



CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

WEEKLY UPDATE

Season of Epiphany

January 11, 2024

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 02

Rooted and Resilient: Re-ignited by the Spirit to Re-connect

Reconnecting for Holiness

Mr. Herman Wilson

What does it mean to be holy? Basically, to be holy means to be set apart for honourable use. For Christians, holiness is a possibility as well as a requirement, for without holiness no one can see the Lord. (cf. Hebrews 12:14)

Titus 3:3-5 states:

³ At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. ⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit...

The pursuit of holiness begins when we become believers in Christ. That is, when we are born again – made a new creation, the new humanity in Him. We become keenly aware of moral evil that dominates the human race, as well as supernatural evil influences in the heavenly realms.

A believer's source of strength in the continuing process of sanctification is the Holy Spirit, with whom we have been sealed for the day of redemption. We are mindful of the fact that we have been saved, we are being saved, and we shall be saved. No one can purport to be perfect in this present age, but we are called upon to aspire toward perfection as we focus on the age to come. As the new creation in Christ, we have been endowed with potential holiness, but there is a practical holiness that we must pursue until death. Embracing holiness is not a matter of being legalistic, but continual renewal of our minds through the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 12:1-2, Philippians 2:12b-13 and Colossians 3:1-4 are our typical guides. They read as follows:

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Rom. 12:1-2)

...continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfil his good purpose. (Philippians 2:12b-13)

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. (Colossians 3:1-4)

We are always under the watchful eyes of God, and this is borne out by the words of David in Psalm 139.

Divine Omnipresence

¹ You have searched me, LORD, and you know me.

² You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.

³ You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.

⁴ Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely.

⁵ You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.

⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain...

¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸ Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand, when I awake, I am still with you. (Psalm 139:1-6, 17-18)

Practical Holiness

The foundation of our actions and words is our thought life. Christians are aware that we exist in a spiritually hostile environment controlled by the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who will not seek the living God and those who are yet to know Him. Temptation is great and is subject to thoughts generated by the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life; but guided by the Holy Spirit through the written Word of God, believers can overcome. We are urged to take control of our thoughts. Proverbs 4:23 states:

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. (Proverbs 4:23)

Jesus Christ said:

"What comes out of a person is what defiles them. ²¹ For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, ²² adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. ²³ All these evils come from inside and defile a person." (Mark 7:20-23)

Additionally, the Apostle Paul in his epistle to the Philippians also provides guidance based on the great truths revealed in the Scriptures.

...brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. (Philippians 4:8)

God's ultimate desire is for God's people to be conformed to the likeness of God's Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. (cf. Romans 8:29). Embracing practical holiness is therefore tantamount to practicing the presence of God. This involves a consistent prayer life; that is, continual communication with God, and confession and repentance of sins, as well as studying the Word of God for guidance. The continual outcome is a manifestation of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

The Book of Leviticus details God's directing God's people Israel as to the absolute necessity of holiness for entry into His presence. God so loved the world that despite Israel's failure to be the exemplar of holiness to the nations, God sent Jesus Christ, into the world as per God's plan revealed in Genesis 3:15 to redeem us and to enable us to be conscious of God's infinite holiness and the significance of divine justice.

The Apostle Paul relates the following:

⁷Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed ⁹and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. (Romans 15:7-8)

¹¹ Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. (Hebrews 2:11)

Sexual immorality and other secular lifestyles that are not in keeping with God's will are broadly classified as impurity. The holy Scriptures in this regard do not give latitude for compromise. Although seldom implemented, we should nonetheless be mindful of the Lord's directive in Matthew 18:15-17 concerning sin within the Body of Christ. The attendant stigma and the challenges to the Church leadership can be much to bear. Additionally, intentional, continuous and unrepentant sin might be the subject of 1 John 5:16, one of the most difficult verses to be interpreted.

Despite our imperfections, for the sake of the gospel and personal integrity, Christians are called to be Salt and Light in the world. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus Christ said:

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to

everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:13-16)

In his epistle to the Ephesians, the Apostle Paul urged his readers as follows:

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (Ephesians 4:29-30)

The New Creation in Christ

Our continual focus should be on the new creation in Christ – the new self-created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Individually and corporately, Christians are the temple in which God lives by His Spirit - a spiritual reality that should be intentionally borne in mind.

Holiness is what God requires for our lives. By yielding to the power of the Holy Spirit, we are enabled to achieve God's will. It is because of God that we are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God. That is, our righteousness, holiness and our redemption. (cf. 1 Cor. 1:30)

The Apostle Peter urges us as follows:

¹⁴As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. ¹⁵ But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." (1 Peter 1:14-16)

Our conscience is given us by God for self-evaluation, for a witness, and to be a servant of our value system based on the Word of God. In the power of the Holy Spirit, let us aspire to maintain a clear conscience as we focus on our eternal destiny. To God be the glory. **Amen**



Other CIRMC News

On Sunday, January 7, 2024, during the morning worship service, members of the Savannah United Church (SUC) and the Elmslie Memorial United Church (EMU) witnessed the commissioning of new Elders and the recommissioning of re-elected Elders.



At the Savannah United Church, three new Elders were Commissioned, and three re-elected Elders were recommissioned by Rev. Euthman Wray, Minister of the Congregations.



At the Elmslie Memorial United Church, two new Elders were Commissioned, and two re-elected Elders were recommissioned by Rev. L. Christopher Mason, Minister of the Congregation. May God grant them and all our Elders in our Congregations far and wide guidance and wisdom in carrying out their duties, make them an example of faith and selfless service, and bless them in their posts.

“To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder... Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.” – 1 Peter 5:1-3

**CAYMAN ISLANDS
REGIONAL MISSION
COUNCIL WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

**PATIENCE
IN THE
MIDST OF
CHALLENGES**

Speaker **REV. DONOVAN MYERS**

\$35

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 2024
TIME: 8AM - 10AM
VENUE: MORRITT'S, EAST END**

Remember in your prayers

All those God has placed on your heart and those brought to your attention in some way. Please also include in your prayers especially

- The bereaved
- The sick and ill
- Those going through a challenging time
- Those before an important decision
- Those needing guidance, support, or encouragement
- Those who feel lost and hopeless,
- Those caught in the middle of armed conflicts, persecuted, mistreated, exploited, disenfranchised, or abused.



on Radio Cayman 89.9
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**January 14, 2024
Mr. Herman Wilson**

Published by the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands
292 Prospect Point Road
P.O. Box 1700 Grand Cayman KY1-1109 CAYMAN ISLANDS
Tel: 1 345 947-1963 Email: rdgs@cicucjci.com or
cirmcinfo@gmail.com
Website: www.unitedchurch.ky/