beyond Debate." Regardless of how good my life might look, in the eyes of others, if I am walking below my best light I am walking in rebellion. Once I start to rebel, I can rest assured that I will continue to rebel, more and more. Soon, I will be in spiritual darkness.

I held a meeting in the central part of the United States; the church happened to be the largest church on the entire district. One Sunday morning there was a lady at the altar that I had known for years. I knew her father, who happened to be a wonderful pastor that I had held a.

meeting for. Others worked with her; but seemingly, they could not help. I slipped down before her, and told her what I believe with all my heart. I called her by name and said, "You can't live like the majority of these people are living. You have had too much light, and you will have to live up to every bit of it if you make it in." Actually, she was living as good as, and I really think better than, the average, but not up to her best light.

Your actions, habits, attire, associates, and places of attendance can not be determined by the crowd; they must be determined by your best light.

Third, WOULD SAVE FROM HUMILIATION: it is humiliating to be a failure; it is more humiliating to be a repeated failure; it will be most humiliating to be an eternal failure. The Bible speaks about those that go to hell, gnashing their teeth.. This is an extreme example of remorse. The physical agony, plus the tormenting memory of being a spiritual failure, will be enough to make one gnash his teeth.

The Hebrew writer urged each one on to holiness, so we would not "fail of the grace of God." Holiness is the life that is lived, after one has been sanctified. It makes no difference how soundly converted a person may have been, just as sure as he does not go on to holiness, he will fail. Unless the old carnal nature is actually purged out, at an unguarded moment, the old root of bitterness will spring up. When this happens many are defiled, as the Hebrew writer said they would be. Those over whom the individual has influence, such as relatives, neighbors or friends, will be disillusioned. The individual is humiliated because of his failure. This is the reason why every church nearly, has those who need to go to the altar; but refuse, because they are embarrassed over their failure.

Listen to the words of Nebuchadnezzar, after the three Hebrew boys came out of the furnace -- ("Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. -- that trusted in him -- AND YIELDED THEIR BODIES, that they might not serve or worship any god, except their own God" Daniel 3:38). The Hebrew boys had done just what the Apostle Paul urges every person, who has been truly born again, to do. He urged, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice unto God, which is your reasonable service." (Romans 12:1).

Each failure makes it harder to try again. when the Spirit calls. I have seen so many stand and struggle with the Spirit's call. I have had so many to ask me, "How can they stand back" or "Why do they stand back"? So many times the answer was because they were humiliated. They had been up and down, so many times, until they were ashamed to try it again.

So many fail to go to the "Area Beyond Debate"; because of this failure they are humiliated, over and over, until finally, they commit spiritual suicide. So many of these, who have committed spiritual suicide, attend our services regularly. I am convinced that there are three reasons why they have done this. They either cease to seek, decide they can't pay the price; or they decide to risk their present state.

So many have been to the altar repeatedly, but without victory; until they have become humiliated to go again.

Others who are clean in their moral living, but are aware they have never been genuinely sanctified, have decided to risk their present state.

Still others, after so many humiliating failures, have become convinced they just can not pay the price. They have decided to try to live clean, and remain in the group, but not try to obtain the needed blessing.

Any evangelist, who travels over the country, is aware of how many people are in this humiliated condition. How wonderful it would be if each of those humiliated people knew there was a secret of success.

Each one of them could have good victory; their life could be an example of God's grace, if they would only go "Beyond The Area Of Debate."

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THE END