

SCRIPTURE UNION NIGERIA

MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct (1 Pet 1:15)

God in His mercy has led us through the year 2018. It was an exciting year full of mixed feelings. Just like the year before it, it was full of uncertainties, challenges and victories. Blood flowed unrestricted and men cared less. Both the Government and the people involved were urged to restrain, but it seemed that the more the call was made the more blood flowed. However, the Nigerian Christian Church including SU Nigeria kept organizing prayer sessions all through the year calling on the Lord to intervene. The year brought us back to political uncertainties with alignment and realignment of politicians resulting in massive change of political parties and its attendant pressure on the polity due to the upcoming general elections from February this year. The year is starting with a lot of political activities which will culminate in either change of political leadership or sustaining of the existing one(s). Whatever the matter may be, the Lord led us into discovering who we are in 2018, **The Israel of God**. Hence, we are confident of our God that he would as usual see us through the year 2019. We shall not waver in faith because He that is in us is greater, and He who is with us does not sleep or slumber. He will neither leave nor forsake us. His grace is ever sufficient, and being omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient, we shall not fear any evil in this year. The Lord who listens carefully to our prayers at various times will continue to prove Himself mighty on our behalf. Alleluia!! We must stand strong to follow after Him thorough this year of **Holiness** in our formations.

In 2017 we came up with a broad vision: Truth, Holiness and Tradition (**THT**). This vision precipitated three themes: The Israel of God (Gal 6:16), Be ye Holy (1 Pet 1:16), and The Ancient path (Jer. 6:16). Our first shot was **The Israel of God** which we addressed in 2018. We shall address the second, **Be ye Holy** (1 Pet 1:16) this year. As I addressed Council in October, 2018, this theme is a direct follow up to The Israel of God-a theme which has raised our confidence level a as people of God. In looking at this theme, I remembered a captivating hymn on holiness, Baptist Hymnal 367. The first two lines of the four verse hymn are very instructive: *Take time to be holy, speak often with thy Lord, Abide in Him always, and feed on His Word. Take time to be holy, the world rushes on, Spend much time in secret, with Jesus alone. Take time to be holy, let Him be thy Guide, And run not before Him, whatever betide. Take time to*

be holy, be calm in thy soul, Each thought and each motive beneath His control. I consider these sounds of practice of holiness.

The author of the book of Hebrews wrote "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord" (Heb 12:14). The Scriptures clearly teach that those who wish to be saved should give special attention to the subject of Holiness. Peter says: "It is written, be ye holy, for I am holy."(1 Pet. 1:16). Turning to Leviticus, we find the scripture to which he refers, as follows, "I am the Lord your God; ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy."(Lev. 11:44). Holiness in the highest sense belongs to God (Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 15:4), and to Christians as consecrated to God's service, and in so far as they are conformed in all things to the will of God (Romans 6:19 Romans 6:22; Ephesians 1:4; Titus 1:8; 1 Peter 1:15). Holiness may be defined as wholeness; that is, lacking nothing required for its completeness for the situation to be occupied; being just what a Christian should be while living in this world. Apart from wholesomeness holiness must go along with sanctification-consciously being separated for the use of the Holy God. A holy man is one who manifests all the fruit of the Holy Spirit in his daily life. It is not proper to call any one holy, unless he is free from sin. Paul says, "Being now made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life" (Rom 6:22). John said of Jesus, "And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not. . . . He that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil. . . . In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil" (1 John 3:5-10). Here we are most plainly taught that sin is what makes the difference between the Lord's children and the devil's. An Israel of God is expected to be very far from sin, and very close to holiness. Holiness is the habit of being of one mind with God, according as we find His mind described in Scripture. It is the habit of agreeing in God's judgement-hating what He hates-loving what He loves-and measuring everything in this world by the standard of His Word. He who most entirely agrees with God, he is the most holy man. We must be holy, because this is one grand end and purpose for which Christ came into the world. 1 Pet 2:19 reminds us "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light". It is a year of holiness unto the Lord. Having been called into the family of God by the sacrifice of His dear Son, we have no alternative than to be what God Almighty wants us to be. A year of **holiness** is a year of **prayer**. Holy men must lift their holy hands in 2019. We must pray for the stability of our nation

through successful elections from February, social justice, obedience to the word of God, true federal leadership, true political representation, fair salaries for workers; true Christian living by all who claim to be Christians, true Christian leadership by all Christian leaders, progressive Christian witness by all Christians, stable Christian homes, achievement of SU Nigeria and SU international goals in 2019 and beyond and mercy and blessing of God upon our land. Pray for our children and youths, colleges and universities.

Welcome to 2019, **THE YEAR OF HOLINESS!!** Happy New Year!!!

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