

“Strive For Peace & Holiness”

Hebrews 12:14

June 16, 2010

INTRO: Let me ask you an important question...
➤ If you could offer one verse to explain Christianity, what would it be?
➤ Today we're going to study a great option!

CONTEXT: **Hebrews / Exhortation / Tough Love...**
➤ Exaltation of Christ in Exhortation of church

BIG IDEA: *The goal of the gospel is God's glory, per our striving for peace & holiness.*

PREVIEW: We're going to see & study **Hebrews 12:14's**
➤ **Micro** message
➤ **Macro** message
➤ **Missional** message

TEXT:

Hebrews 12:14

Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

Strive for

A. Micro

1. Personal, immediate application...
 - a. *Strive* is an **imperative command!**
 - b. “Run with endurance”
 - c. “Press on to the goal...” **Philippians 3:14**
 - d. “Seek first the kingdom of God...”

B. Macro

1. Personal/universal, broader application...
 - a. “Lay aside **every** encumbrance & sin”
 - b. “Do ALL things as unto the Lord...”
 - c. “Live a life worthy of the gospel...”
 - d. **Parable of the Talents & John 3:36!**

Strive for peace

VIDEO: “Defining Peace/Shalom”

A. Micro

1. *Vertically* = Whole-rightness **WITH** God
2. *Horizontally* = Whole-rightness **PER** God

B. Macro

1. God is “*the God of peace*” (**Heb. 13:20**)
2. Christ is “*the Prince of peace*” (**Isa. 9:6**),

Romans 8:6

For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

Strive for peace with everyone,

A. Micro

Peace is a two-way street...

We are only responsible for our side of the peace process

*If others don't live peaceably w/ you,
that's their problem; but it is never our excuse.*

"If a man say, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar: for he that love not his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?" (1 John 4:20)

B. Macro

Romans 12:18: *If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men*

*The Christian is not only to be a peace-keeper, but he should seek to be a peace-maker: —"Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God" (**Matthew 5:9**).*

Pride, envy, gossip, grumbling & back-biting prevent peace!

T/S:

Follow peace, but not at the expense of holiness. Follow holiness, but do not needlessly endanger peace" - C. Spurgeon

There must be NO sacrifice of principle.

*"The wisdom which is from above is first pure,
then peaceable" ([James 3:17](#)).*

*"First being by interpretation king of righteousness, and after
that also King of peace" ([Heb. 7:2](#)).*

*Strive for peace with everyone, and for the
holiness, without which, no one will
see the Lord*

A. **Micro**

VIDEO: "BE Holy 1" (per Leviticus)

*Don't ever forget... holiness does NOT save...
Holiness is just the validating fruit of salvation. – JDP*

*"If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk
in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth" ([1 John 1:6](#))*

B. **Macro**

**The negative here is fearfully emphatic: "without which
(namely, "holiness") no man shall see the Lord"—in the
Greek it is still stronger the negative being threefold—
"not, without, no man."**

""There is no peace,' says my God, 'for the wicked'"
([Isa. 57:21](#))

any righteousness men try to produce apart from God is as
"a filthy garment" ([Isa. 64:6](#)).

Without holiness men are strangers to God

Never can we see God in peace without a holy heart - Barnes

T/S: Practical holiness is a matter of growth.

A. Missional

Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

VIDEO: *"BE Holy 2" (per Leviticus)*

"Strive"

- **Contrast *"strive"* vs. *"shrink back"***
- *"...you have not yet shed your blood"*
- **2 Timothy 2:1-6...**
- *Fight the good fight...*
- *Put on the full armor of God...*

“Peace”

- Fruit of the Spirit
- Blessed Beatitude
- Piece of God’s armor!

Few things more adorn and beautify a Christian profession than exercising and manifesting the spirit of peace.

“peace with everyone / all men”

All means all! - JDP

All = Great Commandments

All = Great Commission (“compel them to come...”)

All = Great Combat!

Peace is not for pacifists! - JDP

*** See Jesus with Judas in [John 13](#) (see also the Temple times) ***

“holiness without which men will not see the Lord”

There is a radical difference in nature between those treading the narrow way to Heaven and those following the broad road to Hell... The children of the Devil have no love for the children of God, and they delight in doing whatever they can to... distract, deceive, divide, & destroy God's family.

John 8:44a

You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

CLOSE:

If Jesus Christ be our Lord & Master, then He is to be unreservedly obeyed. To "strive for" holiness is to live like persons who are devoted to God—to His glory, to His claims upon us, to His cause in this world... It is to separate ourselves from all that is opposed to Him.

Remember:

Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

(thus & therefore)

- Leviticus 19:2
- Luke 10:27
- John 20:21
- Acts 1:8
- Ephesians 2:8-10
- 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Let's Pray!

A Call to Diligence

[\(Hebrews 12:14\)](#)

The connection between the verses which were before us on the last occasion and that which is now to engage our attention is not apparent at the first glance. There the apostle made a practical application to his readers of the important considerations he had been setting before them in the preceding verses, calling them unto the duty of steadfastness. Here there is a lively exhortation unto the pursuit of peace and holiness. The relation between these exhortations and those which follow, is more intimate than a number of pearls strung together, rather is it more like that of the several members of our physical body, which are vitally joined and dependent upon one another. Failure to observe this fact results in loss, for not only do we fail to appreciate the living connection of one part with another, but we lose the motive and incentive which they mutually supply. It is the business of the teacher to point this out, that we may be duly affected thereby and rejoice together in the perfect handiwork of God.

"From his exhortation unto patient perseverance in the profession of the Gospel under sufferings and affliction, the apostle proceeds unto a prescription of practical duties; and although they are such as are absolutely necessary in themselves at all times, yet they are here peculiarly enjoined with respect to the same end, or our constancy in professing the Gospel. *For no light, no knowledge of the truth, no resolution or courage, will preserve any man in his profession, especially in times of trial, without a diligent attention unto the duties of holiness and Gospel obedience.* And he begins with a precept, general and comprehensive of all others" (John Owen).

The connection between [Hebrews 12:14](#), etc., and [verses 12, 13](#), is threefold.

- A. First, the diligent pursuit of peace toward our fellows and of holiness toward God are timely aids unto perseverance in the faith and in consequence, powerful means for preservation from apostasy. The one is so closely joined to the other that **the former cannot be realized without an eager striving after the latter.**
- B. Second, inasmuch as love toward our neighbor ("peace," with all that that involves and includes) and love toward God ("holiness") is the sum of our duty, it is impossible *that* we should devote ourselves unto their cultivation and exercise so long as we axe permitting afflictions and persecution to paralyze the mind: **the spirit of resolute determination must possess us before we can develop our spiritual graces.**
- C. *Third, oppression and suffering provide an opportunity for the exercise and manifestation of our spiritual graces, and are to be improved by us to this very end.*

"If the children of God grow impatient under afflictions, they will neither walk so quietly and peaceably towards men nor so piously toward God as they should do" (Matthew Henry).

The first thing which needs to be borne in mind as we approach each verse of this epistle is the special circumstances of those immediately addressed, and to perceive the peculiar pertinency of the apostle's instruction to those who were so situated, for this will the better enable us to make a correct application unto ourselves.

Now the Hebrews were living among a people where their own espousal of Christianity had produced a serious breach, which had stirred up the fierce opposition of their fellow-countrymen. **The attitude of these Hebrews towards Christ was neither understood nor appreciated by the unbelieving Jews; so far from it, they were regarded as renegades and denounced as apostates from the faith of their fathers.**

Every effort was made to poison their minds against the Gospel, and where this failed, relentless persecution was brought to bear upon them. Hence, it was by no means an easy matter for them to maintain the spirit of the Gospel and live amicably with those who surrounded them; instead, they were sorely tempted to entertain a bitter spirit toward those who troubled them so unjustly, to retaliate and avenge their wrongs.

Here, then, was the need for them to be exhorted "follow peace with all men!"

Now while it be true that Christians are now, for the most part, spared the severe suffering which those Hebrews were called upon to endure, yet faithfulness to Christ is bound to incur the hostility of those who hate Him, and will in some form or other issue in opposition.

There is a radical difference in nature between those treading the narrow way to Heaven and those following the broad road to Hell. The character and conduct of the former condemn and

rile the self-pleasing disposition and flesh-indulging ways of the latter. The children of the Devil have no love for the children of God, and they delight in doing whatever they can to annoy and aggravate them; and nothing gives them more pleasure than to see successful their efforts to tempt them to compromise or stir up unto angry retaliation. Thus, it is a timely injunction for all believers, in any age and in any country, to strive earnestly to live in peace with all men.

"Follow peace with all men." This is a very humbling word that Christians require *to be told* to do this. **Its implication is clear: by nature men are fractious, wrathful, revengeful creatures.**

That is one reason why Christ declared "it must needs be that offenses come" ([Matthew 18:7](#))—"must" because of the awful depravity of fallen human nature; yet forget not that He at once added, "But woe to that man by whom the offense cometh." It is because of this contentious, envious, revengeful, spirit which is in us, that we need the exhortation of our text, and in view of what is recorded in Scripture, even of saints, its timeliness is the more apparent. Have we not read of "the strife" between the herdsmen of Abraham and Lot which caused the patriarch and his nephew to part asunder? Have we not read of the discords and fightings between the tribes of Israel issuing in their kingdom being rent in twain? Have we not read of the "contention" between Paul and Barnabas which issued in their separating? These are solemn warnings, danger-signals, which we all do well to take to heart.

"It is the duty of Christians to be at peace among themselves, to be on their guard against all alienation of affection towards each other; and there can be no doubt that the maintenance of this brotherly-kindness is well fitted to promote steadfastness in the faith and profession of the Gospel.

But in the words before us there seems to be a reference not so much to the peace which Christians should endeavor to maintain among themselves, as that which they should endeavor to preserve in reference to the world around them. They are to 'follow peace with all men.'

"They live amidst men whose modes of thinking, and feeling and acting are very different from—are in many points directly opposite to—theirs. They have been fairly warned, that 'if they would live godly in this world, they must suffer persecution.' They have been told that 'if they were of the world, the world would love its own; but because they are not of the world, therefore the world hateth them.' 'In the world,' says their Lord and Master, 'ye shall have tribulation.' But this, so far from making them reckless as to their behavior towards the men of the world, ought to have the directly opposite effect. If the world persecute them, they must take care that this persecution has in no degree been provoked by their improper or imprudent behavior. They must do everything that lies in their power, consistent with duty, to live in peace with their ungodly neighbors. They must carefully abstain from injuring them; they must endeavor to promote their happiness.

They must do everything but sin in order to prevent a quarrel.

"This is of great importance, both to themselves and to their unbelieving brethren. *A mind harassed by those feelings which are almost inseparable from a state of discord is not by any means in the fittest state for studying the doctrines, cherishing the feelings, enjoying the comforts, performing the duties of Christianity; and, on the other hand, the probability of our being useful to our unbelieving brethren is greatly diminished when we cease to be on good terms with them. As far as lies in us, then, if it be possible, we are to 'live peaceably with all men'*" (John Brown, 1872).

"Follow peace with all men." The Greek word for "follow" is a very emphatical one, signifying an "earnest pursuit:" it is the eager chasing after something which flies from one, being used of hunters and hounds after game. The Christian is to spare no effort to live amicably with all men, and no matter how contentious and unfriendly they may be, he is to strive and overtake that which seeks to flee from him.

Peace is one of the outstanding graces which the Christian is called upon to exercise and manifest. All things pertaining to the Church are denominated things of peace. God is "the God of peace" (Heb. 13:20), Christ is "the Prince of peace" (Isa. 9:6), a believer is designated "the son of peace" (Luke 10:6), and Christians are bidden to have their "feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace" (Eph. 6:15).

In this term "follow," or pursue, the apostle continues to preserve the central figure of the entire passage, introduced in the first verse of our chapter, of the running of a race: the same word is rendered "I press forward" in [Philippians 3:14](#). Peace may be elusive and hard to capture, nevertheless strive after it, run hard in the chase thereof, for it is well worth overtaking. Spare no pains, strain every nerve to attain unto it.

If this exhortation be duly heeded by us then Christians are plainly forbidden to embroil themselves or take any part in the strifes and quarrels of the world...

The word "follow" or pursue does not imply the actual obtainment of peace: the most eager hunters and hounds often miss their prey.

Nevertheless, nothing short of our utmost endeavors are required of us. "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men" ([Rom. 12:18](#)): with fellow-Christians, with those who are strangers to Christ ([Eph. 2:19](#)), with our enemies ([Matthew 5:44](#)).

Few things more adorn and beautify a Christian profession than exercising and manifesting the spirit of peace.

Then let us prayerfully strive to avoid those things which occasion strife. Remember the old adage that "It takes two to make a quarrel:" therefore see to it that *you* provoke not others. Give no encouragement to those who love contention; refrain from all argument—the things of

God are too holy: ***debating is a work of the flesh***. To "follow peace with all men" presupposes *righteousness* in our dealings with them, for we most certainly are not entitled to expect them to treat us amicably unless we give unto each his due, and treat others as we would have them treat us.

Do not merely be placid when no one irritates you, but go out of your way to be gracious unto those who oppose. Be not fretful if others fail to render the respect which you consider to be your due.

Do not be so ready to "stand up for your rights," but yield everything except truth and the requirements of holiness.

"If we would follow peace, we must gird up our loins with the girdle of forbearance: we must resolve that as we will not give offense, so neither will take offense, and if offense be felt, we must resolve to forgive" (C.H. Spurgeon).

Remember we cannot successfully "pursue peace" if the heavy burden of *pride* be on our shoulder: *pride* ever stirs up strife. Nor can we "pursue peace" if the spirit of *envy* fills the heart: *envy* is sure to see faults where they exist not, and make trouble. Nor can we "pursue *peace*" if we are loose-tongued, busybodies, talebearers.

Even when opposed, our duty is to be peaceful toward those who persecute—a hard lesson, a high attainment, yet Divine grace (when earnestly sought) is "sufficient" even here.

Remember the example which the Savior has left us: and cry mightily unto God for help to emulate the same. "When He was reviled, He reviled not again; when He suffered, He

threatened not" ([1 Pet. 2:23](#)): ***He prayed for God to forgive His***

very murderers. "With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love" ([Eph. 4:2](#)). Ah, *there* are the pre-requisites for the procuring of peace—the lack of which being the cause of so much confusion, strife and war. If *love* reigns our skirts will be dear, for "Love suffereth long, and is kind; love envieth not; doth not behave itself unseemly; seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked; thinketh no evil, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things" ([1 Cor. 13:4-7](#)).

"Follow peace with all men." This includes even more than we have intimated above:

the Christian is not only to be a peace-keeper, but he should seek to be a peace-maker: such have the express benediction of Christ—"***Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God***" ([Matthew 5:9](#)).

Seek, then, to restore amicable relations between those who are at enmity and be used of God as a medium of their reconciliation.

Instead of fanning the flames of dissension or driving the wedge of division further in, endeavor to cool them by the water of the Word, and by a gracious demeanor and wise counsel seek to smooth out difficulties and heal wounds.

"And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace" ([James 3:18](#)).

"Peaceable men do sow a seed that afterward will yield sheaves of comfort into their own bosoms" (T. Manton).

"Follow peace with all men *and holiness.*" First, the cultivation of peace is a great *aid unto* personal and practical holiness:

Where discontent, envy, & strife dominate the heart, piety is choked.

The two things are inseparably connected: where love to our neighbor is lacking, love to God will not be in exercise.

The two tables of the law must not be divorced: God will not accept our worship in the house of prayer while we entertain in our heart the spirit of bitterness toward another ([Matthew 5:23, 24](#)). "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" ([1 John 4:20](#)). O my reader, if we imagine that we are sincere in our quest after holiness while striving not to live peaceably with all men, we are cherishing a vain deceit.

"Some who have aimed at holiness have made the great mistake of supposing it needful to be morose, contentious, faultfinding, and censorious with everybody else. Their holiness has consisted of negatives, protests, and oppositions for oppositions sake. Their religion mainly lies in contrarities and singularities; to them the text offers this wise counsel, follow holiness, but also follow peace. Courtesy is not inconsistent with faithfulness.

