

VESSELS OF HONOR

TEXT: (Proverbs 25:4-5, NIV)

⁴ Remove the dross from the silver, and a silversmith can produce a vessel; ⁵ remove wicked officials from the king's presence, and his throne will be established through righteousness.

INTRODUCTION

1. "In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use. Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work" (II Timothy 2:20-21, NIV).

I. VESSELS FOR HONOR ARE SANCTIFIED

1. "Remove the dross from the silver, and a silversmith can produce a vessel; remove wicked officials from the king's presence, and his throne will be established through righteousness" (Proverbs 25:4-5, NIV).

A. Sanctification is:

1. "It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister" (I Thessalonians 4:3-6, NIV).
2. "God wants you to live a pure life" (I Thessalonians 4:3, MSG).

B. God Is Calling All to Sanctification

1. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:1-2, KJV)
2. "For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy" (Hebrews 10:14, NIV).
3. "So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you" (Romans 12:1-2, MSG).
4. "May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through" (I Thessalonians 5:23, NIV).

C. Man's Part in the Process

1. "Don't become partners with those who reject God. How can you make a partnership out of right and wrong? That's not partnership; that's war. Is light best friends with dark? Does Christ go strolling with the Devil? Do trust and mistrust hold hands? Who would think of setting up pagan idols in God's holy Temple? But that is exactly what we are, each of us a temple in whom God lives. God himself put it this way: 'I'll live in them, move into them; I'll be their God and they'll be my people. So leave the corruption and compromise; leave it for good,' says God. 'Don't link up with those who will pollute you. I want you all for myself. I'll be a Father to you; you'll be sons and daughters to me.'

With promises like this to pull us on, dear friends, let's make a clean break with everything that defiles or distracts us, both within and without. Let's make our entire lives fit and holy temples for the worship of God" (II Corinthians 6:14-7:1, MSG).

2. "So roll up your sleeves, put your mind in gear, be totally ready to receive the gift that's coming when Jesus arrives. Don't lazily slip back into those old grooves of evil, doing just what you feel like doing. You didn't know any better then; you do now. As obedient children, let yourselves be pulled into a way of life shaped by God's life, a life energetic and blazing with holiness. God said, "I am holy; you be holy" (I Peter 1:13-16, MSG).

II. SANCTIFICATION SPEAKS OF LORDSHIP

1. "Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord" (Jude 1:4, NIV).

A. The Importance of the Lordship of Jesus

1. "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36, NIV).
2. "Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it'" (Matthew 16:25-26, NIV).
3. (Colossians 1:16)
4. (Luke 24:52)
5. (Revelation 3:7)
6. (II Thessalonians 1:7-9)
7. (Jude 14-15)

A. Jesus Is Lord

1. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am" (John 13:13, NIV).
2. "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" (Luke 6:46-49, NIV).

B. Lordship Signifies Being Slaves

1. "What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness" (Romans 6:15-18, NIV).

C. Our Lives Must Bear Witness of His Lordship

1. "Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you" (Romans 8:5-11, NIV).

III. VESSELS OF HONOR PREPARED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK

1. "Remove the dross from the silver, and a silversmith can produce a vessel; remove wicked officials from the king's presence, and his throne will be established through righteousness" (Proverbs 25:4-5, NIV).

A. The Salt of the Earth

1. "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" (Matthew 5:13, NIV).

B. The Light of the World

1. "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden" (Matthew 5:14, NIV).
2. "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ" (II Corinthians 4:6, NIV).

C. Epistles Read of Men

1. "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world" (James 1:27, NIV).

CONCLUSION

1. "Remove the dross from the silver, and a silversmith can produce a vessel; remove wicked officials from the king's presence, and his throne will be established through righteousness" (Proverbs 25:4-5, NIV).