

SANCTIFICATION (PART 2)

THE PRIORITY OF HOLINESS

Two passages demonstrating that holiness is the priority of the Christian life:

ECCLESIASTES 12:13-14

Man's one duty in this life is God-fearing obedience! Seven characteristics of Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 demonstrate the truth of this claim.

- I. Location
 - A. Included after so many words
 - B. Included as the last word
- II. Finality
 - A. We've arrived at our destination
 - B. We've finished hearing instruction
- III. Order
 - A. Direct objects
 1. God
 2. Commandments
 - B. Imperatives
 1. Fear!
 2. Keep!
- IV. Simplicity
 - A. The straightforwardness of the passage is illustrative
 - B. The brevity of the passage is illustrative
- V. Singularity
 - A. Two commands
 1. Fear God!
 2. Keep his commandments!
 - B. Singular elements
 3. A singular pronoun
 4. An implied singular verb
- VI. Impartiality
 - A. Toward people
 - B. Toward deeds
 - C. Toward secrets
- VII. Logic
 - A. God-fearing obedience is to be prioritized because man is duty-bound
 - B. God-fearing obedience is to be prioritized because God is Judge

COLOSSIANS 1:28-29

A formula for properly proclaiming Christ includes three elements:

I. The right methods

- A. Warning with all wisdom
- B. Teaching with all wisdom

II. The right motivation

- A. The minister's accountability is in view (we...present)
- B. The possibility of loss is in view (subjunctive mood, "might")
- C. The goal of maturity is in view
- D. The realm of sanctification is in view (Christ himself)

III. The right means

- A. Relentless labor
- B. Submissive labor
 - 1. Christ is working
 - 2. Our work must be in keeping with Christ's work
- C. Dependent labor
 - 1. Christ is working in me
 - 2. Christ is working in power