It is not needful to be savage in order to be sanctified. A bitter spirit is a poor companion for a renewed heart.

Let your determination principle be sweetened by tenderness towards your fellow-men.

Be resolute for the right, but be also gentle, pitiful, courteous. Consider the meekness as well as the boldness of Jesus. Follow peace, but not at the expense of holiness. Follow holiness, but do not needlessly endanger peace" (C.H. Spurgeon, on text, 1870).

"Follow peace with all men, *and holiness.*" By a harmless, kind, and useful behavior toward their unbelieving neighbors the people of God are to conduct themselves. They must avoid that which fosters bitterness and strife, and make it manifest they are followers of the Prince of peace.

Yet in pursuing this most needful and inestimable policy there must be no sacrifice of principle.

While peace is a most precious commodity nevertheless, like gold, it may be purchased too dearly.

"The wisdom which is from above is first pure, then peaceable" ([James 3:17](#)).

Peace must not be severed from holiness by a compliance with any evil or a neglect of any duty.

"First being by interpretation king of righteousness, and after that also King of peace" ([Heb. 7:2](#)).

"Peace has special relation to man and his good, holiness to God and His honor. These two may no more be severed than the two tables of the law. Be sure then that peace lacks not this companion of holiness: if they cannot stand together, let peace go and cleave unto holiness!" (W. Gouge).

There may be the former without the latter.

Men may be so determined to maintain peace that they compromise principle, sacrifice the truth, and ignore the claims of God. Peace must never be sought after to the point of unfaithfulness to Christ.

"Buy the truth and sell it not" ([Prov. 23:23](#))

Thus, important though it be to "follow peace with all men," it is still more important that we diligently pursue "holiness." Holiness is devotedness to God and that temper of mind and

course of conduct which agrees with the fact that we are "not our own, but bought with a price."

Peace with men, then, is not to be purchased at the expense of devotedness to God: "infinitely better to have the whole world for our enemies and God for our friend, than to have the whole world for our friends and God for our enemy" (John Brown).

The Christian is not only to be diligent in his quest for peace, but he is to be still more earnest in his pursuit after personal and practical holiness. Seeking after the good will of our fellows must be subordinated unto seeking the approbation of God. ***Our chief aim must be conformity to the image of Christ.*** If He has delivered us from wrath to come, we must endeavor by all that is within us to *follow Him* along the narrow way which leadeth unto Life.

If He be our Lord and Master, then He is to be unreservedly obeyed. To "follow" holiness is to live like persons who are devoted to God—to His glory, to His claims upon us, to His cause in this world. It is to make it evident that we belong to Him. It is to separate ourselves from all that is opposed to Him. It is to mortify the flesh, with its affections and lusts. It is to "cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and of the spirit" (2 Cor. 7:1). It is a life task from which there is no discharge while we remain in the body.

To urge us the more after holiness, the apostle at once adds "without which no man shall see the

Lord"—"which" is in the singular number, showing that the antecedent is "holiness." The believer may fail to "follow peace with all men," and though he will suffer loss thereby and bring himself under the chastening rod of his Father, yet this will not entail the Loss of Heaven itself. But it is otherwise with holiness: unless we are made partakers of the Divine nature, unless there be personal devotedness to God, unless there be an earnest striving after conformity to His will, then Heaven will never be reached.

There is only one route which leads to the Country of everlasting bliss, and that is the Highway of Holiness; and unless (by grace) we tread the same, our course must inevitably terminate in the caverns of eternal woe.

The negative here is fearfully emphatic: "without which (namely, "holiness") no man shall see the Lord"—in the Greek it is still stronger the negative being threefold—"not, without, no man." God Himself is essentially, ineffably, infinitely holy, and only holy characters shall ever "see" Him.

Without holiness no man shall see Him: no, no matter how orthodox his beliefs, how diligent his attendance upon the means of grace, how liberal he may be in contributing to the cause, nor how zealous in performing religious duties. How this searching word should make everyone of us quail!

Even though I be a preacher, devoting the whole of my life to study and laboring for the good of souls, even though I be blest with much light from the Word and be used of God in turning many from Satan to Christ, yet without holiness—both inward and outward—I shall never see the Lord. Unless the earnest pursuit of holiness occupy all my powers, I am but a formal professor, having a name to live while being spiritually dead.

Without holiness men are strangers to God

and cannot be admitted to His fellowship, still less to His eternal habitation. "Thus saith the Lord God; No stranger, uncircumcised in heart, nor uncircumcised in flesh shall enter into My sanctuary" ([Ezek. 44:9](#)): such as have no holiness within and without, in heart or in life, cannot be admitted into the sanctuary. If God shut the door of His earthly sanctuary against such as were strangers to holiness, will He not much more shut the doors of His celestial tabernacle against those who are strangers to Christ? "For what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? and what concord hath Christ with Belial?" ([2 Cor. 6:14, 15](#)).

Unholy persons have fellowship and are familiar with Satan:

"Ye are of your father the Devil, and the lusts of your father ye

will do" ([John 8:44](#)); and again "The whole world lieth in the Wicked one" ([1 John](#)

[5:19](#)). It would be awful blasphemy to affirm that the thrice holy God would have fellowship with those who are in covenant with the Devil.

O make no mistake upon this point, dear reader: if you are not walking after the Spirit, you are walking after the flesh: if you are not living to please Christ, you are living to please self; if you have not been delivered from the power of Darkness, you

cannot enjoy the Light. Listen to those piercing words of the Redeemer, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3), and the new birth is holiness begun, it is the implantation of a principle of holiness in the heart, which is the life task of the Christian to cultivate.

The "holiness" referred to in our text is not imputed holiness, for we cannot be exhorted to "follow after" that! No, it is personal and practical holiness, which is not attained by standing still, but by an earnest, diligent, persistent pursuit after the same.

"It will be well for us to remember that the religion of Jesus Christ is not a matter of trifling, that the gaining of Heaven is not to be achieved by a few half-hearted efforts; and if we will at the same time recollect that all-sufficient succor is prepared for us in the covenant of grace we shall be in a right state of mind: resolute, yet humble, leaning upon the merits of Christ, and yet aiming at personal holiness. I am persuaded that if self-righteousness be deadly, self-indulgence is indeed ruinous. I desire to maintain always a balance in my ministry, and while combating self-righteousness, to war perpetually with loose living" (C.H. Spurgeon).

But for the comfort of the poor and afflicted people of God, who find sin their greatest burden and who grieve sorely over their paucity of holiness, **let it be pointed out that our text does not say "without the perfection of holiness no man shall see the Lord."** Had it done so, we would not be writing this article, for then the editor had been entirely without hope. There is none upon earth who is fully conformed to God's will.

Practical holiness is a matter of growth.

In this life holiness is but infantile, and will only be matured in glory. At present it exists more in the form of longings and strivings, hungerings and efforts, rather than in realizations and attainments. The very fact that the Christian is exhorted to "follow" or pursue holiness, proves that he has not yet reached it.

"Without holiness no man shall *see the Lord*" spiritually, not corporeally: with an enlightened understanding and with love's discernment, so as to enjoy personal communion with Him. *"If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth"* ([1 John 1:6](#)): how clear is that! "The pure in heart shall see God" ([Matthew 5:8](#)): see Him in His holy ordinances, see His blessed image reflected, though dimly, by his saints, see Him by faith with the eyes of the heart, as Moses, who "endured as seeing Him who is invisible" ([Heb. 11:27](#)); and thus be prepared and capacitated to "see" Him in His unveiled glory in the courts above.

O to be able to truthfully say,

"As for me, I will behold Thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with Thy likeness"
([Ps. 17:15](#)).

How we should labor after holiness, using all the means appointed thereto, since it is the medium for the soul's vision of God.

- An Exposition of Hebrews.

Diligence

Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord. ([12:14](#))

This verse is not easy to interpret, and has been a problem for many sincere Christians. At first glance, it seems to be teaching salvation by works—if we successfully pursue peace and sanctification, we will be saved and will see the Lord.

The truth is, however, that a person who is not saved cannot pursue either peace or sanctification, at least not successfully.

Only the Christian has the ability, through the Holy Spirit, to live in peace and in holiness.

"'There is no peace,' says my God, 'for the wicked'" (Isa. [57:21](#))

and

any righteousness men try to produce apart from God is as ***"a filthy garment" (Isa. [64:6](#)).***

I believe the writer is speaking of practical peace and righteousness. **Positionally, in Christ, Christians already are at peace and already are righteous, but practically we have a great deal to do.**

Because we are at peace with God, we should be peacemakers. Because we are counted righteous, we should live righteously. Our practice should match our position. Otherwise the unbeliever will stand back and ask, "Why don't you practice what you preach? If you don't live like Christ says to live, why should I accept Him as my Lord and Savior?"

(cf. [1John 2:6](#)).

Pursuing peace primarily relates to loving men, and pursuing righteousness primarily to loving God. If we

*love men, we will be at peace with them, and
if we love God we will live righteously.*

Loving Men:

Peace is a two-way street.

It is not possible for two persons, or two nations, to live at peace with each other if one of them is persistently belligerent. Jesus was peaceful toward all men, but all men were not peaceful toward Him. Paul clarifies the principle. *"If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men"* ([Rom. 12:18](#)).

We are only responsible for our side of the peace

process, but we cannot use another's belligerence as an excuse for responding in kind. We have an obligation to live peaceably, whether or not those around us treat us peaceably.

*If they do not live peaceably,
that is their problem; it is never our excuse.*

I once witnessed an interesting drama on the street. A man driving ahead of me apparently had just picked up a brand new car. It still had the dealer's license on it. Another driver, anxious to pass him, pulled around on the right, running through a huge mud puddle as he did. The new car was a mess. A third man, probably a friend who had taken the first man to the car dealer, was in another car. The two of them forced the impatient man off onto the shoulder and blocked him in. They then proceeded to pour soda pop all over the offending vehicle. It was not a demonstration in peacemaking.

On another occasion, I inadvertently cut off another driver. He pulled up beside me at the next light and began cursing profusely. When he finished, I leaned out the window, admitted I was wrong and asked him to forgive me. That was obviously far from the response he expected, and he roared off in a huff. But an effort had been made for peace. In so far as I could, I tried to make peace (see [James 3:13-18](#)).

Loving God:

Sanctification has to do with our loving God. It speaks of the pure, obedient, holy life we live set apart for God's glory, because of that love.

When we love Him, we will want to be like Him, and when we are like Him, others will see Him in us and be attracted to Him.

Love toward men and love toward God are inseparable.

The most difficult part of the verse to interpret is **without which no one will see the Lord**. I believe the reference is to unbelievers who see and observe our pursuit of peace and holiness, without which they would not be drawn to accept Christ themselves. The passage does not read, "without which *you* will not see the Lord," but **without which no one will see the Lord**. In other words, when unbelievers see a Christian's peacefulness and holiness, they are attracted to the Lord. Jesus said, "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" ([John 13:35](#)). And He prayed to His Father that "they may all be one; even as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that Thou didst send Me" ([John 17:21](#)). **Our love for each other is a testimony to the Father and to the Son. It is a means of drawing people to Christ**, apart from **whom no one will see the Lord**.

As we run the race, leaving a straight path, showing love to men by peacemaking, and showing love to God by holiness, people will see the Lord.

Paul agonized over some of the immature Christians at Galatia, to whom he wrote, "My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you" ([Gal. 4:19](#)). It was his heart prayer that, above all else, they grow in Christlikeness. Christlikeness is our greatest possible testimony to the world.

- **MacArthur New Testament Commentary** – Hebrews.

[Verse 14](#). *Follow peace with all men*. Do not give indulgence to those passions which lead to litigations, strifes, wars. [Romans 14:19](#). The connexion here requires us to understand this mainly of persecutors. **The apostle is referring to the trials which those**

whom he addressed were experiencing. Those trials seem to have arisen mainly from persecution, and he exhorts them to manifest a spirit of kindness towards all, even though they were engaged in persecuting them.

This is the temper of the gospel.

We are to make war with sin, but not with men; with bad passions and corrupt desires, but not with our fellow-worms.

And holiness. Instead of yielding to contending passions and to a spirit of war; instead of seeking revenge on your persecutors and foes, make it rather your aim to be holy, Let that be the object of your pursuit; the great purpose of your life. Men might in such cases counsel them to seek revenge; the spirit of religion would counsel them to strive to be holy. In such times they were in great danger of giving indulgence to evil passions, and hence the special propriety of the exhortation to endeavour to be holy.

Without which no man shall see the Lord.

- That is, shall see him in peace; or shall so see him as to dwell with him.
- *All will see him in the day of judgment*; but to "see" one is often used in the sense of being with one, dwelling with one, enjoying one. [Matthew 5:8](#).
- The principle here stated is one which is never departed from, [Revelation 21:27](#); [Isaiah 35:8](#), [52:1](#), [60:21](#), [Joel 3:17](#), [Matthew 13:41](#), [1 Corinthians 6:9,10](#).

- *No one has ever been admitted to heaven in his sins; nor is it desirable that any one ever should be.*
- Desirable as it is that lost men should be happy, yet it is *benevolence* which excludes the profane, the impious, and the unbelieving from heaven-just as it is benevolence to a family to exclude profligates and seducers, and as it is benevolence to a community to confine thieves and robbers in prison.
- **This great principle in the Divine administration will always be adhered to; and hence they who are expecting to be saved without holiness or religion are destined to certain disappointment.**
- Heaven and earth will pass away, but God will not admit one unrepenting and unpardoned sinner to heaven. It was the importance and the certainty of this principle which made the apostle insist on it here with so much earnestness. Amidst all their trials, when exposed to persecution, and when everything might tempt them to the indulgence of feelings which were the opposite of holiness, they were to make it their great object to be like God.
- *For this they were to seek, to strive, to labour, to pray. This with us, in all our trials, should also be the great aim of life.*
- How deeply affecting, then, is the inquiry, whether we have that holiness which is indispensable to salvation!
- *Let us not deceive ourselves. We may have many things else-many things which are in themselves desirable, but without this one thing we shall never see the Lord in peace.* We may have wealth, genius, learning, beauty, accomplishments, houses, lands, books, friends-but without religion they will be all in vain.
- *Never can we see God in peace without a holy heart;*

➤ never call we be admitted into heaven without that religion which will identify us with the angels around the throne!

(*) "peace" [Psalms 34:14](#)

(*) "without which" [Matthew 5:8](#), [Ephesians 5:5](#)

- Barnes' Notes on the New Testament.

Verses 14-16 string together a chain of moral imperatives that those running the Christian race live by. These imperatives give us a picture of holy, faithful running that stays the course to the **very end**. Conversely, the author also gives us a picture of unholy living in the person of Esau. We are told not to fall away as he did.

Pursue Peace and Holiness:

The call to pursue peace is a very important Christian imperative. Notice verse 14 does not say, "achieve peace with everyone." It says we are to "pursue peace with everyone." We may not be able to achieve peace, but Christ's people are those who strive for it and are known for doing so.

And notice we're called to do so "with everyone."

We are not merely to seek peace with those in our own circles of concern, but with everyone with whom we engage. This exhortation echoes Paul's charge to the Christians in Rome: *"If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone"* ([Rom 12:18](#)).

Seeking peace with everyone is part and parcel of the path of righteousness on which the author encourages his people to run.

In this same verse the author also exhorts his audience to pursue holiness.

He warns that no one will see the Lord without it/holiness. Thus, holiness is required for the believer. Holiness is not a mark of unregenerate people, nor is it a mark of those who are falling away and failing to run the race of Christian faith. Here the author is using the term holiness to describe those who are pursuing the Lord.

This does not mean those who run are perfect or sinless, but it does mean they are fighting sin and living faithfully. No one will see the Lord without this holiness, which makes the moral imperative to make straight paths for our feet eternally significant.

- Christ-Centered Exposition – Exalting Jesus in Hebrews.

The Enablement of God's Grace ([Heb. 12:14-29](#))

As we run the Christian race, what is our goal? The writer explained the goal in [Hebrews 12:14](#): *Peace with all men, and holiness before the Lord. (Remember "the peaceable fruit of righteousness," [Heb. 12:11](#).)*

These two goals remind us of our Lord's high priestly ministry—King of peace and King of righteousness ([Heb. 7:1-2](#)).

