

# Notes: Sermon- Holiness of God 9/22/2023

Friday, September 15, 2023 5:36 PM

## A. Background

This quote from him nearly 80 years ago, is so much more true today.

His premise is that to understand the Holiness of God we must start with God, not man, he says;

'Half our troubles arise in the Christian Life because we do not start at this point. It is because we tend to assume that we know the truth about God, it is because we tend to assume that everything is all right in our ideas about God that many, if not most, of our problems occur, because we constantly start not with God but with ourselves. So many people assume that they believe in God and that therefore they need not be concerned about examining their belief. Martyn Lloyd-Jones.

To get this wrong is to create a graven image that is not what God says of Himself and is idolatry! So we must all test our views and beliefs of God against the Scriptures- not the world, this culture or the babbling of false teachers.

## Isaiah 6:1-7 and 8-9a

Please turn in your Bibles or look in the provided notes and let's read and reflect together.

### Isaiah's Vision of the Lord

**6 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one called to another and said:**

**“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of his glory!”**

**4 And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. 5 And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”**

**6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”**

**8 And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me." 9 And he said, "Go,"**

## **B. Exposition**

As we just reviewed, our primary aim as we look at this passage is to understand the holiness of God and how we are to respond to this understanding. This passage illustrates these very points.

First, let's define the holiness of God.

Holiness is the infinite moral excellence of God that unifies and covers His other attributes and is expressed through his actions, word setting him apart and above all others.

We have the attributes of God typically defined as communicable and incommunicable. Simply stated, the communicable attributes are those that we can see to some extent in man. The incommunicable attributes are not seen in man but in God alone.

The communicable attributes include truthfulness, faithfulness, graciousness, wisdom, knowledge, power, holiness, righteousness, goodness, justice, love, rationality, mercy, speech, hate(righteously), jealousy. It is these that we share at least to some small degree while God possesses them perfectly .

The incommunicable attributes include eternity, omnipotence, omnipresence, omniscience, infiniteness, self-existence (aseity), immutability(does not change), self-sufficiency, sovereignty, transcendence, uniqueness, and being a spirit. These are the attributes that He alone possesses perfectly.

Holiness is an attribute of God and it can be seen in man to the extent that he is holy in obedience to God. Of course, we are only a faint shadow of the smallest slice of holiness of God.

God is perfect in all His attributes. The combining of all those attributes together in perfection is what makes Him Holy, Holy, Holy.

He is holy and therefore hates sin. He forgives sinners but not sin. He must judge sin. Only those who are regenerated and have the blood of Christ to cover their sin will be reconciled to God and spend eternity with Him as His children, his people.

In seeing who God truly is, according to His revelation in His word, we can only barely comprehend the awesomeness of how truly Holy He is.

Once we understand and can 'see' His Holiness, we can see ourselves in relation to Him. Like Isaiah, Moses, Abraham, the prophets and apostles, we are all undone by His holiness. We 'see' ourselves as the sinful, disobedient, ungrateful people that we truly are. How amazing is His love that he would save a people unto Himself in light of this.

In seeing who we truly are in relation to God we are making no claims for ourselves, and that we depend wholly on God. We bring nothing of ourselves unto salvation. It is only by the grace of the living God.

Holiness shows us...

God's essence is holy. It is the crown of the Godhead. His name is Holy, it defines who God is.

Why focus on this?

Frankly, the church has lost its humility, understanding, and respect for our holy God as we have focused on ourselves. Over the last century or so, the church has been proclaiming a narcissistic, idolatrous false gospel devoid of the knowledge of sin, repentance or the holiness of our almighty God. While this is certainly not the case at Providence Bible Church, we must guard our hearts and minds to ensure we do not get comfortable with any part of this apostasy while proclaiming the full truth of God's Word.

Now that we have the background for what holiness is and why it is vitally important, let's set the context for our passage in Isaiah.

While there are a few different opinions on Isaiah's experience, I believe the strongest and simplest perspective is that Isaiah experienced a vision. John Calvin saw this as a vision- God condescended so Isaiah could survive 'seeing' God in this way since no man has seen God the Father and lived. The Lexham Survey of Theology defines visions like this.

Alongside [dreams](#) and [theophanies](#), visions are a means by which God has occasionally chosen to reveal his will to certain individuals for the purpose of guiding, warning, comforting, encouraging, or even pronouncing [judgment](#) on his people (or the enemies of God's people).

Visions differ from dreams in that the visionary need not be asleep, though neither need they be awake—Daniel “saw a dream and visions” as he “lay in his bed” ([Dan 7:1](#)).

Now let's look at this passage by verse.

### Group 1- King of all

**6 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.**

### Looking at verse 1-

-Lord, ruler, Adonai

Adonai often applied to God but also the Glory of Christ.

It means master or Lord, having sovereignty over all of us.

In John 12:41, it is indicated that Isaiah was speaking of Jesus' glory.

-Throne-high and lifted up, exalted above all others.

He is seated on the throne. The unbeliever thinks no one is on the throne over all.

-Train of robe filled the temple, no room for others.

Signifies honor, dignity and majesty.

