ARE WE BLAMELESS?

Are we measuring up to God's standard of conduct? Are our lives a fine example to others? Are we living proofs that God's way of life is the finest available to mankind?

The Bible lays out definite qualifications we must meet to become the future rulers and teachers He intends in the world-ruling Kingdom of God.

In 1st Timothy chapter 3, writing to the young evangelist Timothy, the apostle Paul, under inspiration of God, provides the qualifications for the ministers which apply to our own personal conduct as well.

Here is the very important guideline we are to use to evaluate our own personal spiritual growth.

A bishop or a minister of God must be blameless (1 Timothy 3:2).

What does it mean to be blameless?

Being blameless does not mean we're perfect.

In his letter to the Philippians, Paul knew his condition as a human being. He knew he was weak. Those things he shouldn't have done were the things he was doing. And the things he should be doing were the things he wasn't doing.

And he acknowledged that only Jesus Christ could rescue him from such a horrible condition.

Paul admits, "I am still in the flesh, and I am far from perfect. But I press on that I may hold fast to that which Christ has called me out to do" (Philippians 3:12).

God knows that we're weak. He understands we're frail and prone to making mistakes.

He knows all about our shortcomings and our faults.

But He doesn't excuse or condone them.

He doesn't ignore them.

He doesn’t sweep them under the rug, in a manner of speaking.

Pretending He doesn’t see them.

But, the goodness of God leads us to repentance (Romans 2:4); and so, upon heartfelt repentance, God forgives ALL our sins and cleanses us from all unrighteousness.

Our sins have been blotted out.

Erased completely.

Totally.

And now, He holds us blameless because we repented of our sins and we’re striving to overcome them!

There’s another important aspect to this quality of being blameless we must not overlook.

Being blameless also involves our conduct as seen by other people.

Our character and integrity — our moral behavior, our ethical conduct — must be above reproach.

There is absolutely no suspicion of any inappropriate behavior.

Not even the smallest, slightest hint of the appearance of impropriety.

Blameless meaning the absence of even a charge or accusation.

Above suspicion or reproach in every aspect of our lives.

In all our dealings — with family members; with our neighbors in the community; with co-workers in our jobs — how we conduct ourselves, the words we use and our manner of speaking, our behavior must all be above and beyond reproach.

No accusation of inappropriate behavior and conduct can and will even be raised against us.

We are to abstain from all appearance of evil (1 Thessalonians 5:22).

Our conduct must be a sterling example of the God Who called us.

The God of peace — the God of safety and security — will keep us completely unblemished and untainted from anything questionable and inappropriate.

Free of any condemnation or the slightest accusation.

We understand we live in a world that is literally crooked and depraved.

An immoral society with utter contempt for law, for the rules of proper conduct and behavior.

If we're not vigilant and constantly on guard, we will find ourselves blind-sided by worldly influences.

So, we are to maintain that high standard of virtue and ethics, holding fast to the truth, blameless "unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

And we, too, will receive our glorious inheritance of eternal life and reap the same grand reward as kings and priests in the Kingdom of God (Revelation 5:10)!

Notice the same apostle Paul urges us as the sons of God to be blameless and innocent of any accusation in this evil world among whom we shine as lights of God's way to the world (Philippians 2:15).

Instead of allowing the ways of the world to rub off on us, God says He expects us to be blameless and faultless.

Squeaky clean in the conduct of every aspect of our lives.

Setting the example as shining lights in the midst of this warped and perverted world.

However, God's way of life brings persecution, ridicule and scorn.

If we're not careful, we can wobble and grow weary of well-doing.

So we need to stiffen our resolve.

Our eyes fixed and riveted on the glory and majesty that God and Jesus Christ have prepared for us.

King David cried out to God, pleaded with Him to prevent him, to restrain him from presumptuous or willful sins. "O my God, don't let those sinful inclinations overpower and dominate me so I can stay blameless and upright, innocent from all sin.

David beseeches God, "Please let my words and my thoughts be acceptable to You, my God, my Redeemer" (Psalm 19:13-14).

We, too, must cry out to God.

Ask Him to help us to stay blameless and above reproach so we can grow spiritually into God's own holy, righteous perfect character. Our way of life a shining, sterling example to bring honor and glory to the God we follow, worship and obey.