It requires diligence to run the race successfully lest we "fail of the grace of God" ([Heb. 12:15](#)). God's grace does not fail, but we can fail to take advantage of His grace. At the end of the chapter, there is another emphasis on grace ([Heb. 12:28](#)).

- Bible Exposition Commentary – Be Confident (Hebrews).

Hebrews 12:14

***** Read from: "Consider Him..."

*** SEE Leviticus closing sermon #13

*** SEE "Hold On #6" (Be Holy and...)

5 Warnings if Heb. = BE Holy!!!

Be holy, hold on, or else!!!

5 warnings = God's Love!!!

"How someone reacts &
responds to redemptive
warnings reveals their hearts.
- JDP

*** See ESV Study Bible notes & cf.

*** 2 Cor. 5:17-21 = summary text!

Define:

- Strive

See tension AGAIN...

- Sovereign grace
- Human Responsibility

= "run with endurance" (above)

2 Tim 2

- Soldier
- Athlete
- Farmer

"Fight the good fight..."

Press on toward the goal...

Seek 1st the kingdom of God...

Let us also lay aside EVERY...

- * Encumbrance
- * Sin

Live a life worthy of the gospel...

Put on the full armor of God

Compel them to come

- * Rationale (Dr. Mohler graduation)
- * Excuse (Mohler...)

Contrast "strive" vs. "shrink back"

Contrast men in Parable of Talents

Contrast Zach & Rich Young Ruler

For you have not yet shed blood...

- Peace (wholeness vs. quiet)

Peace = Shalom...

Peace =

1. Fruit of the Spirit
2. Armor of God

3. Blessed (Peace-makers)

Romans 8:6!!! = **Romans 8:6 (ESV)**

⁶ For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

Vertically

- * Whole-rightness with God

Horizontally

- * Whole-rightness per God

- "all men" (2 groups & 5 categories)

Saved

- * Sheep
- * Sheep dogs
- * Shepherds

Lost

- * Goats
- * Wolves

See Great C's here!!!

- * Acts 1:8
 - ~ Near & like is
 - ~ Close & kinda like us
 - ~ Those we do NOT like
 - ~ Ditto above around the world
- * Matthew 28
- * Every tribe, nation, & tongue

"all" means ALL!

- ~ Not just adversaries
- ~ Aim is not relief...
- ~ The aim here is restoration

Peace is not for pacifists!

- "this"

Reveals different "holinesses"

We need to know range of H...

Note: holiness does NOT save...

Holiness is validating fruit of
justification

Holiness is the

Void in damnation

("Unless I clean you/feet, you have
no part in Me..." - John 13)

Missing in separation

Goal of evangelization

“Our LORD & Our Holiness”

Leviticus 27:34

April 22, 2018

- INTRO:** Let me ask you a few questions as we begin this morning...
- What do YOU do with the Bible’s call for Christ-like holiness?
 - How holy is holy-enough?
 - **How holy is Jesus?** (Note my verb tense.)
 - **How holy are YOU...** & how much does it matter?
 - Today we’ll tackle ALL of that... and more.

CONTEXT: (*Hebrews - Leviticus - Hebrews - Amos*) → **Today...**

Leviticus 27:34 (our Lord’s last words in Leviticus)

These are the commandments that the LORD commanded Moses for the people of Israel on Mount Sinai.

BIG IDEA: *God’s holiness provides our happiness & holiness!*

Today we are going to DEFINE, DEFEND, & DEPLOY biblical holiness... because that’s what living out the gospel & the Law of Christ commands every Christian to champion... all by God’s grace & all for God’s glory!

VIDEO: *Ligon Duncan: T4G Introduction & Prayer*

PREVIEW:

- I. **Holiness DEFINED**
 - a. *Holiness Designed*
 - b. *Holiness Described*
- II. **Holiness DEFENDED**
- III. **Holiness DEPLOYED**

T/S: See today that holiness is the faithful fruit of grace & obedience!

➤ So... today I brought another brother from T4G to help us out...

I. **Holiness DEFINED** (*Designed & Described*)

- **Definition:** *Pure, Devoted, Complete, Separate, UNIQUE*
- ~ All God's attributes unite in His holiness (*causes man to fear*)
- ~ **Holiness is uniquely & only completely expressed in Him**
- **Verb:** Holiness is Holy in action... grace in obedience! - JDP
- **760X in the Old Testament**
- Big Idea of Leviticus: **Holiness (87X)**

*Human-holiness is the Christ-like, love-child of divine grace
& Spirit-filled transformation!* - JDP

a. **Holiness DESIGNED**

VIDEO: *Ligon Duncan: T4G #2*

- God is holy! - see Leviticus 19:2
- **Malachi 3:5-6 = God never changes!**
- *God is & will be who He always has been!* - JDP
- God's people are to be holy! - see Leviticus 19:2

God said in **Ezekiel 36:26-27**: *And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.* (Remember the **"Glove Illustration"**)

- *God's holiness is at the core of His character, commandments & commission.* - JDP
- You cannot separate the truthful-totality of God's Holy Word ...from the truthful-totality of the Holy God of the Word. - JDP

b. Holiness DESCRIBED

- Motives, Message, & Methods ALL matter!

VIDEO: *Ligon Duncan: T4G #3*

* Theology of holy tension, totality, & the titanic *

Romans 12:1 *“Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God.”* (Psalm. 30:4 = with praise & thanks!)

- Holiness is NOT a part-time thing... - JDP
- Obedience & blessing are both full-time Christian standards! - JDP
- Our human holiness is born out of our abiding & obeying. - JDP

Without the holiness of God, sin has no meaning & grace has no point... - Dever

- Christ-like, church-life is meant to help us live holy lives. - JDP
- **Law of Christ:** Gal. 6:2 & 1 Cor. 9:20ff & James 2:8 = *royal law*
 - Matthew 5's **“beatitudes”** & Gal. 4's **“Fruit of the Spirit”**
 - John 14:15 & 20:21... loving & living “sent” like Jesus
- Holiness requires living in distinctly in holy contrast to culture.

If you're not at odds with sin/world, you're not at home with Jesus. - Piper

Reductionalistic Theology is a loophole-loving posture that leads many astray by minimizing & marginalizing God's Scripture & standards... of truth in love. - JDP

Cultural church life provokes no questions & provides no answers. - Dever

Too many churches, when leaning over to reach the world-fall in. - H.B. Charles

The Church is to embrace the tension of being both, committed to internal holiness, AND the loving, external pursuit of the unholy people outside the Church. - JDP

T/S Holiness BOTH defines AND defends God's glory in world.

II. Holiness DEFENDED

"Much will be required of everyone who has been given much." - Lk 12:48

Bad theology attacks both salvation AND sanctification... – John MacArthur

Disregard & disobey God's call to holiness & be both defiled & damned! - JDP

- **John 3:36** & John 14:15... 1 John 2:6 & Luke 14:27
- *"Live a life worthy of the Gospel..."*

- Over **125X**, Leviticus indicts mankind (cf. **2 Timothy 3:16-17**)
- *"I am the LORD"* and *"I am holy."* These are used over **50X**.
- **We cannot, per the Word of God, effectively disciple IN this world if we are not effectively distinct FROM this world!**-JDP

*Everyone loves Jesus – until they read what he really taught.... (Moreover, in the contemporary church, today), faith has become a matter of taste, over a matter of truth.... – **David Platt, Radical***

We live in a culture where the subject of sin is unpopular. –Hughes

James 4:4=friends of the world = God's enemy

Most things that rob me of my passion for Jesus are morally neutral. – Chandler
The holiness of heaven is what drives out the filthiness of the world. - **Chandler**

Romans 13:14 = *But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make **NO provision** for the flesh, to gratify its desires.* (a.k.a.... **Abide in Him & starve self!** - JDP)

Remember..... just a little leaven... (Nadab & Abihu)

Bad theology attacks both salvation AND sanctification... – John MacArthur

T/S: *“The cultural church has learned to live with un-holiness and have come to look upon it as the natural and expected thing.”* - A. W. Tozer
Holiness is to be BOTH...our biblical blueprint AND personal bulls-eye! - JDP

“We are not diplomats but prophets, and our message is not a compromise but an ultimatum.” - A. W. Tozer

III. Holiness DEPLOYED

Remember: Leviticus 19:2 & 1 Peter 1:14-16
*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 conduct**, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”*

VIDEO: *Ligon Duncan: T4G #4*

We tend to rationalize our sinful silence... by snuggling up with lions! - JDP

*Imagine if your salvation depended on your-sharing vs your-**hearing**...* - JDP

“Every Christian this side of the cross owes the gospel to every lost soul this side of hell... Disciple making is not a call for others to come to us to hear the gospel but a command for us to go to others to share the gospel.” – **Platt**

“Every Christian is either a missionary or an imposter.” – Spurgeon

For those who ask: **Q:** *But HOW?* **A:** *Abide & Obey!*
Ephesians 2:8-10... Matt. 28:18-20... Acts 1:8... John 15

Holiness embodies BOTH God’s internal mission AND our external ministry. - JDP

Q: But what are we to do when frustrated by the holy hypocrites?

Be righteous regardless! - Kim Pearson

CLOSE: We need to see biblical holiness for the awe-inspiring, magnificent masterpiece that it is... BUT, we can't be caught flat-footed... just staring at it...

NO! *We are to remember our gracious King & His gospel call on our lives.*

I'm reminded of Jonathan Edwards... *"Sinners in the hands of an angry God"*

vs.

Today's cultural church... *"God in the hands of angry sinners"*

"We are not diplomats but prophets, and our message is not a compromise but an ultimatum."

- A. W. Tozer

We are NEVER more holy than when we are remembering AND representing Jesus the Christ!

VIDEO: *Ligon Duncan: T4G #5 ("take & eat")*

COMMUNION

ALWAYS remember: *"take & eat" is a holy invitation to holy inspiration!* - JDP

AND

1. Always remember BOTH how gruesome & gracious the gospel really is!
You are blood-bought & blood-washed Christian!
2. Always remember *Holy rituals mean nothing without holy relationships!*

And finally... Always remember that

ALL of this is to enlarge God's glory & extend God's grace thru the truth in love of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Let's PRAY!

Study Notes:

Leviticus 19:2

19:2 This is **the only time** where God tells Moses to speak directly to the entire Israelite community. The imperative be holy ([11:44](#); [20:7,26](#)) and the reason for the people's holiness—because I, Yahweh your God, am holy—are the main message of this chapter as well as the theme of the entire book of Leviticus. This idea was repeated by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount when He told His disciples to "be perfect... as your heavenly Father is perfect" ([Mt 5:48](#)).

- HCSB Study Bible.

19:1-4 Holiness here refers first and foremost to the essential nature of God. The term **holy** means "set apart, unique, and distinct," and holiness in humans ordinarily refers to their being set apart for service to God (see note on [Isa. 6:3](#)). Human holiness is the imitation of God, i.e., becoming and acting like him.

- ESV Study Bible.

19:2 *I the LORD your God am holy.* This basic statement, which gives the reason for holy living among God's people, is the central theme in Leviticus (cf. [20:26](#)). See note on [11:44, 45](#). Cf. [1 Peter 1:16](#). Israel had been called to be a holy nation, and the perfectly holy character of God (cf. [Isa. 6:3](#)) was the model after which the Israelites were to live (cf. [10:3](#); [20:26](#); [21:6-8](#)).

- MacArthur Bible Commentary.

cf. Isaiah 6:3~

- **Holy, holy, holy.** A three-fold repetition is the strongest sort of superlative. Nothing is as holy as God. See note [1:4](#). - The Reformation Study Bible.

- The throne, the attending seraphim (angels), and the threefold *holy* all stressed God's holiness. Seraphim were a type of angel whose name is derived from the word for "burn," perhaps indicating their purity as God's ministers. In a time when moral and spiritual decay had peaked, it was important for Isaiah to see God in his holiness. *Holiness* means "morally perfect, pure, and set apart from all sin." We also need to discover God's holiness. Our daily frustrations, society's pressures, and our shortcomings narrow our view of God. We need the Bible's view of God as high and lifted up to empower us to deal with our problems and concerns. God's moral perfection, properly seen, will purify us from sin, cleanse our mind of our problems, and enable us to worship and to serve.
- Life Application Study Bible.
- **Holy, holy, holy.** The threefold repetition intensifies the superlative (cf. [Rev. 4:8](#)). Holiness implies absolute moral purity and separateness above the creation (see note on [Isa. 1:4](#)). **his glory.** This is a technical term for God's manifest presence with his covenant people. It was seen in the cloud in the wilderness ([Ex. 16:7, 10](#)); it moved in to "fill" the tabernacle ([Ex. 40:34-35](#)) and then the temple ([1 Kings 8:11](#)), where the worshipers could "see" it ([Ex. 29:43](#); [Ps. 26:8](#); [63:2](#)). Several passages look forward to the day when the Lord's glory would fill the earth, i.e., the whole world will become a sanctuary ([Num. 14:21](#); [Ps. 72:19](#); [Hab. 2:14](#); cf. [Isa. 11:9](#)); and the ESV footnote suggests that the seraphic cry shares this anticipation. Other texts in Isaiah also look forward to the revealing of the Lord's glory to the world ([11:10](#); [35:2](#); [40:5](#); [58:8](#); [59:19](#); [60:1-2](#); [66:18](#)). [John 1:14](#) asserts that this glory was present in Jesus.
- ESV Study Bible.
- The word holy spoken three times is emphatic or superlative and points to God's otherness. He is completely separated from anything profane or sinful. His sovereignty is underlined by the fact that His glory filled the whole earth.
- HCSB Study Bible.

T4G

DEVER: "Holiness Together"

- 2 Peter 3:8-13

8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should

reach repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

*** 11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness,

12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!

13 But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

- Hypocrisy grows like mold when we put on & take off holiness like a Sunday, "dress-up" suit

- We (the cultural church) have tragically conformed to the world, and in so doing, have silenced/lost our witness

- We provoke no questions & provide no answers

- If talk of holiness feels heavy... you don't realize (or have) the freedom holiness produces

- Church Life is to help us live Holy lives...

- How pastors can help/lead others to holiness:

1. Commit to preach thru the Bible (we need it!)

Orthodoxy

Orthopraxy

2. Teach about the holiness (attributes) of God

Romans 3:25ff (for His glory)

Connect the gospel to His holiness & ours

God's holiness is at the core of His character & Christ's Great Commandments & Great Commission. - JDP

How many times does God's Word admonish us to "remember" (Think about it!)

Without the holiness of God, sin has no meaning & grace/gospel has no point

3. Teach what it means to be a Christian & what Christianity expects of true believers

People who hate God love Purpose. - Dever

Teach people how to discern...

Uphold the biblical messages & methods!
You cannot truly belong before you believe!
Biblical quilts vs cultural quilts = Witness!
4. Teach Christians to COMMIT to love/koinonia

We need to love unlovely Christians/others
God gives new love
Non-lovers of the brothers are liars! (1 Jn 4)
Local church is so much more than friends.
Theology without love is useless/dangerous
Simple, direct Q's can & should be loving.
5. Pray that we are more concerned about our members vs. the number of our members

Don't see numbers... see people/souls!
Read JC Ryle book: "Holiness" (See quote)
6. Teach that the church must choose between either hypocrisy OR church discipline

It's easier to look holy than to BE Holy.
Formative Discipline (teaching/equipping)
Confrontational Discipline (Matthew 18)
This must be foundational to membership...
God's name/Witness weighs in the balance
Hypocrisy is very comfortable in the world, but it ought not be so in the church.
We need to choose to pursue holiness.
7. Teach the church how to find the right Pastors:

Resumes do not cut it
Personality is not enough
Christlikeness serves vs being served
Holiness over time is the best indicator
~ Developing mature Disciples is #1 way
~ Beware accomplished ear-ticklers

Today's sermons are teaching your people how to choose tomorrow's pastors.
8. Pray publicly & specifically for hopes & challenges

Self-confidence is the opposite of holiness
See the Acts 6 example
Pray for the regular preaching of God's Word
Prayer is all about depending on God
Spend so much time that people who fake holiness get board
9. Teach that holiness is essential to mission.

