

A place
to belong.
McKernan Baptist Church



SET APART TO SIMPLICITY
Hebrews 12:1-3

- This ministry year, we have been developing the theme, “Living Fully – Living Holy”. As we continue to reflect on what holiness (being set apart) looks like in some of the very day-to-day issues, today we’ll focus on a common tendency people have to feel quite frazzled by the pace and complexity of life.
- In Hebrews 12:1-3, God speaks to the chaos and energy-draining existence of our culture by presenting a vision of holy simplicity that does not “grow weary and lose heart.”
- We’ll explore what this “holy simplicity” looks like.

Holy simplicity cuts through the clutter of overcommitment. (v. 1)

- In calling us to throw off “everything that hinders,” this verse pictures a runner on a starting line getting rid of excess weight in order to run effectively.
- We cannot live effective lives if we just keep adding. This passage challenges.
 - Our overcommitment of time.
 - Our overcommitment to stuff.

Holy simplicity focuses on the purpose and direction of Jesus. (v. 2)

- Rather than unthinkingly committing to more and more expenditure of our energy and resources, we are called to “fix our eyes on Jesus”.
- When confronted with the many opportunities of life, we need to prayerfully ask questions like...
 - How will this use of my time further God’s purposes in and through my life?
 - How will this purchase contribute to God’s purposes being fulfilled?

Holy simplicity believes that true joy and meaning come from Jesus. (vs. 2-3)

- Jesus’ commitment to live simply for the will of the Father led to true joy.
- We often overcommit because we believe that a certain use of our time or a shiny new possession will give joy and meaning. A life of simplicity calls us to see through the error of these short-term beliefs.

Holy simplicity cuts through the clutter of overcommitment and draws meaning from the well of Christ’s life-giving purposes.

Discussion Questions

In what ways have you experienced deep weariness and frustration?

In what ways might your schedule be cluttered? In what ways might your overcommitment to stuff be causing clutter in your life?

Are there ways in which you are looking for meaning in what you accomplish or in what you have outside of the true joy and meaning God gives?