

## NEVER TAKE A FENCE DOWN UNTIL YOU KNOW WHY IT WAS PUT UP

TEXT: TEXT: (Proverbs 22:28, NIV)

<sup>28</sup> Do not move an ancient boundary stone set up by your ancestors.

## INTRODUCTION

1. "A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power" (Acts 19:19-20, NIV).
2. "Let us think about each other and help each other to show love and do good deeds. You should not stay away from the church meetings, as some are doing, but you should meet together and encourage each other. Do this even more as you see the day coming" (Hebrews 10:24-25, NCV).
3. "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works" (Hebrews 10:24, KJV).

## I. YOUR CHRISTIAN HOME

## A. Making an Altar in Your Home

1. "Then Noah built an altar to the LORD" (Genesis 8:20, NIV).
2. "The LORD appeared to Abram and said, 'To your offspring I will give this land.' So he built an altar there to the LORD" (Genesis 12:7, NIV).

## B. Study the Word

1. "What advantage, then, is there in being a Jew...Much in every way! First of all, the Jews have been entrusted with the very words of God" (Romans 3:1-2, NIV).
2. "I reach out for your commands, which I love, that I may meditate on your decrees" (Psalms 119:48, NIV).

## C. Prayer

1. "Give us this day our daily bread" (Matthew 6:11, KJV).
2. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:6, NIV).

## II. HOLINESS IS NOT AN OPTION

## A. We Are Commanded to Live Holy

1. "Be holy, because I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16, NIV).

## B. Holiness Is Necessary to See God

1. "You are to be holy to me because I, the LORD, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own" (Leviticus 20:26, NIV).
2. "Work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14, NLT).

## III. BOUNDARY MARKERS OF HOLINESS

1. "Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me" (Psalms 51:10, NLT).

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## A. A Clean Heart and Loyalty to God

1. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Romans 8:1, KJV)

## B. Inward Holiness Is Manifest Outwardly

1. "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies (outward) as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind (inward). Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will" (Romans 12:1-2, NIV).
2. "Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body (outward) and spirit (inward), perfecting holiness out of reverence for God" (II Corinthians 7:1, NIV).

## C. Examining the Boundary Markers

1. "Test yourselves to make sure you are solid in the faith. Don't drift along taking everything for granted. Give yourselves regular checkups. You need firsthand evidence, not mere hearsay, that Jesus Christ is in you" (II Corinthians 13:5, MSG).