

# Pursue Holiness

Sermon 48 in the Hebrews Series

## Hebrews 12:12-14

In Hebrews Chapters 1-10 are primarily doctrinal.  
Chapter 11 is illustrative.  
Chapters 12 & 13 are applicable.

In the Scriptures, doctrine and practice always go together.

### I. The Sporting Analogy v. 11b-13

#### A. Training -- v. 11b

The root of the word “trained” or “exercised” – is where we get our English word “gymnasium”.

God is in the business of “exercising” or training us.

#### B. The Weak Hands and Feeble Knees – v. 12 – Isaiah 35

The context Heb. 12: 22-24.

Zion in this context is the NT church established by the Lord Jesus Christ – and NOT the Old Covenant nation of Israel.

How easily we forget.

Put your eyes on Christ and don't look to the side!

#### C. Straight Paths – v. 13

Straight path in the Scriptures refer to doing God's will.

Crooked paths in Scripture refer to going the wrong way.

*Isa 59:8 “The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whoever goes therein shall not know peace.”*

## II. Pursue Peace v. 14a

A. Peace is unknown to the wicked. With everyone.

B. The extent of the command

**Rom 12:18** -- *If it be possible, as much as lies in you, live peaceably with all men.*”

Christ said, “Blessed are the peacemakers.”

The Hebrew writer said, “Follow peace. Persecute peace.

Prosecute peace. Pursue it with all your heart and soul.”

## III. Pursue Holiness v. 14b

The command to pursue peace is also the command to pursue holiness.

This is an absolute necessity for a Christian.

It is God who does the work in us – **Heb. 13:20-21**

It is God who controls the work in us – by His discipline, by His chastening and by His ordering and causing all the things in our lives that come to pass.

A Christian has been regenerated – and there is no such thing as regeneration without a change.

### **1 John 3:3**

Christians are pure.

They are clothed in the perfect righteousness of Christ.

Christians pursue holiness (purifies himself)

God has given us His new nature – and we want to live for Him.