

## **THE MOTIVATION TO BE MORAL (1 Peter 1:15-16)**

### **I. The nature of God.**

- A. The God we are seeking to serve is a holy God.
  - 1. Peter quoted Leviticus 11:44 in our text.
  - 2. The word holy has the idea of set apart, consecrated and pure.
  - 3. On at least two occasions, God is referenced as “holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty.”
- B. You and I are to be a certain kind of people, because we serve a certain type of God.
  - 1. We are called to be holy and separate, because the God we serve is holy and separate.
  - 2. We can be such because of the grace of God (Titus 2:11-14).
- C. When John wrote in the late 1<sup>st</sup> Century, he was writing to deal with the gnostic false teaching.
  - 1. One of their tenets was that the flesh was evil and the spirit was pure and the two couldn't be together so what one did in the flesh had nothing to do with one's spirit.
  - 2. Notice some of John's opening words (1 John 1:5-7).
- D. When we think of God being light, we should think of holiness, purity or righteousness.
  - 1. We can't live immoral lives and be holy.
  - 2. There is no fellowship with God when living immoral lives.
- E. When the temptation to sin comes around, as it often does for all of us, we need to be motivated by the nature of God to reject that temptation
- F. It would help to remember 1 John 2:28, which brings us to our next motivation to remain moral.

### **II. The second coming of Christ.**

- A. John says we need to live so as not to be ashamed when the Lord returns.
- B. The idea and hope of the Lord's return is tied to how we live our lives.
  - 1. We live a certain kind of life because we look forward to the Lord's return for us.
  - 2. 1 John 3:1-3.
  - 3. We become pure as Jesus is pure so we, when He returns, can see Him as He is.
  - 4. Notice what Peter said (2 Peter 3:10-11).
  - 5. Peter, like John, ties together how we live with the return of Jesus.
- C. Thus, the second coming of Christ is great motivation for morality.
- D. There is a longer passage that deals with this issue (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11).
  - 1. We should see a contrast in this passage between them and us.
  - 2. Darkness is the condition of the unconverted soul.

3. To be the son of something to the Hebrew mind was to be a full partaker in whatever the father had.
4. As sons of the day, we are full partakers of the nature of day, or holiness.

### **III. The fact that godliness is the best life.**

- A. By looking around us, we can see that most people reject this line of thought.
  1. The vast majority of our world is far from godly in its living.
  2. We, as a people in general, are seeking to please ourselves in any and every way possible.
- B. They do not understand what Paul wrote to Timothy (1 Timothy 4:7-8).
  1. Exercise is good in this life, but it doesn't help in the life to come like godliness does.
  2. Not only that, it is of great benefit in this life.
  3. There is absolutely no better life than the Christian life.
- C. Christian living, moral living, allows for peace and happiness in a world that is seeking those very things.
- D. When we live according to the biblical plan of morality, we have the things for which the world is looking (Romans 14:17).
- E. Not only that, just as the Bible teaches, the way of the transgressor is hard.
  1. God's word is not restrictive because God wants to handcuff us and keep us from fun.
  2. It is such because God wants to keep us from harm.
- F. Think of the problems of those we know who live immoral lives.
  1. Their homes are torn apart.
  2. Their bodies may be ravaged by disease.
  3. Their happiness in life is gone because they are always searching for the next best thing.
  4. They end up in jail because of their desire for something they can't have.
- G. Parents, we have to instill in our children the desire to chase after godliness if we want the very best for them.

### **IV. The wrath to come.**

- A. Fear is not a great motivating factor, but is a motivator.
- B. Paul told the Thessalonians...(1 Thessalonians 4:6).
- C. Roy Lanier, Sr., was a great gospel preacher and he was asked what some motives for morality were and he said "God's love and hell fire."
- D. None of us want to lose our souls for eternity.
  1. Numerous passages tell us of the fact that is what will happen if we live immoral lives.
  2. 1 Corinthians 6 and Galatians 5 tell us that we can't enter the

- kingdom of God while being immoral.
- E. There is a judgment coming and we need to use that as motivation to live morally.

**V. The cross of Christ.**

- A. Paul tells us that we are bought with a price (1 Corinthians 6:19).
- B. Hopefully, we understand that price that was paid was Jesus on the cross.
- C. No event in history or action by any person or event that is to come can be more motivating than remembering our Lord hanging on that cross for us.
  - 1. If we can look at the cross and not be moved from our immorality, it can't be done.
  - 2. Romans 5:8.
- D. Remember Titus 2:11?
  - 1. God's grace is embodied in Christ.
  - 2. His death was strictly because of God's grace towards us.
- E. If we can look at the cross and not be moved to lead moral, godly lives, there really is nothing else that can be done for us.
- F. As Paul said, "He loved me, and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

Source of this outline is not known.