### Looking at verse 2-

- Seraphim there to serve God. Does not say how many. It implies there are two but not important
- Wings of Seraphim included 2 for flying, 2 covering the face, 2 covering his feet
- Note that there is no higher honor than to proclaim God's holiness in His presence.

### Group 2- Holiness of God

#### 3 And one called to another and said:

**“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of his glory!”**

#### 4 And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.

### Looking at verse 3-

- Holy, Holy, Holy. Three peat. It indicates perfection, purity and the trinity. It is indicated only 2 times. Isa. 6:3 and Rev 4:8
- Lord of Hosts- Proper name of God, Yahweh. Refers to His self-existence and redemption. Another way of saying is God of the armies of heaven.
- Glory- Riches, honor, splendor, dignity, radiance
- To reinforce and remind us of who God really is. Separated above and beyond creation, totally other. Perfect in all His attributes.

### Looking at verse 4-

- Foundations shook. The very door posts, the entrance to the temple. Voice of him- the seraphim that spoke. Sang so powerfully with passion and heart.
- Smoke. Reminds us of the pillar of cloud that represented the presence of God including His Shekinah glory. Used to obscure (Moses/Mount Sinai), man can't rise above to see the secrets of God, and yet in the cloud we cannot see what lays at our feet. Reminder of our weakness and not to go beyond Scripture.

### Group 3- Unclean Man

**5 And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”**

**6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned**

for.”

### Looking at verse 5-

Woe- I am undone, he expected destruction, reduced to silence. Lost because of his sin. We see our proper place. The more clearly he saw the Lord he understood how bad his state was.

Unclean lips- Isaiah recognizes his lips are impure. Lips are full of flattery and false intent. He was already a prophet. His lips and tongue were consecrated to God as a prophet. God alone can cleanse our pollution from sin. This purging of sin is necessary to prepare in serving the living God.

### Looking at verses 6, 7-

The seraphim touch his mouth with a burning coal from the altar, taking away my guilt and atoning for his sin.

Atoning for our sin necessary to allow us to speak with confidence in fulfilling our mission.

God can't tolerate sin- He is Holy and pure. He atone for the sin. It reinforces the importance of true repentance.

So up to this point we have clearly seen the Holiness of God on the throne and as a result we could see man in sin as he truly is. God had to atone for his sin and remove his guilt.

### Looking at verses 8,9a-

**8 And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.” 9 And he said, “Go,”**

Isaiah's commission- Cleansed of sin, confident in mission and able to serve God. God has his back. Like we saw with other prophets like Moses, we can see how this very unique encounter prepared him for service.

This provides us a lesson for us in serving. Humbly before Him, repenting, and letting Him lead us in service not for ourselves.

### The Challenge

In these verses we have seen God in His holiness and man in view of that reality.

In His book on 'Holiness', we see J.C. Ryle who wrote about this in the late 1800's. Martyn Lloyd-Jones called it out in the 1950's thru 1970's.

This idolatry does not put God first according to His Word and His holiness but man.

-Because man is defined first, we are interested in what's in it for us.

-We on a theology that minimizes or eliminates sin or repentance so we can tell God what we need and to support OUR wills. This theology feeds on this.

-We see this in our material, idolatrous desires. If these people are honest, their imagined

god is little more than a candy man. Most see Jesus as a friend, that doesn't ask much of us.  
-We are interested in God in so far as it supports our material, prosperous, comfortable, entertainment, and carnal pursuits.  
-This wrong view of God and man leads to heresy, apostasy, idolatry, and degeneracy, as indicated in **Romans 1:18-25**.

First, we need to understand who is in view. We often see this passage used to show the degeneracy and decay in the unbelieving world, but we fail to see the application to compromised professing Christians.

**18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.**

Here we see General Revelation, and the imprint on the conscience of man. Man has no excuse, but they deny, suppress, and avoid the truth.

**21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.**

We see the word knew- they had knowledge, understanding but not true salvation. Turned to the creature instead of the creator. No longer rational, reasoning humans. They are driven by emotion or as I call it, emogic as opposed to logic.

**24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, 25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.**

Because they turned from God to man, God gave them up to the lusts of their hearts. This is the result of their turning from God. This is God's judgment on them. We are experiencing God's judgment.

The church has been overrun by the World because of the elevation of man over God and church's collapsing view of the inerrancy of Scripture. Not only do we have rampant apostasy from essential doctrine but even those who profess to hold to Scripture are steeped in this compromise with the world. Apostasy is the departure and denial of essential Christian doctrine(s). Without repentance, it shows that the individual is a false Christian. An apostate.

Love as defined by man is the pre-imminent attribute of God according to the error of the day. Everything is based on it. Any other attribute or character trait of God must be in subordination to their definition of love. This is the opposite of God's love. God's love is aligned with His other attributes. It cannot exclude or minimize His other attributes like sin,

justice and holiness. Man's love says his love is priority above and beyond and forces their definition of love on God.

This then denies sin, repentance, or the need for a savior. Why? They say we are all made in the way God designed us so there is nothing to repent of. The man first theology requires that God love us over all else. The result is they don't see sin as rebellion against God.

