

Getting Started

1. How often do you read the Bible? What keeps you from reading it?
2. Is it possible to be completely free of certain types of sin?
3. Which do you struggle with more: malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy or slander?
4. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's sermon did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

Digging Deeper

5. **Belgic Confession Article 24: The Righteousness of Faith**

We believe that this true faith, produced in us by the hearing of God's Word and by the work of the Holy Spirit, regenerates us and makes us new creatures, causing us to live a new life and freeing us from the slavery of sin. Therefore, far from making people cold toward living in a pious and holy way, this justifying faith, quite to the contrary, so works within them that apart from it they will never do a thing out of love for God but only out of love for themselves and fear of being condemned.

Is it possible to good without a selfish motive? Why or why not?

6. Read Acts 8:9-25. How does Acts 8:20 tie in to 1 Peter?
7. Was Peter thinking of Psalm 34 when he wrote this portion of the letter?
8. God calls his people to holiness frequently. In Leviticus there are four instances where God calls people to be holy because he is holy (11:44; 19:2; 20:7-8 and 20:26). Peter quotes one directly here. Why does God call his people to holiness?

Application

9. In order to be holy as God is holy we must immerse ourselves in God's word and anything else that will draw us closer to God (ex: worship, service, prayer). In what ways are you drawing closer to God so that you can live a holier life?

Bible Reading Questions

September 19 – Haggai – The book of Haggai is about rebuilding the temple, but it is also about something much more important. What is the secondary (and more important) meaning to the book of Haggai?

September 20 – Zechariah 1-4 – God uses objects and Zechariah asks God what they mean. What is God showing and telling Zechariah?

September 21 – Zechariah 5-9 – Who is the Branch that Zechariah is speaking of? Hint: Zechariah 9:9.

September 22 – Zechariah 10-14 – Chapter 11 is a message for Israel, but it also is a prophecy about what? See Matthew 26:15; 27:3-10.

September 23 – Esther 1-5 – In Esther 4:14 Mordecai questions whether Esther had become queen for such a time as this. Has God brought you to a place to have influence during an important time?

September 24 – Esther 6-10 – God is not mentioned once in the book of Esther. Why is this book in the Bible?

September 25 – Ezra 7-10 – The people come back from exile and continue to sin in the way that led them to exile in the first place. Why? When you sin against God and ask for forgiveness do you stop that sin, or do you keep on doing it?

Ross Community Reformed Church

Pastor Shawn Gerbers · September 18, 2016

Common Problems

“A Holy Calling”

Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

1 Peter 1:13-16

- **We are called to** _____.
- **Because we have been** _____ **for a** _____.
- **Live a holy life that does not** _____ **the** _____ **of this world, but the** _____ **ways of** _____.

Topics: Holiness, salvation, sanctification