

Ole Miss FCA Weekly Devotional: 3/22/10

The Power and Passion of the Master Coach, Elliot Johnson



Thought of the Week:

God's Glory is Declared in His Name, Yahweh-M'Kaddesh, "The Lord, Who Makes Us Holy"

Verse of the Week:

Keep my decrees and follow them. I am the Lord, who makes you holy. Leviticus 20:8

In Cooperstown, New York is located baseball's Hall of Fame. Those players who have distinguished themselves by their outstanding play are set apart by their membership in this very exclusive club. It is a tremendous privilege for a ball player to be elected to the Hall of Fame by a panel of sports authorities.

The order in which God revealed Himself to His people suggests purpose and progression. After revealing Himself in Genesis as the God who provides salvation and in Exodus as the God who heals and becomes our banner, the Lord revealed Himself in Leviticus as the God who sanctifies, or "sets His people apart." Indeed, whenever God saves a man, He begins a process of setting him apart from this world by directing him in a changed life-style. The book of Leviticus describes how a redeemed people should walk in a way worthy of their high calling. Six times in Leviticus 20-21 God refers to Himself as Yahweh-M'Kaddesh, "the God who makes us holy." The idea is most closely explained by the words sanctify and hallow. To sanctify means "to set apart." Lincoln used the word hallow to describe what the soldiers of the Civil War did to the ground as their blood was spilled upon the soil of America. In a greater sense, God hallows or sets apart all who trust in the blood of His Son for their salvation.

Yahweh Himself is set apart by His goodness. Where man is sinful, God is sinless. Hannah praised God by declaring, "There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God" (1 Samuel 2:2). An old Scottish author writes:

It [holiness of God] is the balance . . . of all the attributes of Deity. Power without holiness would degenerate into cruelty; omniscience without holiness would become craft; justice without holiness would degenerate into revenge; and goodness without holiness would be passionate and intemperate fondness doing mischief rather than accomplishing good.

Store declares, "The holiness of God is the most important lesson about God in the Old Testament." Even the seraphim, creatures of immaculate purity, cover their faces when in the presence of a Holy God (Isaiah 6:2). The name of God is holy and awesome (Psalm 111:9). His eyes are too pure to ever look upon evil (Habakkuk 1:13).

It is against the holy glory of God that all men have sinned (Romans 3:23). But it is God's purpose in redemption to make us like Him holy in thought, word, attitude, and deed. We are to serve no other gods but Yahweh, for men become like the god they serve. As we were made holy in position, we are to become holy in practice (Ephesians 5:25-27).

How does He make us holy? By His Word! Jesus prayed on behalf of His disciples, "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth" (John 17:17). As we spend time in His Word, He transforms us, making us like Himself! Our bodies become a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to Him (Romans 12:1). It is He who sets us apart for His glory. Praise the name of Yahweh-M'Kaddesh.

Time Out:

- (1) What is the "banner" of America?
- (2) How would a close friend describe a "banner" over your life?
- (3) In what ways can you carry the "banner" of Christ:
 - In your workplace?
 - In your home?
 - With your friends?
 - In your community?