Devotion #241

**Sin is a Big Deal to God**

**Hebrews 12:14 (NASB)** *“Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.*”

The Lord wants His people to live at peace with everyone. He said that clearly in His sermon from the hillside as he taught His disciples. **Matthew 5:9 (NASB)** *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”* This is a wonderful trait or, should I say, spiritual virtue. But too often people misunderstand what the Lord is teaching. There are those who are peacekeepers and those who are peacemakers. A peacekeeper is someone who does just that. They keep the peace. But that is far different from someone who is a peacemaker. A peacemaker is someone who is willing to speak the truth in love. Meaning, they say what God wants people to hear, not just what the people want to hear. So, it is true, the Lord does want us to be at peace with all men, that’s what His Word says, but peace with all people does not mean holding back the truth or giving people the idea it is ok to live how they want when they say they belong to the Lord. The Lord made that clear in the second part of our verse for today. Notice the Lord adds “*and the sanctification*” because without that sanctification not one soul will see the Lord.

Sanctification means consecration or to be pure or holy. Holy means without sin, without flaw, perfect purity. You may ask, who can do that? Who can live that way? The answer is no one. Only God is Holy. So let’s put the verse together again with these understandings. The Lord is saying that if anyone wants to see Him or be with Him in eternity, they must be sanctified, set apart, made pure, holy, consecrated to Him, which is something only Jesus can do. That’s why He came. He came to pay the debt of our sins that keep us from being holy. Without His sacrifice, we are lost and will never see God. He, the perfect Lamb of God, came to be holy for us.

Because of His great mercy to save us, we are to live our lives running from sin. (1 Thessalonians 4:7) Because of Christ’s sacrifice we are holy, not because of us, but because we have put our hope in what Jesus did for us. But that doesn’t mean we can live any way we want and just assume it is ok with Him. Sin was a big deal to God and it still is a big deal to Him. Meaning, if we don’t fully turn our lives over to Him, we cannot be sanctified. We cannot be purified of the sin that lives in us. (Romans 3:23) And if that is not forgiven by God, we will not see Him.

Many, many people have excused their sin as if God is ok with it. He is not! Remember, Jesus came to save us, but save us from what? He came to save us from the debt of sin that we all have that violates God’s holiness. He came to rescue all who sin, but He will not allow anyone to mock His grace and mercy either. He will not overlook someone’s sin because they think since God is a god of love that it doesn’t matter how they live. He will judge all unrighteousness, no matter what a person professes.

Beloved, God gave up the life of His Son so that you and I could be free. How then can we say it’s ok to live in sin and assume God will be ok with that? The Apostle Paul said it this way, **Romans 6:2 (NASB)** “*How shall we who died to sin still live in it*?”. Paul continues, **Romans 6:12-13 (NASB)** *“Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God*.” **Romans 6:15 (NASB)** “*What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be!*”

Don’t play with God’s grace. If you have put your hope in Christ for salvation, plus nothing, minus nothing, you can rest assured your soul is safe. But never assume you can live however you want and God will be ok with that. To hold to that belief proves that you are not born again. Sin is a big deal to God. Never think for a moment that it is not. Many who think they are on their way to heaven, will horrifically find they are in hell because they didn’t believe the truth. (Matthew 7:21-22) Confess your sin daily and keep it from gaining any ground in your life. (James 5:16)