

July 30, 2017

Be Ye Holy 1 Peter 1:13-16

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

Have you _____ about what it means to be holy? Today, we're going to take a serious look at our _____ to be holy like God is holy. God is completely holy; and sin is against His very _____. First John 1:5 says, "God is light and in Him is no darkness at all." His judgments and His _____ are righteous altogether. God doesn't think like we do. God said, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9).

As society becomes less formal and more secular, some churches are losing their sense of the _____. They've blurred the line between the sacred and the _____. People have lost a sense of reverence and awe for God. Some have seen little use for _____ and turned their assemblies into concerts. The Lord Jesus calls us to deny ourselves and take up our crosses daily. Much of what passes as religious activity has little to do with carrying a _____.

Holiness in the Bible calls for _____ from all that is common or unclean. In respect to God, holiness not only means that He is separate from all that is unclean and evil but also that He is positively _____ and thus distinct from all others. This purity sets Him apart from His _____. Habakkuk 1:13 says about God, "Your eyes are too pure to approve evil, And You can not look on wickedness with _____." God calls upon His people to become holy so that He may _____ with them and so that they may worship Him. We must distance ourselves from the _____ and the _____ of the world.

Our reading today comes from 1 Peter 1:13-16.

God wanted _____ to regard Him as a holy God. When people failed to listen and obey Him, God _____ them. **Read Leviticus 10:1-3.**

On another occasion, David was bringing the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem. He erroneously brought it on an _____ rather than follow the Lord's instructions to have the Levites carry it. Uzzah was also on the oxcart. "But when they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached out toward the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen nearly upset it. And the _____ of the LORD burned against Uzzah, and God struck him down there for his irreverence; and he died there by the ark of God" (2 Samuel 6:6-7). Uzzah should not have touched the ark, which is holy. God expects His people to _____ Him reverence and awe; and nothing less will do.

Sin has always _____ people from God. You can't live in sin and expect to grow _____ to God. Isaiah 59:1-2 says, "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot

save, or His ear dull, that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your _____ have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.” When you sin, you separate yourself from God’s holiness and from His _____. Iniquity and sin are acts or feelings that transgress God’s _____. Perhaps they do what God forbids, or perhaps they ignore what God requires. In either case, sin and iniquity treat God with _____. They treat Him as if He were common or a “nobody.” God will not tolerate sin.

Just as the Father in heaven is holy, so our Lord Jesus Christ is holy. You can see His holiness demonstrated in His _____. Hebrews 4:15 says, “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been _____ as we are, yet without sin.” Peter said, “For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an _____ for you to follow in His steps, who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in his mouth” (1 Peter 2:21-22). Even when Jesus suffered, He didn’t _____ against others. Do you remember how Jesus prayed for those who crucified Him, “Father, _____ them for they do not know what they are doing?” (Luke 23:34). No one who has ever lived, can _____ up to the godliness, purity, and holiness of Jesus Christ. Jesus asked, “Which one of you convicts Me of sin?” (John 8:46).

Surprisingly, many people, even some Christians, believe that Jesus committed sins while on earth. That’s just wrong. They ignore the fact that as the Son of God He was indeed holy and without sin. If Jesus had not been holy, He could not have served as a _____ for our sins. As an atoning sacrifice, Jesus offered Himself without _____ to God (Hebrews 9:14). If Jesus had not been holy, He could not be the _____ between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5-6). If Jesus had not been the righteousness One, He could not be our _____ with the Father (1 John 2:1). John chapter one tells us that Jesus was the Word in the beginning who came to earth and took on _____ so that He might take away our sins. As the Word, He was divine and holy!

Since God is holy, He isn’t _____ you and me. He doesn’t take _____ in sin. As a holy God, He cannot _____ sin but must punish it. **Read what God said to the wicked in Psalm 50:17-21.** We must never presume that because God doesn’t strike us dead immediately, that somehow God doesn’t _____ whether we sin or not.

