

LOOKING UP!

By Matt Huddleston

On one of my trips to Japan, I read an article with a survey of Japanese and American parents. The survey revealed a lot about the two cultures and their distinct values.

One question asked, “What do you wish most for your children?” The leading response among Japanese parents was that they wanted their children to be successful. I see this reflected in their culture which places a high value on workplace success. The most frequent wish from American parents was happiness. Again, this reflects our societal aim for a “feel good” life style.

God’s greatest desire for his children is neither success or happiness, but instead that we be like Him, holy in all ways. Peter wrote, “As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.” Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear.” (1 Peter 1:14-17)

Leonard Ravenhill, a British minister once wrote, “The greatest miracle that God can do today is to take an unholy man out of an unholy world, and make that man holy and put him back into that unholy world and keep him holy in it.”

Look up to your Father. See his purity and holiness. Set your life in alignment with him. Our world fills us with false goals and dreams. When we look to our Father, we see our true identity, direction, and purpose. Be holy, because he is holy.

SERMON NOTES

Purity

June 13

You’ve been made _____

- ◇ The _____ is _____
- ◇ Purifies from _____

You are not _____

- ◇ If we claim to be without _____ we are _____
- ◇ Be _____ - Keep _____ on it

_____ **is not for those who never get _____, but for those who wish to be _____ again.**

- ◇ Instructing you not to _____
- ◇ If anybody does _____, we have an _____

Purity is _____ when the world sees our _____ for _____ in our lives.

- ◇ Jesus’ gift is for _____ and the _____
- ◇ We are _____

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PROV. 31:25-26

Next Week:

ISN'T SHE LOVELY

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PERSONAL STUDY

It is rewarding to invest time each day in God's Word.

Mo Psalm 42:5

Start your work week with personal reflection. Is your heart, soul, mind, and strength coming from personal ambition, or is your hope in the Lord?

Tu Psalm 103:1-2

Call on the Lord to lead and even bless your life. Give him the power to guide and direct you today. Calm your fears as you relinquish control by recounting all that He has done.

We Psalm 146:1-2

Take time to praise your Father. Sing a song of praise while you drive to work. Choose one attribute of God's character, and then at each meal, let that characteristic lead your thoughts of praise.

Th Psalm 103:21-22

Notice the passage of time today. Find God's presence in the sunrise, the sunset, the stars, your friends, a chance encounter, and the work He gives you. God is with you all day and even through the night.

Fr 1 Peter 5:8

We have focused our minds on God each day this week. Today, pay attention to the effects of the devil in your world. Where and when does he attack? Ask God to awaken you to your weak moments.

Sa Galatians 2:20

Let this verse be your mantra through the weekend. You have decided how you will live and why you want to live this way. Evil thoughts and desires have been crucified. Live today with Christ in you!

STUDY & DISCUSS

- Read Philippians 4:8. Most versions use the word pure, and some use authentic. What is Paul describing?
 - Paul uses this same word in several other letters to help indicate our character in various situations. How do these verses add to the meaning of pure?
 - 2 Cor. 7:11, 2 Cor. 11:2, 1 Tim. 5:22, Titus 2:5, James 3:17, 1 Pet. 3:2, 1 John 3:3
- We all have a drawer, desk, or counter that is our clutter spot. What is one place in your house that collects clutter?
- In your mind, what are some times or events where you allow filth to come in? When you are out with the girls? When you are alone? When you had too much to drink?
- Some suggest to effectively eliminate a bad action, replace it with a positive one. For example, when you want to use a bad/rude word, replace that thought with a specific verse, Psalm, or hymn. Each time you are tempted, trigger your mind to go the positive, godly route instead.
 - First, what is your positive verse, Psalm, or hymn?
 - Second, reflecting on the times or places where you know you have let filth into your mind, declare your positive action plan for eliminating that event from your life.
- Why do you believe God loves us where we are and desires for us to be continually changed?
 - Rom. 5:8—God's love while we are still sinners.
 - Rom. 6:1-4 & 18—God wants us totally free from sin.