Holiness & mission are like the body's two feet walking together in the same direction

Help people to realize that our distinction FROM the nations is there to help us REACH the nations.

Living Out our ambassadorship as the temple of God is the authenticating & essential fruit of faithful holiness.

Holiness never competes with mission

If you're not at odds with sin, you're not at home with Jesus. - John Piper

We need to be humble AND hopeful...

- ~ Submit to the Word's message/methods
- ~ Pray with Holy humility
- ~ Preach with Holy humility

Holiness is the work of God... that's hopeful!

When our pursuit of holiness is both humble & hopeful... we will BE most helpful. - JDP

*** Seek your happiness in God's holiness. - JDP

H.B CHARLES Jr.: "The Message of the Cross"

- 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

*** 18 For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

19 For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.

22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom,
*** 23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,
24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

- There is no shortage of preaching today... BUT, preaching "Christ crucified" is rare today...
 - Sincerity is not enough when the message of the cross is muted.
 - Too many churches, when leaning over to reach the world... fall in.
 - Let the world be the world & the church BE the Church!
 - 1 Corinthians is a rebuke of the church there...
 - Paul refused to be anything less than the Lord's faithful, preaching ambassador.
 - Careful preaching protects the message of the cross & its Christ.
1. The Message of the cross distinguishes the church from the world:

Cross message determines eternal destinies
True preaching puts substance over style
True preaching will divide people (now & later) into one of two sides & destinations
Anyone who rejects the message of the cross is doomed.
The Message of God is the power of God!
See the contrast & relationship between folly & wisdom (along with their subsequent responses) in this passage

2. The message of the cross declares true wisdom

True divine wisdom is in direct & opposite opposition to worldly wisdom (which, in reality, is foolishness.
True wisdom is found in the Word of God.
2 Timothy 3:16-17 says it most clearly
See 2 Timothy 4... "Preach the Word!"
God doesn't need to make allegiances!!!
The cross is not some new strategy...
The cross does not need a new strategy!
See 1 Jn 2:17 = don't invest in the temporary
Paul is challenging the Corinthians!

- ~ You must pick a side...
- ~ Choose message & mission of the cross!

Matthew 11:25-26... see Jesus on this topic

~ Those who look like they should get it don't, While those assumed to far gone often do get it.

~ Next verses explain how & why...

1. God's grace
2. God's glory

Note: the foolishness of preaching described here is NOT the preaching of foolishness!

3. The message of the cross defines Christian ministry

The message of the cross should shape all ministry

We preach Christ crucified!

Preach Him crucified both constantly and confidently... frequently & Faithfully.

We obey, even if it does not appear to be affecting the world... so that... the world is less likely to begin affecting us!

Christ crucified will never be popular

PLATT: "Righteous & Justice"

- Amos 5:18ff (3 parts)
- This is approx. 50 years before dispersion...
- There are 3 primary offenses included:
 - A. Eagerly anticipating future salvation while ignoring present sin
 - ~ You are NOT ok...
 - ~ You are deceiving yourselves
 - ~ They did all offerings BUT not a sin offering
 - ~ The Devil is a deceiver!
 - ~ God speaks in the 1st person:
 - * I hate...
 - * I will not accept your offerings
 - * Take your song away from me
 - B. They were engaging in worship while ignoring injustice
 - C. They were carrying on their religion while they were refusing to repent

- ~ Stephen quote this in Acts 7
- ~ God rejects words of worship that are void of repentant hearts
- Are we slow to respond to injustice?
- How does this text apply to our race issues?
 - A. Pastors & churches in the U.S. tend to widen the gap vs. close the gap of injustice between white & black demographics
 - B. We should be a Christlike contrast to culture
- 6 Exhortations for us:
 1. Look at the reality of racism in our culture
 - ~ Biblically There is only 1 race (human)
 - ~ Ethnicity allows for biblical diversity
 - ~ The Bible equates all people to equal value
 - ~ Skin color does have real affects on life's:

Economic experiences

Social experiences

Educational experiences

Etc.

2. Live in true multi-community (koinonia)
 - ~ See Ephesians 2:14 & 4:1ff
 - ~ See Acts 15 (Jerusalem Council)
 - ~ The Gospel makes us "one in Christ"
 - ~ The cross made this call possible
 - ~ Why aren't we a koinonia quilt in the Church
 - ~ Why is so much of what we do... so white?
 - ~ Our churches are as racially divided as our dinner tables...
3. Let's listen to & learn from others unlike us
 - ~ Data shows:

Christians are more divided on "cause"

Non-Christians are closer on causal issue

- ~ Sit down with others... w/ your Bibles open
- 4. Let's love others & lay aside our preferences
 - ~ See 1st John!!!
 - ~ Our Church family should be koinonia quilts
 - ~ The Bible is clear on this issue of race...
 - ~ The problem is US, not the Bible
 - ~ Church growth motivations go off course
 - ~ Homogenous unit principle kills koinonia!!!

- ~ Most professing Christians want churches of cultural- comfort vs churches of Christlike challenge.
- ~ We can trust Christ to grow His Church!
- 5. May Amos 5:24 rule & roll out in our lives
- 6. Let us leverage our lives & leadership for justice in Jesus' name.
 - ~ Read MLK's letter from the Birmingham jail
- 7. Let's long for the day when justice will be perfect... and thank God, literally, with our lives & leadership
 - ~ Let's pray & work for Jesus' justice
 - ~ Search your heart & repent where needed
 - ~ Pray thru tonight's 6 admonitions regularly

Day 2:

Hymn: *** Christ The Sure & Steady Anchor ***

***See Psalm 119's last two verses. Never forget!

Read/sing: "Come Thou Fount"

Read/sing: "Not In Me"

Read/sing: "Afflicted Saint..."

MATT CHANDLER:

- Matt 5:2-12 (Beatitudes) & 13-16 (Salt & Light)
- The Beatitudes start on the inside & supernaturally work out through the external life (by the power of the Holy Spirit)
- Moralistic deism is NOT the Gospel.
- Growing up in the Church is not the same as being in Christ.
- Too many pastors stay away from God's commands (moral imperatives) for fear of being called legalistic Pharisees
- Moralism believes you are accepted by God based on your moral behavior
- Note: good work is God's pre-fall design in the garden.
- Moral imperatives are woven into our divine design (See the Garden imperatives)
- See Exodus' conditional blessings based on obedience to God's commands (plus... just look at the 10 Commandments & beyond...)
- God's commands clash with culture!

- Being saved places the seeds of the Beatitudes into us...
- Matthew 5:13ff is the illustrative application of the Beatitudes
- Matthew 7:21ff gives concluding consequences for faithful obedience AND unrepentant disobedience
- *** Romans 12:2 = grace-driven effort = "how-to"
- You are being disciplined by the world!!!
- We are battling for the blessing of disciplining others, trying to win their focus & growth away from the world & self interest
- Because Jesus has done it... we do it
- By Jesus having done it... we do it
- See Philippians 4:8 = our focus & marination
- The holiness of heaven is what drives out the filthiness of the world. - Matt Chandler
- Ask yourself if Jesus could or would sit with you and encourage your use of time as you use it
- Romans 13:14 = abide in Him & starve self! JDP
- Worldly sorrow without biblical repentance is akin to playing with sin
- Some concepts on living the life:
 - A. Most of the things that rob me of my passion for Jesus are morally neutral and/or "minor sins"
 - B. We must embrace being the peculiar people we have been called to be
 - ~ We are meant to be a portrait of what is to come
- Take your sin & drag it into the presence of Jesus & ask Him to forgive & define you into His place of healthy, grace-based righteousness.
- Lord: please give us a right-hearted attitude in relationship to Your loving commands.

See Jeremiah 9:23-24

Kevin DEYOUNG:

- Malachi 3:5-6. - "The God Who Is Not Like Us"
- Distinct from the world = our calling!
- We are to be set apart... Holy... against the world, FOR the world!
- We are to be the BIG God People!
- Your view of God is too small...
- While we can't know God fully (He's too big), we must know Him

passionately (by His grace & for His glory)

- Malachi 3:6 (Divine Immutability)

- The Biblical, “reformed” Doctrine of God is multifaceted & true.

- 3 sermon pillars:

A. Define the doctrine Biblically & theologically

B. Challenges to the Doc

C. Why the doctrine matters

A. Definition of the Doctrine of immutability

God never changes!

God is & will be who He always has been JDP

The difference between BEING & becoming is the difference between the Creator & that/those that have been created. - DeYoung

~ Ex 3:14

~ Ps 122:25-28

~ Isa 46:8-11

~ Malachi 3:6

~ Hebrews 6:17

~ James 1:17

God’s essence, character, will & nature never changes.

There is no passive potentiality in God...

B. Challenges/Objectives to the Doctrine...

Does creation’s embodiment of “change” argue that God therefore changes

~ False: God’s creation did not make Him a Creator... He created because He has always been the One & only Creator. - JDP

Did Christ’s incarnation prove that God changes?

~ “The communication of properties” is the deep theological response... In short, the dual attributes of Jesus’ divine & human nature allows for this both/and tension

What about when the Bible says that God “repents” or seems to “change His mind”?

~ The Bible is speaking there in ways that differ from our human applications

~ The metaphorical applications are a form of grammatical & theological illustration that can never be fully mirrored amongst humans.

Biblical theology informs our biblical grammar, AND biblical grammar informs our biblical theology... When harmonized, biblical grammar, united in biblical theology, informs, inspects, & inspires biblical applications. - JDP

See 1 Samuel 15:11 & 35 = "I regret..."

*** Do not confuse God's immutability with an assumption of, or limitation by, immobility. While God not change, God DOES act!

Final challenge: God's emotions = changes

~ God is single & simple in a divine way.

~ God is not driven to change & complexity.

~ All of the attributes of God unite in Him

~ Note: above "unite" is defined as oneness

~ Note: For someone to dismiss or dismantle any single (or collection) of God's attributes is an attempt (or assumption) that seeks to dismantle all of God.

Close: The Doctrine of immutability's application

1. Our Warning - God's holy wrath never changes
2. Our Welfare - the Gospel is God's guarantee!
3. Our Worship - our God is divinely distinct!

We are as fickle as He is faithful!

An unchanging God has made a way for His very changeable creatures to be eternally restored & redeemed - Amen!

The only way to overcome the sinful changes in our selves & a fallen world is to rest & be restored by the One unchanging, Holy Redeemer. Amen & AMEN.

Hymn: "Behold Our God"

Breakout Sessions:

PLATT: "12 Critical Issues In Missions Today"

Intro:

- The Great Commission is a command to ALL Christian

- Global Missions is a Christian obligation
- The UUPG problem is the Church's responsibility to resolve in Christ's name & power
- Today's list is not exhaustive... but critical

1. AUTHORITY of the BIBLE

- Skepticism has huge implications to mission...
- Regular Bible reading %'s are dropping rapidly:

Younger generations fading fastest

Trusting (vs reading) falling even faster

Many millennials think the Word is dangerous

Over 1/3 pastors don't see need for the Word

We won't obey what we don't believe. - JDP

Why bother if the Bible isn't believed? - JDP

Without Rom. 10:17 taught, it's not lived. JDP

Proclaim the Word people!

God's Word NEEDS to be heard!

Word will drive us to & sustain us in mission

2. THE CONTENT of the GOSPEL

We must be clear & correct on Gospel details

We can not leave out any defining aspects...

Good intentions are not enough...

We should not spread lukewarmness...

False/counterfeit gospels are deadly enemies

~ Mormons have 70-80,000 missionaries...

~ Catholic teaching

~ Prosperity movements...

3. THE NECESSITY of EVANGELISM

Definition: Spirit led Proclaim of the gospel

Too many things are called evangelism...

Remember: Hell is real & lasts forever!

Unimaginable torture will be hell's reality!

The greatest need in the world is the gospel!

~ Separation from God is not fixed other way

The Gospel is missing in much mission work
We will be tempted to remain silent
We tend to rationalize our sinful silence. JDP
People will not be saved without evangelism.
Imagine if your salvation depended on your sharing vs your hear the gospel....
By way of application & verification of faithful fruit, it does!
“Every Christian this side of the cross owes the gospel to every lost soul this side of hell.” - Platt

Most branches of mainline Christianity have lost the confidence &/or passion to intentionally evangelize the lost world - near & far.

4. The IDENTITY of the MISSIONARY

“Every Christian is either a missionary or an imposter.” - Charles Spurgeon
Every Christian should be on mission (in obedience to God’s call & placement).
Staying self absorbed and disobediently “on mission” in your comfort zone is NOT a biblical representation of missionaries & mission work. - JDP
Going (or sending) without the Spirit’s guidance, within the guardrails of God’s Word, is equally disobedient & dangerous.

5. The ROLE of the LOCAL CHURCH in SENDING & PLANTING (by finding & growing disciples into multiplying disciples.)

Biblical Church growth is our goal

6. MOBILIZATION of the GLOBAL CHURCH

Think about all Christians going to all others
Laborers for the harvest should come from the harvest

7. MIGRATION of PEOPLES

The global refugee movement matters.
Reality is changing, so should our efforts...
The missional issue trumps the political issue
We can’t disobey the missional call because of the political challenges

8. The MOVEMENT to CITIES

While our mission & message won’t change, our methods must. - JDP

9. PREVALENCE of POVERTY

Over 1 billion live in desperate poverty today
Death & eternal damnation are thus looming

1 John 3:18 echoes in my heart...
True Church will be & bring both love & light!
Does your TTT
10. The SPREAD of ISLAM

By 2050 Islam expected to = Christianity #'s
Islam birth rate = 2X global averages
Part of making disciples is making babies.
11. REALITY of ILLITERACY

We need oral methods of gospel proclaiming
Creativity without compromise is needed.
12. WE NEED a THEOLOGY of SUFFERING

There's a reason why UUPG's still exist...
If we don't understand biblical suffering...
God has ordained suffering as a "means"
Note: be DON'T seek out suffering...
Are we raising up willing sufferers?

Q&A:

- * What is most strategic is OBEDIENCE!
- * 2.8 billion people are on the planet.
- * Default position.... You should go where you are needed most unless God makes it clear that you should stay where you are needed less.
- * We should learn & mimic the Mormon "model" of missionary training & universal involvement.
- * Pray for a larger view of God and a better, deeper understanding of sin & its consequence (for BOTH others & us).
- * Remember the power of prayer when it comes to mission work.
- * Turn news into prayer... open your eyes/views to see the world - on purpose.
- * Our commitments to our comforts will be directly proportional to our apathetic approach to the dark and damnable world all around us.
- * LONG term relationships with a complementary mission, message, & methodology are key to bridging the local, regional, & global effort in missions.
- * The mission field needs godly, biblical disciples who know how to make godly, biblical disciples, who do the same!
- * We do not believe in transformation by aviation (if you're not BE-ing a godly,

biblical missionary HERE, you won't become a godly, biblical missionary when you land on the ground somewhere far away).

PRAYER: Lord May This not be just another breakout session... Please Lord, bring clarity & refinement to those who hear or read these critical truths - Amen & AMEN.

Breakout Session #2

PLATT:

“10 Questions For Mission-Minded Pastors/Churches”

Intro:

Acts - the Church at Antioch gives us a model...

- Acts 7:54 - 8:1
- Acts 11:19ff
- Acts 13:1ff
- Acts 14:24-28

1. Are you preaching the Word in the context of the world.

Expository preaching of the Word is essential

An Acts 1:8 “global” perspective is essential

Show God's glory & love thru ALL the Bible

Show ALL the world this Love & glory of God

Mission must be infused in our sermons

Bring application to God's illuminations!- JDP

Preach the collision of Word & world...

2. Are you calling people to a radical identification with Christ?

Do you understand “follow Me!”?

Ask yourself... what do you really want?

Many church goers = functional universalists

American dream is a biblical nightmare! -JDP

Easy believism in the Church will not lead to missions in the world

3. Are you leading & building ordinary people into extraordinary disciples

who will go and make disciples who make disciples?

Antioch Church started by the nameless!
Show people that the Spirit is enough!
Raise the bar of believer's expectations! JDP
The Spirit In & thru 1 = limitless potential!
Don't underestimate the 1 talent Christian!

