

## WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

July 28, 2019

*Worship, as God intended, is a supernatural event. As we enter into this service of worship, we cross the threshold of the secular to the sacred, from the common to the uncommon, from the profane to the holy. Prepare yourself therefore for this most holy convocation!*

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Prelude

Worship Theme

God is Perfect

Deuteronomy 32:1-4: "Give ear, O heavens, and let me speak; and let the earth hear the words of my mouth. Let my teaching drop as the rain, my speech distill as the dew, as the droplets on the fresh grass and as the showers on the herb. For I proclaim the name of the Lord; ascribe greatness to our God! The Rock! His work is perfect, for all His ways are just; a God of faithfulness and without injustice, righteous and upright is He."

**God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross**

Ps. 67:3-4

+We Adore Him

Hymn #101, "Come, Thou Almighty King"

We Confess Our Sin

Almighty and awesome God, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, we acknowledge that we do not always live in the light of His resurrection. Sometimes we forget that we were saved at a terrible price, and so forget Christ. Furthermore, we have transgressed Your laws by religious pretense, by withholding forgiveness, by hardened materialism. And so we have forgotten Your mighty victory over sin and death.

Have mercy on us; forgive us; cleanse us; write Your laws on our hearts! Restore to us the joy of our salvation, and grant that we may live in Your perfect peace. Amen.

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Insert, "Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery"

**God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication**

Mt. 19:21

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #432, "We Give Thee But Thine Own"

**God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship**

Ps. 18:30-31

We Read His Word

Sermon

\*We Partake Of The Lord's Supper

Hymn #585, "Take My Life, And Let It Be"

**God Blesses us in the Benediction**

Welcome and Announcements

Postlude

(Containers have been placed at the front for communion cups and small trash)

+You are invited to raise your hands during the prayer of adoration.

\*Visitors, please see note below on the Lord's Supper.

## The Biblical Doctrine of Holiness

Select

Sermon Notes for July 28, 2019

I. **Introduction:** Heb. 12:14; Tit. 2:14; Mal. 1:8, 13a.

II. **The Biblical Doctrine of Holiness, Select.**

A. **The Biblical Doctrine Defined, 1 Pet. 1:15-16.**

J. C. Ryle wrote, "I doubt, indeed, whether we have any warrant for saying that a man can possibly be converted without being consecrated to God. More consecrated he doubtless can be and will be as his grace increases; but if he was not consecrated to God in the very day that he was converted and born again, I do not know what conversion means." (*Holiness*, pg. xv)

In the Bible, "holiness" literally means "to be set apart; to be different."

1. **When used of God...**

- a. Primarily, it refers to His transcendence, His "otherness"- the fact that He is totally different from His creation (cf. Is. 6:3).
- b. Secondly, holiness refers to the fact that God is morally perfect or without sin (cf. 1 Jn. 1:5).

2. **When used of Man...**

- a. Primarily holiness refers to his being "set apart" unto God to be used for His purpose, not our own (cf. 1 Cor. 1:1-2a; 2 Tim. 2:20).
- b. Secondly, holiness in relation to the believer refers to their moral purity or sinlessness. Because the Christian has been claimed by God, to God, and for God, this claim necessarily will lead to and so demand practical or moral purity on the part of the believer (cf. 1 Thes. 4:3-7).

And so, holiness as it relates to God is a description of His "otherness" which necessarily implies His sinlessness. As it relates to man it refers to his devotion/dedication to God which necessarily will produce morally upright living. From this we glean our first insight into the Divine call to be holy...

Practical holiness is NOT first and foremost a growth in \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, BUT a growing in one's \_\_\_\_\_ to/\_\_\_\_\_ upon the Lord!

B. **The Conflict That will be Ours when It Comes to Practical Holiness, Rom. 7:21.**

1. **The "Flesh" and the "Sin" spoken about here are one and the same (cf. Rom. 7:14-16, 17, 18, 20).**

**\*Point:** Paul here is speaking of the conflict that he as a child of God experienced in Christ. He wants to serve God, but his sin/flesh battles against him making him a prisoner. From this we conclude that Paul considered his flesh and his propensity to sin to be one and the same!

2. **The believer's "flesh" is not something that increases or decreases but is static (cf. Rom. 7:21-23; Gal. 5:17).**

**\*Point:** From this we conclude that this "evil" or this "opposing Law"- which we understand to be our flesh- does not grow or diminish as the child of God falls into sin or grows in moral purity. Rather, it ever and always remains a part of his being. As such, no matter what we do, there will always be a battle (cf. Gal. 5:17)!

