



BECKY COMBEE MINISTRIES, INC.

Beauty of Holiness

BECKY COMBEE

After Mom and Dad went to be with the Lord, we dug up my mother's amaryllis and moved them to our house and to the homes of other relatives. I suppose these flowers were my mother's claim to fame. She and our daughter Suzanne watched over them very carefully. Year after year, they were far beyond beautiful. Mom's bright red variety really captured your eye.

When Wayne began his spring gardening, he moved over ninety of these amaryllis bulbs, replanting them as suggested for improved growth. Wow! They are presently in bloom and they are lovely. Of course, they remind me of parents and also of my grandmother. In the beginning, I am told that they were in her yard.

Their startling beauty reminds me of the words of the psalmist David, "O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness."¹ In the past, this verse always left me scratching my head in bewilderment. However, recently it dawned on me that sin was extremely ugly and unsightly. Now, I understand the words of the Spirit about the majesty and splendor of holiness.

In Isaiah 6:3 the seraphim worshiped our God crying, 'Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.' Oh, what a magnificent picture this paints in our heart. Think about it. The whole earth is full of God's glory. Yet,

in the presence of God, Isaiah declared "Woe is me! For I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips."² He knew the degradation of his own heart and the awful nature of sin that ruled in the hearts of all men. But, this is not the end of the story. In a moment of time, our great and glorious God heard Isaiah's agonizing cry and sent His seraphim to place a live coal on Isaiah's lips. They declared, "Thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged."³

Today, like Isaiah, when we embrace God's great plan of redemption, bowing in repentance

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before our crucified and resurrected Lord, we too hear the voice of God speak to us through His Word. Our spirit testifies that our sins have been blotted out and we are now children of God.⁴ What glorious news! Our life in God and in His kingdom has begun.

However, we must bear in mind that this new life is a life of holiness. The apostle Paul testifies that "God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness."⁵ He also declares, "This is the will of God, even your sanctification."⁶ Several New Testament writers simply explain sanctification

saying, "God wants you to be holy." Then, they particularly reference immorality as a breach of the holy nature of our God.

Yet, we know from our study of the Scripture that all sin is unholy and according to the psalmist, it is NOT beautiful. Therefore, as God's children,



bought with the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, we strive to PUT AWAY sin. In the past, Wayne and I have travelled in Moscow and other cold countries. Because we are native Floridians, we had to purchase appropriate clothing. But, when we returned home, we PUT AWAY the sweaters, jackets, coats, scarfs, gloves and other items. We do not need them in the Florida heat. Just as we PUT AWAY these items of clothing, we PUT AWAY SIN.

The Scripture gives us several lists of sins that must be PUT AWAY. We need to mention only a few, but sins such as anger, wrath, malice, bitterness, and hatred are included as well as theft, murder, drunkenness and adultery.⁷ This may seem overwhelming, especially when we are mad at someone, but there is good news. If we sin, God will forgive us.⁸ I like that! Yet, the desire of my heart is to live ABOVE SIN. In other words, I don't want to sin.

I am sure this is not possible by will power or bulldog tenacity. I will need supernatural assistance, a helper far greater than myself and according to the apostle Paul the Holy Spirit is that helper. With His help, we can mortify the deeds of the body.⁹ When sin is mortified, it is ineffective, inoperative and unsuccessful.

Can there be any better news? God, the Holy Spirit, is in us, and with His help, we can overcome sin. Oh, we will never reach perfection or live beyond sin. But by God's Word and His Spirit we

will draw closer and closer to the beauty of His holiness. We will stand in the light of His Word and over and over again, we will know His glory. In that glory, we are changed!¹⁰ Yes, I am certain! We will be changed!

¹Ps 96:9 ²Is 6:5 ³Is 6:7 ⁴Act 3:19; ⁵Ro 8:16 ⁶1Th 4:7 ⁷1Th 4:3 ⁸Gal 5:19-21; ⁹Eph 4:25-31; ¹⁰Col 3:5, 8-9 ¹¹Jn 1:9 ¹²Ro 8:13 ¹³2Co 3:18

The Devil in the Church

SUZANNE D. WILLIAMS

*Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write ... I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience ... **Nevertheless** I have somewhat against thee ... (Rev 2:1-4)*

I made the remark the other day that you can't stick your toe in the water and it not get wet. Nevertheless, like the church at Ephesus, that is what the modern day church is doing. Several times in recent days, I've read statements by church-going Christians that are anti-Scripture and pro-sin. But justifying the sin is not the way to win the soul of the sinner.

God, in this passage, did not refuse to forgive. Instead, He required repentance. (Rev 2:5) But as long as we cling to the sin, make the sin okay and acceptable, we haven't repented at all. Our job as the church is **NEVER to make excuse for the sin.**

The very fact we want to shy away from the word "sin" is further proof of the softening of our minds. The greatest victory the devil can have in the church is for its people to accept and promote sin. If we, the representatives of Christ, allow it into our midst, we, like the church at Ephesus, will have a price to pay.

But that is not God's best for us ... not individually, not in our homes, not in our churches. He would have us victorious and successful. However, to get there, we must walk the straight and narrow road because remember what it says? The wide way leads to destruction. (Mt 7:13-14)