

I. INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Titus 1:5-9**.
- B. This is the conclusion of my sermon series designed to help the men of our congregation grow spiritually. To help in this spiritual growth, I have talked about being:
 - 1. Above reproach, husband of one wife, temperate.
 - 2. Prudent, respectful, hospitable.
 - 3. Able to teach, not addicted to wine, not self-willed.
 - 4. Not quick-tempered, not pugnacious, uncontentious.
 - 5. Gentle, free from the love of money, manages household well.
 - 6. Not under reproach, loving what is good, just.
- C. This morning; 1) devout, 2) not a new convert, and 3) seven good resolutions.

I. THE MAN OF GOD IS... DEVOUT.

- A. **The man of God is to practice his holiness everyday** (Ti. 1:7-8).
For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled,
- B. The word *devout* like *just*, refers to practical holiness. The word in the Greek is *hosios* which means holy, free from sin or wickedness. For the man of God to be a devout person, he must have an **observable, practical holiness** about him.
- C. This practical holiness means being able to live in the world but not of the world. Jesus spent much of His time with dishonest tax-gatherers and sinners, but He did not become like them (Mt. 9:9-12; Heb. 7:16).
(Mt 9:9-12) And as Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man, called Matthew, sitting in the tax office; and He said to him, "Follow Me!" And he rose, and followed Him. And it happened that as He was reclining at the table in the house, behold many tax-gatherers and sinners came and were dining with Jesus and His disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to His disciples, "Why is your Teacher eating with the tax-gatherers and sinners?" But when He heard this, He said, "It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick."
(Heb 7:16) who has become such not on the basis of a law of physical requirement, but according to the power of an indestructible life.
- D. Paul wrote to the Corinthian brethren that they could not remove themselves from all the immoral people of the world, but that they should learn how to behave as a Xian in an immoral world (1Cor. 5:9-10).
I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters; for then you would have to go out of the world.
- E. It is possible to "be in this world" w/o "being a part of it." It is possible to be "set apart" for God without being "set aside" from those who do not know X.
- F. Paul's personal example of being devout is found in 1Th. 2:10.
You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers;
- G. The Xian's everyday walk is one that is to be done in holiness. Notice that Paul says we did not learn to walk after the manner of X in the same way as the world walks after the devil (Eph. 4:17-24).
This I say therefore, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality, for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in

accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

II. THE MAN OF GOD IS... NOT A NEW CONVERT.

- A. **The man of God is one who is growing and maturing spiritually** (1Tim. 3:6).
and not a new convert, lest he become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.
- B. The primary concern of this passage is that Xian leaders should not appoint men to serve as Elders who are new converts. The obvious implication is that no matter how zealous a man is or how sincere, no new Xian has sufficient experience to tackle the job of serving as an Elder in the church. An Elder must be a mature man of God.
- C. A broader application of this point is that one's chronological age is immaterial as compared with one's true level of maturity. A person can be a believer for many years and yet be immature and carnal. And in this state he is just as vulnerable to pride and its natural results as a new convert.
- D. Spiritual growth is something that must be attained and something that is seen by others, for the man of God to be truly what God wants.
 1. Grow in grace and knowledge (2Pet. 3:18).
but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.
 2. Mature to become teachers of the word (Heb. 5:12-6:4)
For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil. Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of instruction about washings, and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And this we shall do, if God permits. For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit,
 3. No longer children in the faith (Eph. 4:14-15).
As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ,
 4. Set your mind on spiritual things (Col. 3:1-5).
If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.

III. SEVEN PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS FOR SPIRITUAL HEALTH.

- A. The seven practical suggestions are:
 1. Honor JC through worship, prayer, and obedience to His word.
 2. Practice spiritual, moral, ethical, and sexual purity.
 3. Build strong marriages and families through love, protection, and Biblical values.
 4. Support the mission of the church by praying for church leaders and actively giving of your time and resources.
 5. Reach beyond all barriers and demonstrate the power of Biblical unity.
 6. Influence your world by being obedient to the greatest commandment and the great commission.
 7. Pursue relationships w/in the church, understanding that we need other brothers and sisters to help us remain faithful to Jesus.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. God needs faithful men to do His will.

- B. Even though not popular, the world needs men of these qualities to make our society a better place in which to live.
- C. To become a man of God, one must obey X.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.