THE PURSUIT OF HOLINESS
Message 3: EVERY EFFORT

Discussion Questions:
Why did/do we need salvation?

What is the effect of true salvation?

What is it to be “righteous”?

1) There is a righteousness we ____________________

Romans 3:21-26 (NIV)
21 But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22 This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. 25 God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished-- 26 he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)
21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2) There is a righteousness we ____________________

Hebrews 12:14 (ESV)
Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.
(NIV – “Make every effort ...”)

2 Peter 1:5-7 (ESV)
5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and
steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

True salvation brings with it a desire to be made holy.
— Jerry Bridges, The Pursuit of Holiness, p.33

How do we pursue?

1) Through the __________________
   a. The Spirit strengthens us with power in our “______________________________”
      Ephesians 3:16
   
     b. The Spirit is not only our power, but our ____________________________.
        He exposes __________ - John 16:7-11
        He illumines the ___________ - 1 Cor. 2:16
        He removes the ‘veil’ and spotlights __________________ - 2 Cor. 3:18

2) Through the __________________
   a. The Gospel encourages godliness out of a sense of ________________________.
      Romans 12:1
      Beware a “debtor’s ethic” ...
      Romans 11:35
   
     b. The Gospel tells us the __________________ about who we are.
        Romans 6:1-4, 8:1, 11, 16-17, 38-39, etc., etc.

3) Through the __________________ of God
   a. Faith is required for ____________________________.
      Romans 3:28
      “God’s promises fuel the engine of obedience”. – Kevin DeYoung
      Examples: The Sermon on the Mount, Hebrews 11:39-40, Romans 8:28-29
   
     b. Faith is required for ____________________________.
        Philippians 2:13

4) Through consistent ____________________.
   Examples:
   a. By the Spirit, we put to ________________ the works of the flesh. - Rom. 8:13
b. ________________the old self and ________________the new. – Eph. 4:22-24

c. Put to ________________what is earthly in us – Col. 3:5

d. ________________the good fight – 1 Tim. 6:12

e. ________________to enter the narrow gate – Luke 13:24

f. _______ the race; ________________the body – 1 Cor. 9:24-27

g. ________________on; ________________forward – Phil. 3:12-14

h. Toil and ________________with all His energy – Col. 1:29

i. Make ________________ ________________ – 2 Peter 1:5

j. ________________and ________________ – Rev. 2-3

Striving for Holiness
Adapted from The Pursuit of Holiness, chapter 3

1) Holiness is not necessary as a ________________of salvation (that would be salvation by works) but as a part of salvation that is ________________by faith in Christ.

2) God’s ________________demands holiness in the life of a Christian.

1 John 1:3,5

3) Holiness is required for _________________.

Psalm 15:1
Psalm 66:18

4) Holiness is required for _________________.

Hebrews 12:6
Psalm 32:3-4

5) Holiness is necessary for _________________.

2 Tim 2:21
Ephesians 4:30

6) Holiness is necessary for _________________.

2 Cor 5:17
1 John 3:3
Romans 8:15
Matthew 7:21-23
“Spiritual Altitude” Test from Pure Desire by Ted Roberts

Please rate yourself on a scale of 1 to 5 in the following areas:
1 = rarely; 2 = occasionally; 3 = sometimes; 4 = weekly; 5 = daily

1. I read the Bible and apply it to my life. 1 2 3 4 5
2. I pray and praise the Lord personally. 1 2 3 4 5
3. I confess my shortcomings and my sins. 1 2 3 4 5
4. I am accountable to a small group. 1 2 3 4 5
5. I put forth time and effort to serve the Lord. 1 2 3 4 5
6. I allow the Holy Spirit to flow through my life. 1 2 3 4 5

Total score: __________