God has called us to follow in the _____ of Jesus. It makes sense that we are to _____ our sins and _____ righteousness and godliness. First Peter 1:14-16 says, “As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your _____, since it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’” Peter was writing to young Christians, many of whom had come out of a _____ lifestyle filled with drunkenness and immorality. But God calls us to something _____ than living for our fleshly lusts.

Paul laid it out clearly: “Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what

harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the _____ of the living God; just as God said, 'I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their GOD, and they shall be my people. Therefore, come out from their midst and be _____,' says the Lord. 'and do not touch what is unclean; And I will welcome you. And I will be a Father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me,' Says the Lord Almighty" (2 Corinthians 6:14-18).

Living holy lives _____ us to be His sons and daughters. We must avoid what is evil and unclean so that we may be a _____ where God can live. If we live in _____, God can't live in _____. Second Corinthians 7:1 concludes this point: "Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us _____ ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." By the grace of God and through the blood of Jesus, we can be _____ from sin; but our cleansing means that we can no longer live like we used to live. We must grow in the _____ of God by perfecting holy lives. Romans 8:12-13 says, "So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you are living according to the flesh, you must _____; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will _____."

Because we want to be holy like God, we must take what God _____ to heart. Romans 12:2 says, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may _____ what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." The more we allow God's Word to _____ our lives, the more we show the world that God's ways are good, acceptable, and perfect. This means taking what God teaches to heart and applying them to our lives.

God never intended for us to own a Bible that we _____. Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount that we not only are responsible for what we _____ but also for what we _____ and what we _____. The Lord Jesus said, "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'You shall not commit murder' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.' But I say to you that everyone who is _____ with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell" (Matthew 5:21-22). We need to think twice about our attitudes and what we call others. God is _____!

The Lord Jesus said, "But I tell you that every _____ word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned" (Matthew 12:36-37). It may be _____ to call names and slander other people, but God will hold us accountable for our words on the day of judgment. The Lord Jesus wants us to rise above a hateful _____. "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies and _____ for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His _____ to rise on the evil and the good, and sends

_____ on the righteous and the unrighteous” (Matthew 5:43-45). Holiness means being sons of our Father, sons who love even those who don’t appreciate our love. We love rather than _____, because our Father does. We pray for and _____ others who persecute us, because God is our Father.

The Lord Jesus said, “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery’; but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with _____ for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart” (Matthew 5:27-28). God knows our actions _____ with our hearts, and a lustful heart will lead to a lustful way. The Scriptures are clear; “Therefore be _____ of God, as beloved children. And _____ in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be _____ among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be _____. 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 _____ of Christ and God” (Ephesians 5:1-5).

There is no _____ blessing in Christ than God’s grace and forgiveness. But grace is not a _____ to continue in sin. Paul asked, “What shall we say then? Are we to _____ in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who _____ to sin still _____ in it?” (Romans 6:1- 2). Jesus died on the cross to set us _____ from sin, so we can’t return to the sins of our past. We must not! We’ve got to _____ and continue to follow the Lord.

God has blessed us richly; and this should make us want to _____ Him even more. First John 3:2-3 says, “Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be _____ him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus _____ in him purifies himself as he is pure.” Do you have this hope of being able to live with God forever? Are you living a pure life and are you purifying yourself as He is pure so that you may live with Him one day?

Read what the apostle Paul said by inspiration in 2 Timothy 2:19-22.

If you’re living as you ought to live, God knows it; but if you’re not living as you should, God knows that, too! You cannot fool God; He always _____ our hearts and _____ every aspect of our lives. Proverbs 15:3 says, “The eyes of the LORD are in every _____, watching the evil and the good.” What is God seeing in your life? If you aren’t living as you should, then you need to make a _____. You can’t continue in sin and expect to please God.

The Lord can transform your life if you’ll let Him. But you have to let Him. Turn from doubt to _____. Believe in the gospel of the Lord Jesus, and that He died for your sins and was _____ from the dead. Turn from _____ to obedience. Repent of your sins by changing your thinking and deciding to _____ as God wills. Confess the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God. And be baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and God will make you one of His sons and daughters (Galatians 3:26-27). Oh, my friend get right with God today!