

Radical Holiness

Pastor Sharon Tidd 2020-04-15

In Colossians 1:27 the Apostle Paul speaks of a mystery: “Christ in you, the hope of glory”. In his book, Helps to Holiness, Brengle identifies “Christ in you” as the holiness that will reach people. What do you think Paul is speaking of in using this phrase? What is “Christ in you”? Is it, as Brengle asserts, a holiness that reaches out and draws people in? How might this phrase, “Christ in you”, help you to understand holiness and your pursuit of it?

Read and reflect on Isaiah 53. What portrait of Christ is offered here? What are the primary attributes/characteristics of the Christ described here? In what ways does this picture help to define true holiness for you today? How is this Christ to be evident in you?

Brengle insists that it is not possible to make Christ or His holiness popular. Would you agree or disagree? Why? Does Isaiah 53 support this assertion? If so, how? What about John 3:19-21; Matthew 10:22 and John 15:18-25?

In his book, Helps to Holiness, Brengle says, “Christ in you is not a gorgeously robed aristocrat, arrayed in purple and fine linen and gold and pearls, but a lowly, peasant carpenter – a calloused, truth-telling, servant of servants, seeking always the lowest seat in the synagogue and at feasts, condescending to wash the feet of others” (p. 130). Based on your understanding of the Biblical stories about Jesus and His ministry, does this statement ring true for you? Why? Why not?

Read and reflect on John 13:1-17. What are the primary attributes/characteristics of Christ demonstrated here? In what ways does this picture describe true holiness for you today? Why? How is this Christ to be evident in you?

Read and reflect on Philippians 2:1-18. What does this passage teach about Christ? What does it have to say about your personal pursuit of practical holiness? According to this passage, how did Christ live out practical holiness? How does this inspire you?

Following Jesus and pursuing holiness will not make you popular; in fact, the opposite is much more likely. Following Christ and pursuing holiness comes at great cost, humanly speaking. Read and reflect on Matthew 10:32-39 and Luke 9:23-25. What do these passages say about the cost of discipleship? To what degree are you willing to accept these costs? If you sense any resistance in you, what might be at its root? What should you do about it?

Read and reflect on Luke 14:25-35. What do these parables add to your understanding of the importance of counting the cost of discipleship/holiness? What is at risk if the cost is not counted? Have you counted the cost?

“Christ in you, the hope of glory” is a costly life, but one filled with promise and purpose. What costs have you experienced as you’ve followed Jesus on the path of holiness? What blessings have you experienced? Have the blessings outweighed the costs?

Is true discipleship possible without a sincere pursuit of holiness? How has this series of studies helped you understand the importance of God’s call to holiness? Are you eagerly pursuing a “Christ in you” holy life? In what ways/areas is holiness a struggle for you? How can God’s Spirit help you in that struggle?