

Why Be Holy?

Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

Hebrews 12: 14

“We must be holy, because this is the only sound evidence that we have a saving faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. The Twelfth Article of our Church says truly, that ‘Although good works cannot put away our sins, and endure the severity of God’s judgment, yet are they pleasing and acceptable to God in Christ, and do spring out necessarily of a true and lively faith; insomuch that by them a lively faith may be as evidently known as a tree discerned by its fruit.”

Bishop J. C. Ryle Holiness pg. 56 Banner of Truth

J. C. Ryle released his book "Holiness" in 1887. The way of personal holiness has largely been overlooked in contemporary discussions and society. The concepts of virtuous living and purity are seldom addressed today. Nevertheless, holiness remains pertinent as we live in an increasingly fallen world. The aforementioned verse from Hebrews indicates that it is impossible to worship God appropriately without holiness. 1 Peter 1:16 states, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” As God embodies holiness, He cannot permit anything unholy to enter Heaven.

The Scriptures declare in Romans 3:23, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Since all individuals have sinned, we are inherently unholy and possess imperfect souls as a result of sin. However, God has provided a singular path for sinners to be recognised as holy and liberated from the condemnation of Hell. The Lord Jesus Christ sacrificed Himself for sinners on the cross (John 14:6), bearing the consequences of sin. If you feel convicted of sin today, turn to the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation. Seek God’s guidance in discovering the path of salvation and holiness. May the God of grace draw you unto Himself.

By Nathan A. Hughes