While it can be easy to focus on others, I'd like us to turn the spotlight on us. To the doors of this church. Remember, the holiness of God does not compromise on sin. Nor does God permit His holiness and glory to be taken.

This idolatrous religion is the result when God is not known as He has revealed himself. Inevitably man puts himself or something of his creation on the throne. The throne of our Holy God.

Idolatry is anything that takes the place of God and is contrary to His Word. It is commonly preached in a false gospel today that is unequivocally man-centric. We can see this in all the popular movements of the day.

Man's nature, so to speak, is a perpetual factory of idols. John Calvin

Like the Jews at the foot of Mount Sinai creating the idolatrous Golden Calf, while Moses is on the mount with God. The people see the thunder, flashes of lightning and the smoking of the mountain- God is with them and they STILL create an idol.

#### **Col 3:5-11**

**5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming.**

Speaking of false teachers and prophets posing and by extension, false believers we look at **Matt 7:21-23.**

#### **I Never Knew You**

**21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' 23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'**

We must stand for the holiness of God!

Not only in the true knowledge of that holiness but in the application of it to our lives.

We must mortify sin and purify ourselves. Purify our hearts and minds which will lead to us eliminating or mortifying sin in our lives.

We see this call to stand for the holiness of God in the 10 commandments. The first table is focused vertically on God. The 2nd table is focused on us horizontally with others.

Let's review the first three commands in the first table from **Exodus 20-**

- 1-You shall have **no other Gods before me**
- 2-You shall **not make for yourself an idol**
- 3-You shall **not misuse the name of Yahweh**

The holiness of God demands that we have the proper respect and awe of His majesty by recognizing He is first above and beyond everything and everyone else and is due reverence. It is so much deeper than using the Lord's name in vain. It is also minimizing God, putting anything else before God, and misrepresenting God in any way before man that is contrary to the revealed Word.

Those hold themselves free to think of God as they like are breaking 2nd commandment.

The positive force of 2nd commandment compels us to take our thoughts of God from His Holy Word and no other source, Not our own mind, the world or culture.

There is far too much easy familiarity with the most high. Thank God, we can come into His presence with holy boldness through the blood of Christ. But that should never lessen our reverence and godly fear. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

So now let's look at practicing these things...

## C. Application

What are we to do?

Commanded!

- 1- Be Holy

**Lev. 11:44**

**44 For I am the LORD your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy.**

**1 Peter 1:16**

**16 since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."**

**Eph. 1:4**

**4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved**



2- Focus on the Kingdom

**Matt. 6:33**

**33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.**

3- Love the Lord

**Deut. 6:5-6**

**5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.**

**Matt. 22:37-40**

**37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."**

4- Know the Word

**2 Tim 2:15-17**

**15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. 16 But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, 17 and their talk will spread like gangrene.**

**Acts 17:11**

**11 Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.**

**2 Tim 3:16-17**

**16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.**

5- Purge Idolatry

**1 Cor 10:14**

**14 Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.**

**Ephesians 5:5**

**5 For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not become partners with them;**

**8 for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.**

**Galatians 5:20**

**20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions,  
21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before,  
that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

6- Kill sin.

**1 John 3:4**

**4 Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness**

**John 8:34**

**34 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.**

**Romans 6:11**

**11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.**

**Col. 3:5**

**5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.**

**Romans 8:13**

**13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.**

7- Devote Yourself

In order to apply those listed above devote yourself to the Father, by the Son and through the Holy Spirit.

Apply the disciplines of the Christian life and the Holy Spirit will sanctify and guide you as you grow in God's grace and Christlikeness.

- Prayer/Fasting
- Praise
- Worship
- Read/study the Word
- Meditation
- Fellowship
- Service

Do not let the evil one divert you through the business of life. Protect this work!  
It is absolutely essential to being transformed from the world.

A holy violence, a conflict, a warfare, a fight, a soldier's life, a wrestling are spoken of as characteristic of the true Christian. **J.C. Ryle, in 'Holiness'**

I am not to live a good and holy life to become a Christian, I am to live the holy life because I am a Christian. **Martin Lloyd-Jones**

## **D. Conclusion**

We are called and commanded to see God as He reveals himself in His Word. Anything less is an invention of man and is idolatry.

**“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of his glory!”**

Defend the honor, glory and holiness of God!

'Let us receive nothing, believe nothing, follow nothing which is not in the Bible, nor can be proved by the Bible' **J.C. Ryle**

If you do not see God as Holy, Holy, Holy, you are in a very precarious place as a profession Christian. How can a Christian not see God in this way?

Repent and know your God.

If you do not have the assurance of salvation because you are not a believer in Christ, I urge you to consider the gospel message of Christ as your savior. Please seek the Father while He may still be found. Please reach out and talk to myself or others here about this most precious gift. Salvation in Christ is the only path to heaven.

There is nothing more amazing or important to discuss. Your eternity depends on it!

We have the blessed privilege of knowing who the Creator of the Universe is through His revelation and our relationship with Him through Christ and by the Holy Spirit.

Come to Him through the saving work of Christ, repent, and reorder your life out of duty, out of respect, out of love.