**\*Where We Live**

1. If our flesh was something could increase or diminish, what implication would that have on our passion for holiness in light of the failures of some of the most godly men in the Bible?
2. If growth in holiness means a lessening of our sinfulness (a diminishing of our flesh), then the testimony of

some of the godliest men in the Bible leaves me with little hope that I could ever grow in holiness. But if growth in holiness means not a diminishing of my wretchedness before God, but a change or a growth in my devotion to/dependence upon God, then the testimony of these “spiritual giants” does not discourage me, but sobers me and makes me all the more suspicious of myself and so all the more reliant upon Christ.

**C. The Biblical Path to Genuine Holiness, 1 Jn. 4:19; 2 Cor. 7:1; 2 Pet. 1:8-9.**

**1 Jn. 4:19**

The more we behold the Love of God, His commitment to us, His grace, mercy, and compassion- the more we enjoy His love- the more we in turn will love.

**2 Cor. 7:1 (cf. 2 Cor. 6:17-18)**

What is the basis/ground for the call to holiness in the life of the child of God? Understanding the glorious position and provision they have been given by God!!!

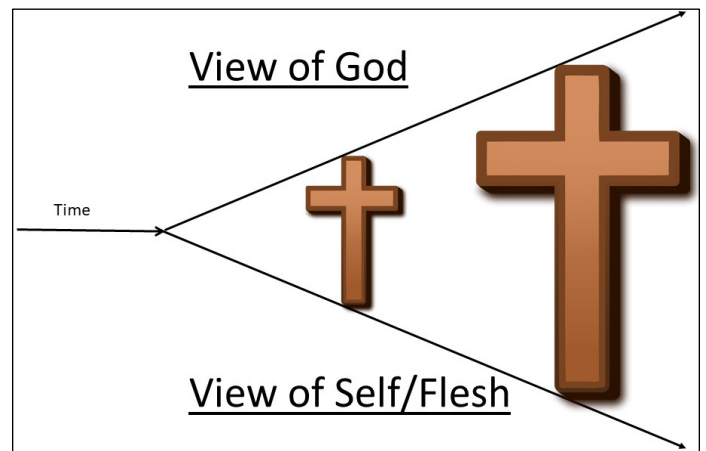
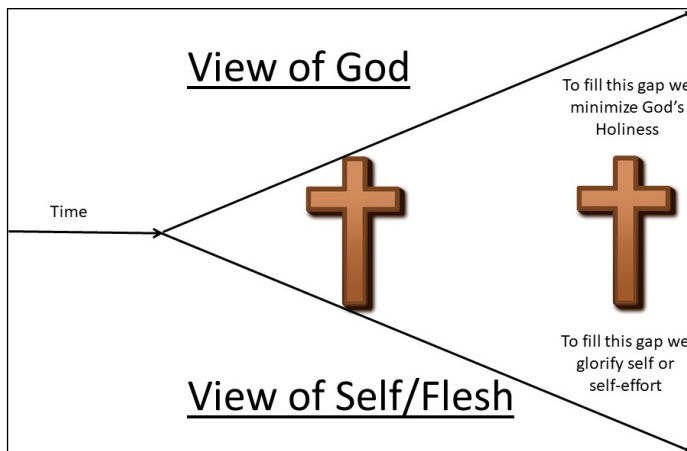
**2 Pet. 1:8-9**

There is no question that our Christian lives must be characterized by “diligence, moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love.” Yet these come not by focusing on them, but by focusing on two things...

1. Christ
2. The forgiveness of sins

Iain Murray put it this way, “Those Christians that have been pulled out of the fire, and converted oftentimes by a violent conversion, are the most fruitful and loving Christians, as St. Paul and others; because they know Christ hath forgiven them a mighty debt, a thousand talents; the more that debt appears to be, the more they know they are bound to God, and to sacrifice and give up themselves to Jesus Christ... When they consider his wonderful love to such as they are, they are inflamed with love again; as in the gospel, the woman who had many sins forgiven her, therefore she loved much.” (Found in *The Westminster Conference*, chapter four titled, “The Puritans on Maintaining Spiritual Zeal,” p. 83)

**\*Where We Live:** to make this as practical as I can, I want to close by directing your attention to two charts that I have placed in your sermon notes...



If you’ve read Prince Caspian you will recall the conversation that occurred between Lucy and Aslan when first they were reunited, “‘Aslan’ said Lucy ‘you’re bigger’. ‘That is because you are older, little one’ answered he. ‘Not because you are?’ ‘I am not. But every year you grow, you will find me bigger.’” (*Prince Caspian*, p. 136)