4. Are you giving sacrificially to the spread of the gospel around the world?

Where your treasure is... = your heart's home
Look honestly at your treasure
Your heart follows & spends your money!
Pray for being a part of the harvest

5. Are you fervently fasting/praying for mission?

Only God can do the work of God-J. Edwards
Prayerlessness is pride in sinful action.
The devil fears nothing that comes without prayer... and trembles at
everything brought forth by prayer

6. Are you continuously communicating the general command to make
disciples AND periodically issuing a specific call.

Find & Faithfully embrace YOUR call
Call the church to fast & pray for their calling
Not all are called to "go" but to obey

7. Are you nurturing an atmosphere for sending out your best?

What does the gospel mission deserve?
Do we send our scraps & extra or our best?
Acts 13 deploys

8 Are you celebrating continual & creative sending?

See the celebratory heart
See the continual commitment

See the creative approach to overcome
Be sure Your sending is eternally helpful:

- ~ Building long term disciple making there
- ~ Building long term disciple making here

Some leave their jobs while others can leverage their jobs for mission.
God will open Business doors for biblical carrying of the gospel.

9. Are you stewarding your resources missionally?

Carry this principle to cover all your time, talent, & treasure

10. Are you training your people to sacrifice willingly & to suffer well?

Stephen's martyrdom started the process that led to the birth of the Antioch Church...

Now... track murderer Saul to missionary Paul & you will see God on display!
God has a plan :-)

"God has this whole thing rigged! - D. Platt

Dr. ALBERT MOHLER

- 1 Corinthians 5:1 - 6:11
- This is the Word of God & it will wash over us!
- See NT holiness called for here, at high cost!
- Help us Lord to hear & love your hard Word(s)
- Corinth was a mess!
- Look at Paul's straight & direct language...
- Note too, his purpose is the gospel alone.
- See 2 Cor. 2:1ff for further context...
- Ditto 1 Cor. 4:21
- This is the type of letter written by a "former" pastor.... with a bold & broken heart
- The Church was embracing, in the name of grace, that which even pagans know is wrong
- The Church is accepting arrogant sin
- The sinner is to be given over to Satan... as a loving means of pursuit of

restoration through repentance

- Dis-fellowshipping is to be absolute and always an expression of love...
- God calls for BOTH/AND tension personified!
- Note: "so that his spirit may be saved..."
- "Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole loaf
- The church in Corinth looked a lot like Corinth...
- See the problem of compromise with culture!
- The True Church will always be in this context
- The question is... how will our church respond?
- Remember where our eternal citizenship lies
- We are in but not of this world... read John 17
- Sermon on the Mount = life in cultural contrast
- 2 Corinthians 6-do not be in union w/ the world
- We cannot, per the Word of God, effectively disciple in this world if we are not effectively distinct from this world! - JDP
- The undercurrent of our contrast leads culture, and its champions, (as well as the compromising churches) to call out the Chris-like, faithfully-obedient Church as an enemy. - JDP
- Remember: the Church lives in a war zone.
- This text is express evidence that sexual sin did (and can) run rampant in & at the church & it's people - those who are seeking such sin AND those who are susceptible to being ambushed by said sexual sins. - JDP
- No church doors are strong enough to lock out the encroachment of sexual sin. - JDP
- Note, there is an entire list of worldly sins that defy holiness & disqualify humans from heaven. Then, note, for we all were once such as these. The question is.... have we been changed & transformed! See 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
- Whose Word & way will serve as authoritative in this worldwide tension? See 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- Notice that Paul expects sin to come out of the world... but he does not expect that sin will be allowed to live comfortably IN the Church. - JDP
- Cultural lies now call biblical truth immoral. JDP
- Beware those who make Pastoral allowance for the rejection of God's holy Scriptures and standards. - JDP
- You cannot separate the truthful-totality of God's Holy Word from the truthful-totality of the Holy God of the Word. - JDP
- Remember John 17... Jesus did not pray that we would be taken out of the world. No. But rather, Jesus prayed that we would be used, in missional,

supernatural unity (ekklesia in koinonia & Homothoomadon) to change the world through the proclamation of the gospel & the exponential multiplication of disciples. - JDP

Applications:

- The Church is to reveal God's holiness to a rebellious world.
- The Church is to confront & correct sin.
- The Church is to be honest & holy at all times.
- The Church is to prep itself & the world for God's judgement
- The Church is to embrace the tension of being both, committed to internal holiness, AND the loving pursuit of the unholy people outside the Church. - JDP

- Final thought... take a close & empathetic, long & loving look at 1 Corinthians 6:11 again and again and again as you live on mission - Amen!
(Don't miss this... the gospel in this verse hangs on the verb tense of the word "were")

*** Hymn: Come Ye Sinners Poor & Needy ***

LIGON DUNCAN: "The Whole In Our Holiness"

- Leviticus 19:2 is the key text
- Superficial grace makes obedience a bad thing
- Antinomians are the heretical cheap gracers
- Legalistic don't really understand God's Law & Antinomians don't really understand God's grace
- Background & Context passages: (John 17:17)

Genesis 1:27-28 (God's divine design)

- ~ The first words humans heard = a blessing
- ~ This blessing came as a command
- ~ Note the unity of blessing & obedience
 - * There is an inherent relationship here
 - * This is not a condition of God's Love
 - * This is the sphere in which blessing lives
- ~ BE like Me... that's how you're blessed
- ~ Disobedience distances us from God and His divine design... But Satan

lies & tells us that in disobedience we will be like God (you can have your cake & eat it too).

Genesis 3...

Genesis 17

- ~ "Walk before Me & BE blameless/whole..."
- ~ Abe's word's agreed with God, His walk didn't
- ~ God tells Abe: stop being a hypocrite

Exodus 19

- ~ Grace always precedes Law
- ~ Exodus 19 preps you for the 10 C's In ch.20
- ~ God rescued... then called for obedience
- ~ Read Exodus 20:2 slowly for proper context
- ~ Law becomes a means/message of grace

*** Leviticus 19

- God: I want the whole of you to BE like Me
- You shall BE Holy for I, the Lord your God am Holy!

Remember why you were created!

Remember what life in heaven will be like

- You are to manifest the fact that you are Mine by living out a godly life.
- Obedience is how you image (represent) God.
- "You shall love your neighbor as yourself"

A biblical definition of love is essential here

- God commands His people to image Him!
- Don't tell Me you love your neighbor and then go live like you don't!
- Matthew 19:16ff is an object lesson on legalism
- Luke 10:25ff... Ditto... "Do that & you will live..."

Legalists are self-justifiers

Legalists are always looking for loopholes!

- ~ They ask: When/how the Law does not apply to them
- ~ The Good Samaritan account is shared to explain this point & convict the legalists

Jesus repeats the prophets: "Obedience is better than sacrifice."

Jesus doesn't just give good answers to bad questions... Jesus often said: Your

question stinks!

Jesus was compassionately confrontational.

- Stop looking for loopholes!

The looking for loopholes led to slavery..

The looking for loopholes fed into slavery.

*** "Who IS my neighbor" sounds a lot like "Did God really say?" ***

*** We are to bet it all in God's truth... and then double-down on His love!"

(not just as recipients but as representatives as well) - Ligon Duncan

CLOSE:

- She took & she ate...." NOW... per Jesus... "take & eat...". What Satan celebrated as the quote that would lead to the fall & breaking of humanity... Now cleansed & converged by our King & Christ, is the quote that depicts the divine doorway for every blood-bought, biblical disciple! Can't you just hear Jesus saying: Hey Satan - LISTEN TO THIS! "...take & eat..."

- Loving God & loving people is our most blessed gift in & of obedience."

- See the 1st & 2nd Commandments In Lev. 19:2

Panel Discussion:

HOW MERE CAN OUR CHRISTIANITY BE?

- Note how important AND how controversial this question/issue is

- The Apostle's Creed could be a good place to start... Noting what needs to be believed AND what must also be ruled out of one's belief.

- Could our ultimate answer be unpacked from a biblical response to: "What must I do to be saved?"

- See 1 Corinthians 15:1ff for the gospel's core message

Our mere Christianity MUST include the miraculous gift of grace, received with equally miraculous repentance & miraculous faith. - JDP

Per God's Word alone... by grace alone, thru faith alone, in Christ alone, for the glory of God alone!

- One must be justified to be a Christian!

Believe it or not, many in church disagree...

A faith must be in the true Christ & gospel

Doctrine matters!!!

- Reductionistic Theology is a loophole-looking-for posture that leads many astray by minimizing & marginalizing God's Scripture & standards... of truth in love. - JDP

*** What if the question is extended to ask: What is required to be a healthy Christian?

- See Dr. Mohler's article: "Theological Triage"

Tier One: What it takes to be a Christian

Tier Two: ...to be a local church member

Tier Three: ...non-dividing preference issues

- It is important that we don't sow confusion!

- We must be honest & address the socially hard & divisive issues of our day. Healthy Christians do not have the option to shy away from controversial challenges... Eternity is at stake!

- If you hope for and aim at "mere" Christianity, you are likely to miss real Christianity altogether.

THABITI ANYABWILE:

- Jude 1:17-25

- Listening to Your Word is an act of offensive spiritual warfare... We need your supernatural movement now...

- James 4:4=friends of the world = God's enemy

- How do we minister in/to a church that has already been affected or overtaken by the world

A. 17:19 Look out for the unsaved scoffers

B. 20-23. Look inside for edifying love

C. 24-5 Look up for confident assurance

A. Look OUT For The Unsaved Scoffers

- Beloved = speaking to the Church/Christians

- 17-18 reveals the need/power of remembering

- Do a Word search/study on "remember"

- We need to remember because Christians leak.

- Bad at remembering becomes bad Christianity.
- Ordinary human speech often reveals an extraordinary God (Hence: Proclaim!)
- God's words outlive our sermons.
- Our God-honoring sermons are His gospel seeds. - JDP
- Why Key in on scoffers?

They mock God's Scripture & standards.

They appear religious but reject religion

They grumble over God's Word, will, & ways.

Scoffers aren't happy unless they are unhappy

Scoffers live & slither across social media & the shadowy back room conversations that take place amongst lukewarm church-goers

Remember: ...just a little leaven..

Claiming to follow Jesus when not truly following Jesus is faithless foolishness.

- v.19 identifies & defines scoffers!!!

If the shoe fits & the muzzle is needed... wear them. - JDP

Remember: even polished scoffers are still Satan's sin soaked, wicked workers. - JDP

- See in the text... Jude is glorifying Jesus by fighting for the unity of God's body & bride. JDP

- Scoffers are attacking against the heart's desire of Jesus' heart & desire as expressed in John 17

Response:

- Ephesians 4:1-3

- Titus 3

B. Look IN for edifying love

- Help people see difference between lost/saved

- This is absolutely critical

- The Christian & Church have "koinonia privileges & responsibilities" - JDP

- Obedience is God's love language! (John 14:15)

- Find a church that loves to stir one another up to love & good deeds...

Therein you will find God & His real redeemed family - in contrast to a crowd of selfishly & socially driven, faithless fans! - JDP

- Pray God's Word back to Him as a tactical strategy in the battle against worldliness in the Church - for God's glory.

- Christ's mercy & kindness wooed our soul.
- Look to Christ to fight worldliness.
- See the doubters in the test... they are the targeted ones whose souls weigh in the balance at the end of this battle between truth & lies.
- See the "stained" who need the cleansing truth of the gospel... Again, see both the spiritual fight & the eternal stakes.

*** 3 APPLICATIONS:

1. Make sure we cultivate mercy & compassion

We need to be able to do theological triage

2. Let us cultivate faith & hope

We must have endless hope per the gospel

3. Know that the gospel beckons ALL to come!

Holiness doesn't end if/when we stumble :-)

God is more devoted to our holiness than us

C. Look UP for confident assurance (vv.24-25)

- See the God who is able!
- Our God can/will save us from our sin!
- Our God can/will save us from our stumbles.
- Our God is joyous in our obedience :-)
- Here's God's plan, pattern & promise... He will, through the biblical gospel of Jesus Christ, bring us into His holiness... unlock there for us His holy happiness... and then, after having deployed us as His holy helpers in fulfilling the Great Commission, He will call & bring us home to Heaven. Amen & AMEN

*** Modern Hymn: "Jesus, Thank You!" ***

John MACARTHUR

- Galatians 4:19

My children

for whom I am in labor again...

Intro:

- Taking the Word of God to the people of God is a great & sacred privilege!

- Galatians is Paul's constrained rage in response to the creep of a false gospel
- There is no introductory pleasantries...
- See Galatians 1:6ff... and take it to heart!
- The False teachers had claimed to be believers
- The False teachers were 98% on...
- For the 2% off they are damned!
- The Gospel's grace "plus" anything is heresy!

* Galatians other issue noted 4:19-sanctification

- Some folks are saved by truth then fall for lies
 - ~ Legalism can overtake Gospel grace
 - ~ Bad theology attacks both salvation AND sanctification... (liberals & libertines abound)
 - The pastoral mandate is defined in Gal. 4:19
 - Look for the list of Paul's feelings in Galatians
 - Ditto the list of Paul's pastoral actions...
 - Now compare those lists to our cultural and contemporary conversations about the pastorate & churches...
 - Note that which is in contrast, as well as those biblical necessities that are nowhere to be found, in today's theological discussions & priorities. - JDP
 - Paul consistently wrote about his heartbreak over the sin of his disciples & planted churches... read his various letters & you will see this.
 - See Paul's calling & response in Galatians ch.1
 - Both Paul & Jesus invested in sanctification... Once again, read John 17:17ff for the How & Why of sanctification.
 - See Titus 2:14!!! (Then take v.15 to heart. JDP)
 - Sanctification is the focus of pastoral ministry.
 - The Biblical pastor's passion is exemplified in the developing of reproducing-disciples
 - Where is today's preaching on holiness!
 - Titus 2:11 calls us to holiness by grace & for grace!
- *** Back to Galatians 4:19:
- Our Ministry Goal is to help others to be like Christ
 - Romans 8:29 is our pastoral bullseye!
 - Note all the passages that declare Christ is in us & we are in Christ...
 - When you sin you bring God into it..
 - "in Christ" is in the NT about 80X
 - See Ephesians 1:3-10 very, very, carefully...
 - Jesus was not crucified for an unknown people

- Why am I compelled to holiness...? It's because Christ is my life!
- If you really are a Christian, it means you were crucified with Him... you live in Him & with Him... Hence your passion for holiness. - JDP
- Re-read Ephesians 1:3... that's God's eternal plan for His eternal people. If you are the people of Ephesians 1:3, you won't need to be "sold" on or pushed into a pursuit of holiness. No. Instead, the raising of God's glory, thru the spreading of God's gospel, is the heart's desire of God's saved & devoted people. - JDP
- Seek, with all your heart, to see Christ formed in the heart & lives of those souls that represent your mission field. (aka "Go make disciples...")
- See 2 Peter 1... there's no Antinomianism there!
- Ministry is never "about me."
- Paul said his ministry was like labor pains...
- If your heart breaks for your people & their sinful short-comings, you're a true under-shepherd... If your heart is heavy because of your self-focused sense of injustice, you're nothing more than a managerial, church-hiring. May it never be so of us. - JDP

Final Panel Session:

- We are called as Christians to biblically love our biblical neighbors. - JDP
- Too much of missions giving is driven by great stories vs love & faithful obedience. - D. Platt
- The fact that Jesus LINKS the 2 Great Commandments is both defining & demanding to us. He said the second is like the first... we dare not separate what Jesus put together & thus unified. - JDP
- Distinct from the world is both the theme of this conference AND the call on every Christian's witnessing work & walk of worship. - JDP
- Pray Psalm 119:18 for yourself & church... praying for illumination is huge!
- Now go & be blessed by Psalm 119:1 :-)
- Then go to the last verse of Psalm 119 to be reacquainted with our need for God's great mercy & grace - Amen!

See our seeking Father who loves you & is calling you back to Himself, that you may know the eternal blessing of restoration & redemption.

John PIPER:

- "A New God, A New Gospel - How Christian Joy Is Distinct"

Big Idea: The most basic most essential distinction is not New decisions, deeds, or doctrines... but New delights in the heart.

