

Apply The Word

www.crosswaypa.org



Message Info

Title:

Serving With Honor

Speaker:

Peter Privitera

Date:

November 19, 2023

Scriptures:

2 Timothy 2:14-20

Theme: Cleanse yourself to serve with honor in the Lord's house.

Introduction: In Psalm 51, David prays after his sin with Bathsheba that the Lord would purge him with hyssop. He was pointing to a Jewish atonement ritual, but even moreso, he was pointing to Christ as our atoning sacrifice. When we trust in Christ, we are justified, and part of that is a cleansing in the forgiveness of our sins. The Christian life begins with forgiveness and cleansing, and continues through progressive sanctification in our growing holiness, a process in which we participate.

Paul teaches us 3 aspects of cleansing ourselves in sanctification:

1. Consider the calling to cleanse (20-21)

Paul gives Timothy (and us) the picture of a great house, in which some vessels are set apart for honorable use, while others are common and dishonorable. He uses that imagery to call us to pursue holiness so that we will be set apart for honorable use. We don't sanctify ourselves, but the Spirit transforms us and makes us more useful.

2. Cleansing: fleeing and pursuing (22)

We've been called to cleanse ourselves, and Paul makes the implications clear by linking it with the word "So" (v. 22). Cleansing looks like 2 strong motion words: "flee" and "pursue."

In the first (flee), he only lists youthful passions. He doesn't develop that idea further, so it should be self-explanatory.

He gives 4 categories of what we should pursue: righteousness, faith, love, and peace. As we grow in these qualities, we grow in maturity and in holiness.

We also need to remember that we are not alone in their pursuit. The Lord joins us to his church so that we can grow together.

3. Cleansing: quarrels and correction (23-26)

Paul also instructs Timothy and elders (and all Christians to some extent), to avoid foolish, ignorant controversies because they produce quarrels. That's true for all Christians, and especially for leaders.

Instead, they are to be kind, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, and to correct opponents with gentleness.

We must stand for the truth, but not quarrel with the foolish and ignorant.

Questions:

1. What is most motivating you right now?
2. Are you pursuing holiness?
3. How does the gospel work for your holiness?