

Take Time to Be Holy

I. Introduction

- A. As the hymn “Take Time to Be Holy” expresses, there is a great need to devote time and effort to those things God requires of us. Consider three of the specific practices God desires of us that deserve our time and attention.

Hymns for Worship, Song 118

II. Study of God’s Word

- A. The Holy Spirit through Peter commands Christians to “add” and “grow in” knowledge. **2 Peter 1:5; 3:18**
- B. Developing knowledge of God and His will comes through fervent study of His Word.
- C. We should have a great hunger and thirst for the spiritual nourishment God’s Word provides. **Matthew 5:6**
- D. Without diligent study of God’s Word, the Christian becomes spiritually stagnant and malnourished. **1 Peter 2:2**
- E. God has supplied the perfect seed that is able to build us up, but we must *enable* His Word to do this, having a great longing for the Word. **Acts 20:32**

III. Self-Examination

- A. Another practice God commands of us is *self-examination*. As we study God’s Word, we should do so in sincere reflection of how our lives measure up to this standard. **2 Corinthians 13:5**
- B. For instance, as we study the need for Christians to add virtue, knowledge, self-control, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love to our faith, each of these provides cause for self-examination. **2 Peter 1:5-7**
- C. The same can be said for the compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, longsuffering, forbearance, forgiveness, love, peacefulness, and thankfulness the Holy Spirit commanded the saints at Colosse to put on. **Colossians 3:12-15**

IV. Prayer

- A. A third duty to consider that is deserving of our time and effort is *prayer*. **1 Thessalonians 5:17**
- B. Jesus made frequent time for prayer, even praying all night long on at least one occasion. **Luke 6:12**
- C. The one who recognizes the value of prayer will have little trouble finding reasons to approach our Father in prayer on a frequent basis. While prayer is a *duty*, it is also a great *privilege* to be able to speak to our Almighty Creator. **Philippians 1:9-11; Colossians 1:9-11**

V. Conclusion

- A. May we highly value God’s Word, self-examination, and prayer, and be diligently devoted to each of these.