- The world can "make a decision" for Jesus, while following Jesus everyday (see Judas)

- Only Christians can truly delight in the glory & grace of Jesus

- The supreme treasure of your heart's delight is your God - per Jesus' teaching

- Delight, happiness & pleasure are the echoes of our God... that which owns our heart

- New & True Christians have a New & True God... namely GOD! - John Piper

- Everyone has "A" gospel (good news)... but true Christians have a NEW Gospel... THE Gospel of Jesus the Christ!

- If the gospel only brought us justification & salvation but did not bring us into the fullness of God's full gift of relationship with Him, it would be lacking...

- The joy we have in Jesus, now & forevermore, is foundational to the definition & description of THE Gospel! (it is NOT an add-on)

- To define saving faith apart from biblically affirming feelings & affections is futile. - Piper

- A miracle HAS to happen, at the point of justification, in order for conversion to take place. - Piper

- SEE the MIRACLE of The GOSPEL:

Miracles are the exclusive work of God - JDP

Ephesians 2:1-10

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

John 3:3, 16, 36

1 Corinthians... "we preach Christ crucified..."

~ Foolishness

~ Stumbling blocks

~ The power of God (the called)

John 15:19... death to the world/self

Romans 6... we walk in newness of life

- Sinners do not create miracles...
- No sinner can bring themselves back to life.
- The new nature is most basically & most essentially seen in the New delights
- which will lead to new doctrines, deeds, etc.

“With that introduction, let’s get into the Word...”

*** Psalm 4:6-7 = a portrait of distinction...

- See the contrast between the world & God...
- Which is going to be sought to supply delight?
- We are to enjoy the Giver thru His gifts, BEing ever mindful to not, to never... reverse their order or prominence of the gift & Giver. - JDP
- Give yourself to long-staring into the Word... there are 10,000 blessings you’ve not yet discovered... - J. Piper
- Psalm 4:6-7 = David is telling all people for all time (thru His praise to God), that a worshipful walk with the Lord will generate more joy than ALL the world could ever hope to offer or promise to provide. - JDP
- God works from outside UPON us, until He comes to live & love WITHIN us, in preparation to do works of wonder THRU us - Amen! - JDP
- We ALL need the face of God to shine upon us more than we need anything else in life.
- His joy is better in every way:

Source

Duration

Unique/Miraculous

- How much more do we have on this side of the cross?
- 2 Corinthians 4:4&6... the shining of God’s face upon us is the solution to Satan’s dark & blinding lies.
- We were blind but now, thru the miracle of God’s gracious shining of His glorious Light upon our faces, ...but now we see!
- What’s the point of all the sensuous language used in Scripture to describe God’s gracious work upon His people.... Simple. The Lord’s language points to the divine delights that He intends to deliver to us AND deploy through us... By His grace & for His glory. - JDP
- This all shows that a “have-to” attitude, vs a “get-to” passion, reveals the realities of unbelief & a heart whose deepest delights are coming from ‘other’ disturbing (if not damnable) desires. - JDP

Leviticus 27:1-34 (ESV)

1 *The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,*

2 *“Speak to the people of Israel and say* to them, If anyone makes a special vow to the LORD involving the valuation of persons,

3 then the valuation of a male from twenty years old up to sixty years old shall be fifty shekels of silver, according to the shekel of the sanctuary.

4 If the person is a female, the valuation shall be thirty shekels.

5 If the person is from five years old up to twenty years old, the valuation shall be for a male twenty shekels, and for a female ten shekels.

6 If the person is from a month old up to five years old, the valuation shall be for a male five shekels of silver, and for a female the valuation shall be three shekels of silver.

7 And if the person is sixty years old or over, then the valuation for a male shall be fifteen shekels, and for a female ten shekels.

8 And if someone is too poor to pay the valuation, then he shall be made to stand before the priest, and the priest shall value him; the priest shall value him according to what the vower can afford.

9 “If the vow is an animal that may be offered as an offering to the LORD, all of it that he gives to the LORD is holy.

10 He shall not exchange it or make a substitute for it, good for bad, or bad for good; and if he does in fact substitute one animal for another, then both it and the substitute shall be holy.

11 And if it is any unclean animal that may not be offered as an offering to the LORD, then he shall stand the animal before the priest,

12 and the priest shall value it as either good or bad; as the priest values it, so it shall be.

13 But if he wishes to redeem it, he shall add a fifth to the valuation.

14 “When a man dedicates his house as a holy gift to the LORD, the priest shall value it as either good or bad; as the priest values it, so it shall stand.

15 And if the donor wishes to redeem his house, he shall add a fifth to the valuation price, and it shall be his.

16 “If a man dedicates to the LORD part of the land that is his possession, then the valuation shall be in proportion to its seed. A homer of barley seed shall be valued at fifty shekels of silver.

17 If he dedicates his field from the year of jubilee, the valuation shall stand,

18 but if he dedicates his field after the jubilee, then the priest shall calculate the price according to the years that remain until the year of jubilee, and a deduction shall be made from the valuation.

19 And if he who dedicates the field wishes to redeem it, then he shall add a

fifth to its valuation price, and it shall remain his.

²⁰ But if he does not wish to redeem the field, or if he has sold the field to another man, it shall not be redeemed anymore.

²¹ But the field, when it is released in the jubilee, shall be a holy gift to the LORD, like a field that has been devoted. The priest shall be in possession of it.

²² If he dedicates to the LORD a field that he has bought, which is not a part of his possession,

²³ then the priest shall calculate the amount of the valuation for it up to the year of jubilee, and the man shall give the valuation on that day as a holy gift to the LORD.

²⁴ In the year of jubilee the field shall return to him from whom it was bought, to whom the land belongs as a possession.

²⁵ Every valuation shall be according to the shekel of the sanctuary: twenty gerahs shall make a shekel.

²⁶ ***“But a firstborn of animals, which as a firstborn belongs to the LORD, no man may dedicate; whether ox or sheep, it is the LORD’s.”***

²⁷ And if it is an unclean animal, then he shall buy it back at the valuation, and add a fifth to it; or, if it is not redeemed, it shall be sold at the valuation.

²⁸ ***“But no devoted thing that a man devotes to the LORD, of anything that he has, whether man or beast, or of his inherited field, shall be sold or redeemed; every devoted thing is most holy to the LORD.”***

²⁹ ***No one devoted, who is to be devoted for destruction from mankind, shall be ransomed; he shall surely be put to death.***

³⁰ “Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the LORD’s; it is holy to the LORD.

³¹ If a man wishes to redeem some of his tithe, he shall add a fifth to it.

³² And every tithe of herds and flocks, every tenth animal of all that pass under the herdsman’s staff, shall be holy to the LORD.

³³ One shall not differentiate between good or bad, neither shall he make a substitute for it; and if he does substitute for it, then both it and the substitute shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed.”

³⁴ ***These are the commandments that the LORD commanded Moses for the people of Israel on Mount Sinai.***

Sermon Series Review:

“Our LORD & The Law”

Survey of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers & Deuteronomy

January 28, 2018

BIG IDEA:

*Engage & equip each person...
by explaining & exalting the strategic & Scriptural relationship between our
LORD & His Law...*

and

(Lay a **“learning foundation”** for our study of Leviticus...
linking our LORD, the Law, & Leviticus)

T/S: Context is critical! 3L, 3R, L, 2R, L, R, L (home to KI)

PREVIEW:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Genesis | <i>“LOOK”</i> |
| 2. Exodus | <i>“LEARN”</i> |
| 3. Leviticus | <i>“LISTEN”</i> |
| 4. Numbers | <i>“LOVE”</i> |
| 5. Deuteronomy | <i>“LIVE”</i> |

CLOSE:

“The Christian faith is a GIFT of grace that is received thru Spirit-enabled repentance, and is nurtured with genuine worship, all the while BE-ing strengthened by one’s reverent surrendering & relational sanctification.” - JDP

The God who speaks has spoken... Let us Look, Learn, Listen, Love, & Live with real worship & reverent works in relationship to our King Jesus!

Key verses: Genesis 1:1 & 3:15 & 12:1-3... & Leviticus 19:2

“Our LORD & Leviticus”

Leviticus Survey

February 4, 2018

VIDEO: *“Literary Styles In The Bible”*
Welcome to *Bible-reading-Basics & fundamentals of the faith*

Welcome... to BRIDGE family of Christ-followers

- 2018’s year of **God-honoring REVERENCE...**
 - REALLY... **learn, love, & live His Word**
 - *“Hold On”* – study of **Hebrews**
 - *“BE Holy”* – study of **Leviticus**
 - *“Hear Me”* – study of **Amos...**

Today we move from *“Our LORD & the Law”* to
“Our LORD & Leviticus” (Survey of Leviticus)

PREVIEW:

- I. **CONTEXT** of Leviticus
- II. **CONTENT** in Leviticus
- III. **CONFLICT** with Leviticus

BIG IDEA: Today’s time together is designed to help you
to “biblically-unlock” & better understand the
relationship between *“Our LORD & Leviticus”*

- I. **CONTEXT** in Leviticus

Generic Contextual Truths

*When we look at biblical context myopically... we miss the message and the full
Messianic mission. – JDP*

- A. **Literary “styles” determine:** (per opening video)
 - a. **Preparations** (phone book, love letter, user’s manual, etc)
 - b. **Expectations** (high, low, or no impact/refinement sought)
 - c. **Perceptions** (“Are you talkin’ to ME?)
 - d. **Interpretation(s)** (“It can’t possibly mean THAT... can it?)
 - e. **Digestion** (“I just can’t believe or accept THAT...”)
 - f. **Application(s)** (“Oh... that might be good for YOU... But....”)

g. Transformation (or not) (“I’m basically a good person.”)

B. Literary “tools” develop:

a. Points – refined

b. Plots - revealed

“It took God one night to get Israel out of Egypt, but it took 40 years to get Egypt out of Israel.” – anonymous

A book referred to about 40 times in the New Testament should be of great significance to every Christian... the Book of Leviticus contains extensive revelation concerning the character of God—especially His holiness but also His electing love and grace. Also, it provides many rich lessons concerning the holy life that God expects of His people. – Layman Bible Commentary

➤ Big Idea of Leviticus: **Holiness (87X)**

➤ Key Structure:

- Leviticus has 2 halves... with parallel parts...
- Title: Hebrew = ***“And He called”***

➤ Key themes of Leviticus:

Leviticus is a literary expression of God's desire that His holiness be reflected in the life of His covenant people. - Dallas Seminary Faculty.

➤ A fight for righteousness

Over **125X**, Leviticus indicts mankind for uncleanness and/or instructs on how to be purified. The motive for such holiness is stated in two repeated phrases: ***“I am the LORD”*** and ***“I am holy.”*** These are used over **50X**.

➤ A fight for reverence, redemption & restoration

The context, content, & conflict within Leviticus is parallel to Hebrews and the entirety of the Bible....

Here-in our Creator-God has designed, declared, developed, delivered, & deployed a loving, gracious, merciful & miraculous plan to restore & redeem a remnant of His sin-soaked, but captured creatures, those who will BE His blood-bought, gospel-believing, cross-carrying, Christ-following, children... Those whose fruit-producing lives witness to their Spirit-led & Spirit-fed transformation. Here we will see the origins of Christ's literal ARMY, AROMA, & AMBASSADORS... all growing in an ever progressive, woeful & wicked world! -

JDP

CLOSE:

See... Leviticus is not "about" the Law... it's about the LORD!

...not an application of the Law... but an application of LOVE!

Leviticus is not for people back then... it's for US... NOW!

➤ A fight for "Help" "Hope" & "Healing"

Let's Pray!

"Our LORD & Ritual Ceremonies"

Leviticus ch.1-7

February 11, 2018

VIDEO: "Holiness"

INTRO: Welcome... to THE BRIDGE where **both Hope & Holiness are championed in-Christ...** and after today, I pray you'll know why... AND **come join us!**

➤ **Preview**

1. *Defining Relationships*
2. *Detailed Rituals*
3. *Disciples Remembering*

➤ **Review**

1. Relationship between **holiness & hope**
 - Over **50X** in Leviticus...
 - **19:2**... *"BE holy for I your Lord am holy"*

BIG IDEA: **Relational definitions define ritual details...**

God's holiness, help & heart reveal His Word, His will & His ways

➤ Don't miss the **details, details, details...**

1. God calls for **exacting obedience!**
2. **The divine is in the details!** – JDP
3. *Faithful obedience is at the heart of reverence!*

➤ **Leviticus 1-7 = 5 core ceremonial rituals/offerings**

1. (Complete) **Burnt** Offering
2. **Grain/M Meal** Offering
3. **Peace/Fellowship** Offering
4. **Sin/Purification** Offering
5. **Guilt/Restitution** Offering

➤ **Martin Luther below...)**

When the law oppresses you so that everything seems utterly desperate and thus drives you to Christ for help, then the law is performing its true function. This is the best and most perfect use of the law. . . . It's true function, then, is to show us our sins, to make us guilty, to humble us, to kill us, to bring us down to hell, and finally to take away all help & all comfort... Yet, this is entirely in order that we may be justified, exalted, brought to life, carried up into heaven, and obtain

everything good. Therefore, the law does not just kill, but it kills in order that we may live (and BE perpetually sanctified).

➤ Repentance + **RESTITUTION (+20%) = Restoration!**

➤ *We live in a culture where the subject of sin is unpopular. In many circles, the word sin just sounds (old) and out of place... Consequently, we're bombarded with challenges to stop categorizing behavior as right or wrong but to celebrate every form of behavior as neutral, personal choices (in the name of Christianity). Tragically, countless churches rarely, if ever, use the word "sin" anymore. They talk about love and grace but talking about sin is avoided because it upsets people, and some think it lowers self-esteem. However, to be sure, to ignore sin is to ignore God's Word.*

➤ The sacrificial system is God's invitation for people to meet with Him.

➤ **Here's the spiritual irony... Peace with God begins when we realize we don't have it and that we really need it.**

CLOSE:

➤ **Remember... restoration is ALL of GRACE!**

1. The Lord lit the fire on the altar... (9:24)

2. It was to "*kept burning*"

- Shows dependence upon God
- Reminds of God's presence (**Mt. 28:20**)
- Allows for atonement at all times

ALWAYS remember:

1. BOTH how gruesome AND gracious the gospel really is!
You are blood-bought & blood-washed Christian!

2. Relational definitions define ritual details!
Holy rituals mean nothing without holy relationships!
3. ALL of this is to enlarge God's glory & extend God's grace thru the truth in love of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Remember...

The Gospel is a divine alter-call...Jesus died that you might live!

"Our LORD & Ritual Celebrations"

Leviticus 23

February 18, 2018

VIDEO: *"Bring An Awakening"*

INTRO: That song sings the theme of this sermon/text

- Let me ask you a few questions as we begin:
 - **When was the last time your heart was arrested with the awakening of celebrating Christ?**
 - Do you celebrate Christ & your Christianity?
 - Where? When? Why? & How?

BIG IDEA: *God wants His people to remember WHO, HOW, WHY, & WHEN we are to celebrate*

- WELCOME.... Let's pray & jump right in?

REVIEW:

- Study of **Hebrews**.... "Hold On" (cf. 1:1-3)
- *"Our LORD & His Law"*
- *"Our LORD & Leviticus"*

➤ *"Our LORD & Ritual Ceremonies"*

T/S: Today... again, **our goal is to see our LORD & His love...**

PREVIEW: 2 passes... 1st methodically, 2nd missionally!

The convocations were called "holy" because they were consecrated to the Lord's service. They were not family or community potlucks with a bit of religion thrown into the mix. They were celebratory remembrances of their God that called for the people to consecrate themselves to the holy task of worshipping the Lord.... Yes, worship was an assignment for God's people to obey, even as it is for us as His Church today...

Hebrews 10:24, 25 **exhorts us "to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together."**

➤ 7 annual feasts/festivals/celebrations

- Passover
- Unleavened Bread
- First-Fruits
- Weeks/Pentecost
- Trumpets
- Atonement
- Tabernacles

On the Day of Atonement, the Jew either lived or died.... If the Jew did not strictly follow the law of Leviticus 23:28-30 and Leviticus 23:32, he could be cut off from his people.

