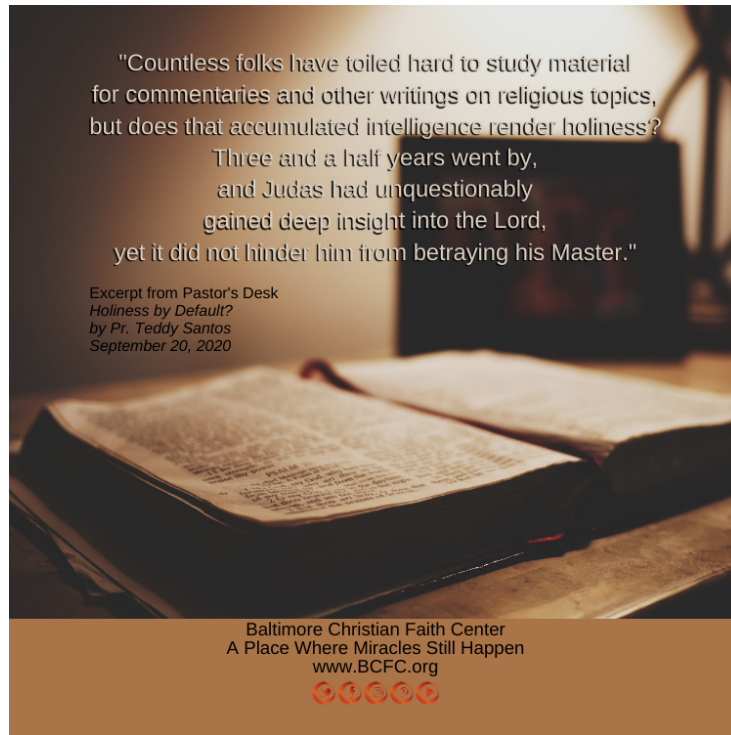


# Holiness by Default?

Pastor's Desk – September 20, 2020



**Hebrews 12:14** *“Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord”*

Of what does holiness consist of? Could it be the accumulation of religious knowledge? Countless folks have toiled hard to study material for commentaries and other writings on religious topics, but does that accumulated intelligence render holiness? Three and a half years went by, and Judas had unquestionably gained deep insight into the Lord, yet it did not hinder him from betraying his Master.

The Bible tells of many who had prolonged contact with truly godly people, yet never achieved holiness. Joab and David's association was almost lifelong, yet he remained a rascal to his dying day (**1Kings 2:5-6, 28-34**). For years, Gehazi assisted Elisha but wound up cursed because of greed (**2Kings 5:20-27**). The Apostle Paul states that Demas had deserted him because he loved the world (**2Timothy 4:10**). The rich young ruler, who seems to have been honest and upright in conduct, asked our Lord how to achieve eternal life; yet the refusal of His instruction demonstrates that he was not holy at that moment (**Matthew 19:16-22**).

Holiness involves one's mindset and conduct. **What advantage is a mindset without the behavior to give proof of it?** Each individual must work with God on acquiring it.

Someone seeking holiness will strive to avoid every sin known to them and keep every known commandment, whether required physically or in spirit. They will have an eager desire to perform God's will, coupled with an immense dread of offending God than offending the world. In **Romans 7:22**, Paul writes, "**I delight in the law of God according to the inward man.**" And David, likewise, says, "**Therefore all Your precepts concerning all things I consider to be right; I hate every false way**" (**Psalm 119:128**).

Why is this combination of attitude and action essential? Because the holy individual will be aiming to be like Christ. They will strive to have Christ's mind in them, as Paul advises in **Philippians 2:5**. They will intensely yearn to be conformed to His image (**Romans 8:29**). Hence, the holy individual will tolerate others and forgive them, even as Christ is the same way with us.

In sum, the individual striving to be holy will shape their life to walk in the footsteps of their Savior, as the apostle John teaches in **1 John 2:6**, "**He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.**" May we yearn to be just like Him!

At His service,  
Pr. Teddy Santos