I. MISSIONALLY

1. PASSOVER: **Salvation (mercy)**
 - a. Jesus was sacrificed on this exact day!!!

- b. We do not keep the feast in remembrance of the exodus from Egypt, since that was a shadow of the greater redemption to come. We take communion,
- c. *The Gospel of John refers to Jesus as “the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).*
- d. Jesus is our Passover Lamb.

2. **UNLEAVENED BREAD:** Deliverance (grace)

- a. The **afikomen** is a hidden piece of *matzah*... that is broken before the Passover meal. Part of it is **wrapped in a cloth and hidden**. At the end of the meal it is **brought back**, distributed to the participants and eaten as **the final morsel**.
- b. When Jesus celebrated Passover with His disciples in the upper room, He broke the bread we know as the afikomen and distributed it to His disciples saying, *“Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” (1 Cor. 11:24)*
- c. The Festival of Unleavened Bread commemorated God’s deliverance of His people from slavery.
- d. Revelation 1:5 says *Jesus “has set us free from our sins by His blood.”*
- e. Jesus fulfills the Festival of Unleavened Bread.

3. **FIRST-FRUITS: Evidence**

- a. We celebrate the resurrection of the Lord as First Fruit (**1 Corinthians 15:20&23**) The resurrection of the rest of us as we each follow Him in our own time to Heaven

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep...

But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when he comes back.

- b. Jesus celebrated the Sunday of the week of His crucifixion by rising from the dead
- c. **He rose on the very day of First Fruits.**

4. **PENTECOST:** Harvest
 - a. See Acts 2... The Church was actually established on this day when God poured out His Holy Spirit and 3,000 Jews responded to Peter's great sermon and his first proclamation of the gospel.
 - b. Jesus Gives the harvest of souls.
 - c. Every time followers of Jesus get together for worship another Pentecost occurs, because the Holy Spirit still comes down upon the church, and whenever someone comes to saving faith, Jesus is giving a harvest.
5. **TRUMPETS:** Transitions
 - a. Now, when the trumpet sounds in accordance with **1 Corinthians 15:51- 3**, living believers will cease their harvest and rise from the earth. The Church will be taken out of the world.
 - b. *"Where there are two working in a field, one will be taken and the other left."* **(Matthew 24:40)**
 - c. The New Testament says that one day God will order trumpets to be blown to herald the arrival of Jesus and the gathering of His church to His side.

[First Thessalonians 4:16-17](#)

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the archangel's voice, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are still alive will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and so we will always be with the Lord.

- d. Revelation also says that during God's judgment at the end of this age, seven angels will blow seven trumpets to signal that God's judgment has arrived.

God gave the Festival of Trumpets to foreshadow that a new day is coming. As early as the garden of Eden, God promised to send the seed of the woman to bruise the head of the serpent. Throughout the Old Testament God repeated His promise to send a Messiah to defeat the serpent. God's people anticipated the coming of the Messiah who would crush evil and the evil one.

BE ready & stay focused!

6. ATONEMENT: Redemption

➤ In the Day of Atonement Jesus takes away sin!

This is the one feast that is not fulfilled by the church, because the Church owes no atonement. The Church is not innocent, of course, but it is exonerated. The Day of Atonement will be fulfilled for the “remnant of Jews” in a wonderful way when the Lord returns at His Second Coming.

7. TABERNACLES: Presence

- a. Tabernacles represents the Lord’s shelter in the world to come (olam habah), His great Tabernacle to exist in Jerusalem during the Kingdom Age.

[Philippians 4:19](#)

“My God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

- b. No matter what we go through, no matter what wilderness experience we may have to endure, Jesus will provide our every need.

In the new covenant age we don’t observe the Festival of Tabernacles. We gather to worship in celebration... each week to give thanks and praise to Jesus who provides our salvation and meets our every need.

CLOSE:

COMMUNION

Jesus said the kingdom of God is like a feast (cf. Matthew 22).

Think about it... God invites us to celebrate... to feast with Him! When we consider the joy of being saved, it is difficult to understand people who claim

to have that salvation but have no passion to celebrate it together with God's people...

VIDEO: *"Come To The Table"*

May we never forget...

Our WORSHIP defines our FELLOWSHIP!

When FELLOWSHIP defines worship... it's worship of self.

Let's Pray!

"Our LORD & Ordination of Priests"

Leviticus 8 & 9

February 25, 2018

Are You Ready to Serve?.

Leviticus 8:1-36

Main Idea: God calls all His people to serve Him, and we respond by publicly committing ourselves to serve, consecrating ourselves for service, living pure lives befitting servants of God, and walking in fellowship with Him as we serve.

- I. **Make a Public Declaration to Serve.**
- II. **Commit to a Position of Service.**
- III. **Be Consecrated to Serve.**
- IV. **Seek Purification for Service.**
- V. **Demonstrate Dedication to Serve.**
- VI. **Enjoy Communion with God in Serving.**

***** Leviticus 10 Pastor Charlie preached *****

“Our LORD & Priest’s Qualifications”

Leviticus 21-22

March 11, 2018

VIDEO: 1 John 2:4-6

T/S: Nothing connects Leviticus & Hebrews like Holiness!

BIG IDEA: **There is NO substitute** (*never was & never will be*) **for biblical-holiness when it comes to our LORD, His leaders, & His lay-people.**

T/S: The Gospel’s paradox becomes the “Priestly Paradox”

The largest themes of the book of Leviticus are God’s holiness and the holiness that God requires of His people.

4X God also repeated that command in the New Testament

God directed His command to be holy to ALL of His people

Leviticus 21 & 22 is a ***description*** of God’s way & a ***declaration*** of God’s ***warning!***

“We have learned to live with un-holiness and have come to look upon it as the natural and expected thing.” - A. W. Tozer

PREVIEW:

- God's Holiness & Our Worship
- God's Holiness & Our Work
- God's Holiness & Our Walk

VIDEO: *"Leviticus Overview"*

Patterns shared...

- **4X**... *"God spoke to Moses... speak to"*
- **6X**... *"I... the Lord who sanctifies you"*
- **13X**... warnings not to **"profane"**
- **20X**... use of **"holy/holiness"**

Principles to apply...

- Full context particulars...
- Timeless applications...

I. God's Holiness & Our Worship

- ***Holiness is to be BOTH...our biblical blueprint AND personal bulls-eye! - JDP***
- Let's take a closer look at **"holy/holiness"**
 - **760X in the Old Testament**
 - 116X as an adjective
 - 175X as a verb
 - 469X as a noun
 - **Definition:**
 - ***Pure, Devoted, Complete, Separate, Unique***

Human holiness is the love-child of divine grace & Spirit-filled transformation! - JDP

II. God's Holiness & Our Work

God Calls Spiritual Leaders to a Higher Standard.

- A. God says all Christians are spiritual leaders in the world.

B. God gives spiritual leaders to the church.

[Ephesians 4:11-12](#) says that *God “personally gave” to the church apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers.*

God is looking for those with whom He can do the impossible– what a pity that we plan only the things that we can do by ourselves. - AW Tozer

Robert Murray M’Cheyne was a Scottish pastor in the nineteenth century.
“The greatest need of my people is my personal holiness.”

Leviticus 21 and 22 are not intended to teach that priests are holier than laypeople. They teach that with higher position & privilege comes greater responsibility & accountability.

“Much will be required of everyone who has been given much.” - Lk 12:48

VIDEO: “Lack of Fear”

“The vague and tenuous hope that God is too kind to punish the ungodly has become a deadly opiate for the consciences of millions.” - A. W. Tozer

See... Nadab and Abihu.... ([Leviticus 10:1-5](#)).

Holy vs Hollow.... *May we find our happiness in His holiness!*

- *Miraculous vs Mechanical*
- *Supernatural vs Superficial*
- *Redeemed vs Religious*

In the OT, Biblical obedience was the way in to God’s presence & redeeming relationship but in the NT, biblical, faithful obedience is way that we walk & work OUT our restored relationship with Almighty God.} -

JDP

A person whose life does not measure up to purity of service will show his colors soon and will injure the witness of the local church and the spiritual condition of the church members under his care.

I. God's Holiness & Our Walk

Leviticus 19:2
The "Holiness Paradox"
1 Peter 2:9
1 Peter 2:9-11 (ESV)

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Vance Havner wrote a book entitled Lord of What's Left. *The Lord of their leftovers... while they take & keep their best for themselves.*

"God, You are Lord, of everything I don't care about and don't want."

➤ **Motive, Message, & Method ALL matter!**

Romans 12:1

"Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God."

➤ "Holiness is an inside-out reality. Think about it. Holiness happens on the in-side first, then works itself out-side through a Spirit-empowered, worship-filled walk. By contrast, hypocrisy weighs heavily on self-empowered, out-side works without ever witnessing to an in-side, worshipful heart." – JDP

- “Hear God’s message here.... Holiness embodies BOTH an internal mission AND an external ministry – with each meant to impact eternal matters... BY the grace, and FOR the glory, of OUR Messiah.” – JDP

CLOSE:

Imagine meeting Jesus (game over) & reviewing: last week, month, year...

God Calls Us to Know Him through His New Covenant in Christ.

22:31-33

- > Biblical obedience = love
- > Biblical obedience = light
- > Biblical obedience = life

"Religion today is not transforming the people - it is being transformed by the people. It is not raising the moral level of society - it is descending to society's level and congratulating itself that it has scored a victory because society is smiling, accepting religion's surrender."

- A. W. Tozer

God's described way... AND... God's declared warning!

HEBREWS 10:11-31

¹¹ And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

¹² But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,

¹³ waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet.

¹⁴ For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being

sanctified.

¹⁵ And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,

¹⁶ “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,”

¹⁷ then he adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”

¹⁸ Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,

²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,

²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God,

²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,

²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

²⁶ For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

²⁷ but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.

²⁸ Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses.

²⁹ How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?

³⁰ For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.”

³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

“The man with a cross no longer controls his destiny; he lost control when he picked up his cross. That cross immediately became to him an all-absorbing interest, an overwhelming interference. No matter what he may desire to do, there is but one thing he can do; that is, move on toward the place of crucifixion.”

- A. W. Tozer

"We are not diplomats but prophets, and our message is not a compromise but an ultimatum."

- A. W. Tozer

Let's Pray!

"Our LORD & Ceremonial Purity"

Leviticus 11-15

March 18, 2018

INTRO: (PRAY) Let me ask you a few questions as we begin

- What's the "toughest teaching" in the Bible?
- Which of Christ's commands rub you wrong?
- Why do some Christians "obsess over obedience?"

Is there a difference between pharisaical perfectionism & a God-honoring pursuit of Christ-like purity?

- What was God doing in Lev. 11-15... & **WHY?**

T/S: For those who haven't been with us...

- **Leviticus 11-15**
 - **Ch.11 = Delicacies** (eating of living things)
 - *"And the Lord spoke..."*
 - More about *faith vs food...*
 - **Ch.12 = Deliveries** (child birth)
 - *"And the Lord spoke..."*
 - More about *believing vs babies...*
 - **Ch.13-14 = Diseases** (leprosy & skin issues)
 - *"And the Lord spoke..."*
 - More about *living vs leprosy...*
 - **Ch.15 = Discharges** (intimate body fluids)
 - *"And the Lord spoke..."*

- More *discipleship vs discharges...*

REVIEW: Holiness *describes* God's *way*
& *declares* God's *warning!*

*** Christ *provides* that holiness...

*** Christ *empowers* that holiness!

BIG IDEA: How people *come-TO* the Lord... AND how people *go-FOR* the Lord, **matters!**

Faithful obedience is the standard, invitation, test, witness, & blessing of God's grace & holiness AND our love!

PREVIEW:

- A. Faithful-obedience is the set-apart *standard*
- B. Faithful-obedience is the set-apart *invitation*
- C. Faithful-obedience is the set-apart *test*
- D. Faithful-obedience is the set-apart *witness*
- E. Faithful-obedience is the set-apart *blessing!*

(You'll never know a greater blessing than when you are walking in faithful obedience!)

T/S: *God demands before He delivers!* – JDP

Ceremonial purity paved the way for Christ-following passion!

- Again... biblical, FAITHFUL OBEDIENCE is the Standard, Invitation, Test, Witness, & the Blessing of BE-ing set-apart & consecrated for God's holy work in you & thru you! - JDP

by contrast...

- *Nothing defiles like disobedience!* – JDP
- in fact...**
- *Disobedience embodies defilement!* - JDP

- **Leviticus 15:31** *"You must keep the Israelites separate from things that defile them (a.k.a. make them unclean), so they will not die in their uncleanness for defiling my dwelling place/tabernacle, which is among them."*

**Ceremonial purity paved the way for
Christ-following passion!**

T/S: *You see friends... faithful obedience to God's **WORD**, God's **WILL**, & God's **WAY** is the greatest work, witness, and demonstration of genuine-worship that any honest pursuit of Christ-like holiness can offer... ALL for God's glory & ALL by His grace. Amen & AMEN*

CLOSE: See the genius & grace of God's **wisdom...**
See the genius & grace of God's **way...**
See the genius & grace of God's **warning!**

- **God gives us the TRUTH (REALIZE)**
- He is holy, therefore we are to be holy.
 - We cannot become holy on our own
 - He creates a sacrificial atonement system
 - He supplies the sacrifices/Sacrifice
 - **John 3:3; 16**
 - **John 14:6**
 - **Ephesians 6:10ff; Matthew 7...**
- **God gives us the TEST (REPENT)**
- Obey and be blessed with restoration
 - Disobey and be defiled & damned
 - **John 3:36**
 - **John 14:15**
 - *"He who loses his life for My sake..."*
 - *"Live a life worthy of the Gospel..."*
 - **1 John 2:6**
 - **Luke 14:27**

- **God gives us the TIME** (REACH)
 - We know He's coming soon...
 - He is either **calling** or **sending** everyone...
 - *Seek first the kingdom of God...*
 - The Great C's
 - **Hebrews 11:24**

"Let us consider how to stir one another up to love & good deeds (or good works)."

Let's Pray!

"Our LORD & Moral Purity"

Leviticus 18-20

March 25, 2018

INTRO:

Let me ask you a few questions as we begin...

- What is the **biggest problem** in church today?
 - Insider's understands: A = **"deception"**
 - Outsider's perception: A = **"hypocrisy"**
- What's the **most controversial** biblical truth?
 - Insider's understand: A = **Jesus is LORD!**
 - Outsider's perception: A = **Bible authority**
- What's the **most quoted O.T. verse** in the N.T.?
- What O.T. chapter best **paraphrases Jesus**?
- What if I told you we're taking all that on today?

Today's Bible passage is BOTH a cultural lightning rod AND a spiritual flood light... simultaneously!

Welcome to **Leviticus ch.18-20!**

"Our LORD & Moral Purity"

BIG IDEA: *GOD's values, as revealed in the vault of His Word, should both shape & evaluate OUR values & behaviors on our journey with Jesus to victory!*

T/S: Remember [2 Timothy 3:16-17!](#)

VIDEO: [Why Does Leviticus Show Up Here...](#)

Dr. Jay Sklar – Covenant Seminary

PREVIEW: Our VAULTS... VALUES... & VICTORIES

T/S: My goal = *Context... Content... Construction in Christ!*

- I.** Our **VAULTS** (*our trusted truths & treasures*)
 - a. Culture's "worldly ways"
 - b. Creator Christ's Word & walk

Everyone loves Jesus – until they read what he really taught.... (Moreover, in the contemporary church, today), faith has become a matter of taste, over a matter of truth...

*"The modern-day (false) gospel says, 'God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life. Therefore, follow these steps, and you can be saved.' - Meanwhile, the (true) biblical gospel says, 'You are an enemy of God, dead in your sin, & in your present state of rebellion, you are not even able to see that you need life, much less cause yourself to come to life. Therefore, you are radically dependent on God to do something (miraculous) in your life that you could never do.'" – **David Platt, Radical***

- II.** Our **VALUES** (*our principles & priorities*)
(Texts, Types of law, Timeless Truth, Troubling People & Practices)

1. **Our Holiness Arises from a Relationship with God**
2. **We Demonstrate Holiness in Our Relationships via:**
 - A. Faithful-Obedience
 - B. Generosity
 - C. Honesty
 - D. Sympathy
 - E. Fairness
 - F. Mercy
 - G. Purity
 - H. LOVE
3. **Our Holiness Requires Living by Distinct Contrasts.**

- a. **Types of Law (3):** (like VT vs. MD vs. federal)
 - i. Civil – set apart in our walk & our work
 - ii. Ceremonial – set apart in reverent rituals
 - iii. Eternal/Christian – set apart in all... worship!

You & I can choose to continue with business as usual in the typical Christian life & church... exalting success based on the standards defined by the culture around us... OR... we can take an honest look at the Jesus of the Bible, and dare to ask what the consequences might be if we really believed him... and if we really obeyed him. – David Platt, Radical

1. Law of Christ

- a. Galatians 6:2
- b. 1 Corinthians 9:20-21
- c. James 2:8 = the “royal law”
- d. Matthew 5’s “beatitudes”
- e. John 14:15 & 20:21

b. **Timeless Truths:**

- i. **19:2** “Be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy”
- ii. **19:18** “Love your neighbor as yourself”

c. **Troubles:** (“Palm Sunday” example!)

i. **Troubling-People:**

1. Universalism

- a. Theological universalism...
- b. Practical universalism...

2. Liberalism

- a. Anything goes – “Libertines”
- b. Cheap-grace... holy-hypocrites...

*“We live in a church culture that has a dangerous tendency to disconnect the grace of God from the glory of God. Our hearts resonate with the idea of enjoying God’s grace. We bask in sermons, conferences, and books that exalt a grace centering on us. And while the wonder of grace is worthy of our attention, if that grace is disconnected from its purpose (brining glory to God), then the sad result is a (FALSE) self-centered Christianity that bypasses the heart of God (and the truth of the Gospel).” – **David Platt, Radical***

3. Legalism

4. Traditionalism (much of Protestantism)

- a. Catholicism
- b. Adventism

5. Hyper-Calvinism

ii. Troubling-Practices:

VIDEO: *Christian Inconsistencies with the Law*

Dr. Jay Sklar – Covenant Seminary

1. *Future-telling vs. faith-teaching*
2. *Giving our mere “leftovers & crumbs”*

Before the judgment seat of Christ, my service will be judged, not by how much I have done, but by how much I could have done... Not by its size is my

gift judged, but by how much of me there is in it... No man gives anything acceptable to God until he has first given himself in love and sacrifice.... In the work of the church the amount one man must do to accomplish a given task is determined by how much or how little the rest of the community is willing to do.

*It is a rare church whose members all put their shoulder to the wheel. The typical church is composed of the few whose shoulders are bruised by their faithful labors and the many who are unwilling to raise a blister in the service of God and their fellow men... "Help me to give of myself completely today, Lord. I hold nothing back, even if at the end of the day I'm the only one with a bruised shoulder. Amen." – **A.W. Tozer***

3. **Mandatory Sabbath-keeping**

- a. **Romans 14:5ff** – *NOT about a day*
- b. **Colossians 2:16**

*“Therefore, let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food & drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon, **or a Sabbath.**” (NOTE: annual, monthly, weekly ref.)*

- c. **Mark 2:27** (*Sabbath for man, NOT...*)
- d. *“The LORD’s Day” = 8th day / Sunday*
- e. 1 of 10 commandments **NOT in N.T.**

4. **Active Homosexuality** (ALL promiscuity)

Embracing any “abomination” is evil – period! -JDP

This week Lesbian ministers making out in the pulpit

5. **Child sacrificing/murder:**

“When you kill the MOST innocent & vulnerable amongst you & call it ‘choice’ or ‘mercy,’ you’ve merely modernized the altar of Molech and turned into the altar of ME.” - JDP

III. Our **VICTORIES**(*our holy, hope-filled/helpful life*)

A. **Love wins!**

- B. Remember the meaning & message of Leviticus...
Leviticus is NOT a list of laws & rules... but rather a loving blueprint for lasting restoration!

*We learn from the temporal laws & live out the love-centered eternal laws...
that’s Christianity! - JDP*

T/S: Let me leave you with a timeless tool that will help you (and others) to tackle this challenge in the future...

A. **5 Telescoping Truths: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5!**

1 Creator Jesus is LORD! Christ is KING!

“Jesus was not, and never is, interested in being seen as a respectable teacher. He is the sovereign Lord. He doesn't give options for people to consider; he gives commands for people to obey.” – **David Platt, Radical**

2 Covenants (old & new)

3 Categories (of biblical Law) *Civil, Ceremonial, Eternal*

4 Consistencies

- a. **Commanded** (again) in the N.T. (*a prescription*)
- b. **Carried-over** into the N.T. (*a description*)
- c. **Christ-modeled** in the N.T. (*a reflection*)
- d. **Church-championed** in the N.T. (*an ambition*)

5 Consequences (5 great consequences)

- a. Great ***Commandments*** (*love in truth & truth in love*)
- b. Great ***Commission*** (*Go make disciples!*)
- c. Great ***Combat*** (*Spiritual warfare*)
- d. Great ***Christian*** (*You will BE My witness!s*)
- e. Great ***Church*** (*ekklesia in koinonia & homothoomadon*)

You will be My called-out, set-apart, sent-ones. You'll BE My Ambassadors... My aroma... My supernaturally-unified, Spirit empowered, mission-driven, riotously passionate people... living & loving by God's grace and FOR God's glory!

CLOSE:

I pray that today you saw our LORD & His love
in Leviticus!

In many ways...

I think of Leviticus 18-20 like Jesus' Sermon on the Mount

[Come & See Christianity!](#)

19:2 *“Be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy”*

19:18 *“Love your neighbor as yourself”*

With the task of taking the gospel to the world, Jesus wandered through the streets and byways... All He wanted was a few men who would think as He did, love as He did, see as He did, teach as He did and serve as He did. All He needed was to revolutionize the hearts of a few, and they would impact the world.”

*“Disciple making is not a call for others to come to us to hear the gospel but a command for us to go to others to share the gospel.” – **David Platt, Radical***

Let's PRAY

“Our LORD & the Day of Atonement”

Leviticus ch.16-17

Easter - April 1, 2018

VIDEO: *“Jesus: Not Dead!”*

INTRO: principle.... seeing something but needing someone to explain what you just saw so that you can “really see what you just saw...”

BIG IDEA: God's truth, love, mercy, grace & purpose are ALL explained & exemplified in His divine-design of a sacrificial atonement system... a system whose greatest O.T. expression **was** the Day of Atonement... & **IS** the N.T.'s gospel (a.k.a. Great Friday & Resurrection Sunday).

PREVIEW:

- A day of **CLARIFICATION**
- A day of **CONTEMPLATION**
- A day of **CELEBRATION**

CONTEXT: Easter Sunday's about an ETERNAL story...

- **Q:** Why are we here... & how do you know?
- **A:** Our LORD... His love... & Leviticus: BE Holy!

T/S: Let me ask you a personal, experiential question:

Have you ever KNOWN that you've seen something... only to realize that you don't REALLY know what you saw?

- Like me at Montreal's Museum of Fine Arts...
 - I need an artistic interpreter...
- Like Griffin & Monet in Paris @ Picasso's place...



- My Barcelona "gore, ear, tail" bullfight...

T/S: Leviticus 16-17 could feel like that to some...

I. CLARIFICATION

- Engaging Scripture... Leviticus: "BE Holy!"

30 For on this day shall atonement be made for you to cleanse you. You shall be clean before the LORD from all your sins.

We need to SEE the sacrificial-Atonement system as the LORD's priceless GIFT that paved the way for personal redemption & restoration... Hence, holiness is NOT a single do/don't, in or out, rule keeping issue. No. Holiness is more in line with the old 3-legged stool illustration.... Think about it... Holiness engages, explains & exemplifies; first, the content of biblical truth; second, the culture of biblical love; and third, the combat of biblical, spiritual warfare. - JDP

God's sacrificial love set His people FREE... to BE! - JDP

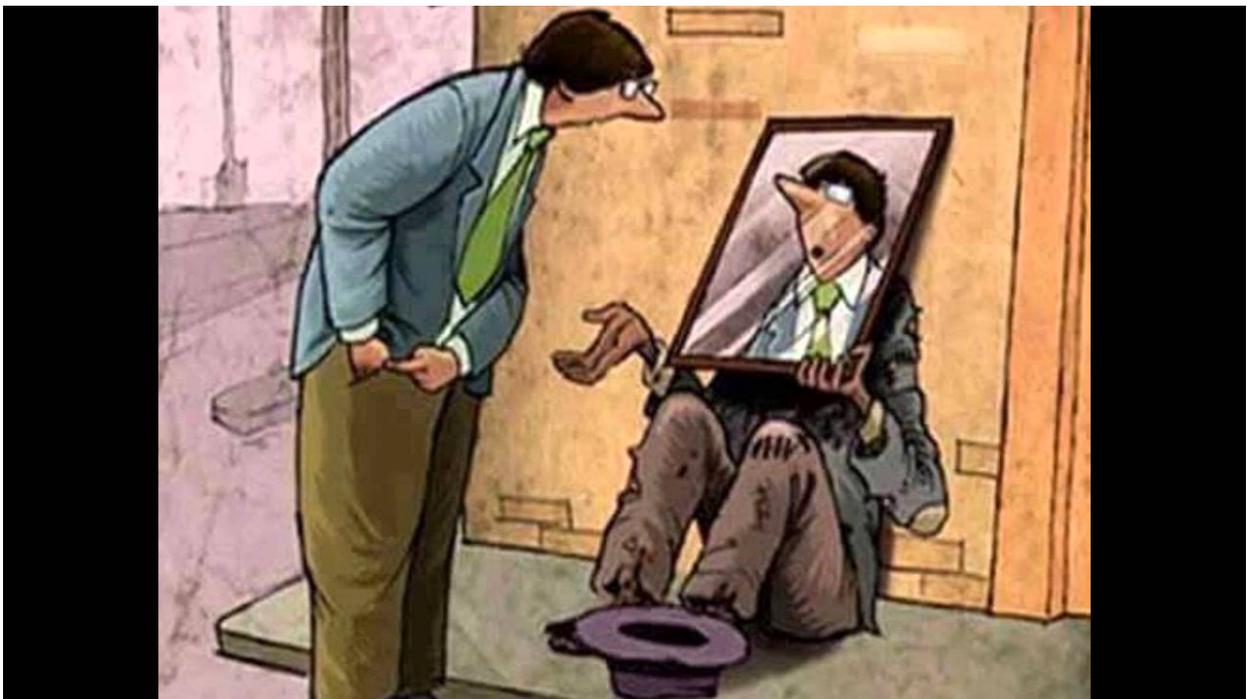
II. CONTEMPLATION

- A. **Who?**
- B. **How?**
- C. **Why?**

WHO?

-Where do TWO people (YOU & Jesus) "fit" into what we've just shared & clarified?

It's eternally essential that you embrace BOTH!



How?

- Sacrificial Atonement...
- The Gospel of Jesus Christ...
- The promise, power, & purpose of the Spirit

Why?

- The Glory of God
- Love of the Lord
- The Saving of Saints (holy ones)

T/S: When you combine the glorification of God, the love of our Lord, and His saving of His saints... there's no better recipe for celebration anywhere in creation!

III. CELEBRATION

A. Old & New...

- a. BOTH are celebrations of restorations!
- b. "Good for a year" - with daily maintenance
- c. Blessed for eternity, even w/ daily struggles

B. Mission & Ministry

- a. Matthew 28:18-20
- b. Acts 1:8
- c. John 20:21

"Every saved person this side of heaven owes the gospel to every lost person this side of hell."

– David Platt, Radical

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be My witnesses. . . locally, regionally, & globally." - Acts 1:8



A. Invitation & Inspiration

"God's design for taking the gospel to the world is a slow, intentional, simple process that involves every one of his people sacrificing every facet of their lives to multiply the life of Christ in others." — David Platt, Radical

- a. Brenda
- b. Tara
- c. Daphne (Uganda)
- d. **25 new seminary students in India**

B. Macro & Micro

- a. This is the world's giant fork in the road...
- b. The Gospel divides crowds, unifies Church
- c. Everyone has to decide... world or worship?

*** In or Out "BINS" Illustration ***

- A. You in the world
- B. You in sin
- C. Sin in you...

(Something has to change... but HOW?)

VIDEO: *GLOVE Illustration*

***** Now picture the parable of the hidden treasure!**

D. God gospels you! Draws you out of sin unto Him!

E. Spirit IN you.

F. You “sealed” IN Christ

G. You and Christ IN God the Father

- Colossians 1:27... Christ IN us...
- Ephesians 1... He is a deposit IN you...
- “...sealed with the Spirit IN you...”
- 2 Cor. 5:17... WE are in Christ... new creation!
- Colossians 3... WE are hidden WITH Christ... IN God (the Father)

CLOSE:

Let's Pray!

VIDEO: *“Sweet Jesus”*

“Our LORD & Covenant Faithfulness”

Leviticus ch.26

April 8, 2018

INTRO: Let me ask you a question as we begin...

- Last week clarified... Easter/Day Atonement
- What if I were to tell you... today > importance?
- What could be more important than that truth???

ANSWER: What **YOU** do with it!

I have 3 more *eternal questions* for you today...

- What role does obedience play in Christianity?
- How important a question is question #1 to you?
- Where are you getting your answers from?

T/S: Both our beliefs & our behaviors are a big deal!!! – JDP

Remember: Leviticus 19:2 & [1 Peter 1:14-16](#)

*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 conduct**, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”*

BIG IDEA:

SAVING-faith... loves & lives in faithful-obedience!

One’s genuine faith & **real** relationship to Jesus & His gospel are evidenced by:

1). The **beliefs** in their head; 2). What’s **beloved** in their heart, and, figuratively speaking, 3). How their hands **behave**, as a predominant pattern of life.

PREVIEW:

- I. CLARIFICATION
- II. CONTEMPLATION
- III. CELEBRATION

(All of sin can be defined in a word: disobedience.)

T/S: **Obedience Is an Act of Worship... [Romans 12:1](#)**

9X in Leviticus the Lord **reminds** His people that He **delivered** them from Egypt & **deserves** their *obedience!*

When we lose the sense of... privilege that it is to serve the Lord, then we begin to despise His Word (drift away from) and disobey His commandments. – Wiersbe

VIDEO: ***“God’s Work & Our Walk & Worship”***

T/S: *Consider some key biblical words & concepts... & their relationship to obedience &/or disobedience.*

- The Sermon on the Mount

- All Jesus' parables... (Prodigal, Narrow Path, etc.)
- Rich young ruler & the middle road crowd
- All New Testament correction & commands...

Words: *Sin, Grace, Church, Witness, Disciple...*

God said in **Ezekiel 36:26-27:**

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. (Ezek. 36:26-27)

*Biblical-faith is grace-based, **miraculous-believing**... that lovingly receives, abides-in, & obeys the Son of God... the Word of God, the will of God, and the way(s) of God... no matter what! – JDP*

“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life” (John 3:36)

NOTE: We must confront the implications of the holy, just, & wrathful goodness of God, as seen in Leviticus 26 & His unchanging nature throughout the Bible & throughout human history... past, present, & future! – JDP

NOTE: God does NOT hesitate to take responsibility for the judgments that occur

“Sinners in the hands of an angry God...”

“There will be no _____ in heaven...” (Revelation 21:7-8)

***** 99% obedience = 100% disobedience *****

Those who will not be parted from their sins by the commands of God, shall be parted from them by God's judgments... - Matthew Henry

A. Our Going with His Gospel

Romans 1:5.... *through Christ we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations...*

So grace is not just received by faith, it aims at faith. God gives gifts of grace so that we will be his instruments in bringing about "the obedience of faith. - Piper

T/S: Christianity is bookended by the gracious gift of faithful obedience... One's new life begins: with "Follow Me" & ends with: "unless you pick up your cross daily (your means of blatant, daily death-to-self), you cannot be My disciple." - JDP

***** READ 1 Corinthians 15:2... then v.10...**

1 Corinthians 15:10

"By the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me."

Let's PRAY