

“BE Hope, Holy, & Help!”

1 Peter 1:13-16

May 28, 2023

INTRO: One of the most important, most ignored, & most misunderstood words in world today is “holy” or “holiness.”
(i.e. Holiness is BOTH a command AND a commission.)

VIDEO: *“BE Holy 13a”* (2:55)
“Our LORD & Our Holiness”

PRAYER

CONTEXT:

- ~ *“No Matter What!”* 1st Peter sermon series
- ~ So far... huge blessings & **1 sweet command...**
- ~ Last week... 3 holy commitments & **Eph. 2**
- ~ Today... *“BE Hope, Holy, & Help!”*

BIG IDEA: BEing hope, holy, & help
is the blessing of BEing God’s blessed family!

PREVIEW:

1. BE-ing Hope
2. BE-ing Holy
3. BE-ing Help

TEXT:

1 Peter 1:13-16

I. BE-ing HOPE

*13*Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

- A. Embrace 1 Peter 1:1-12's grace & living hope...
- B. Hope in God's promises, perfection & protection
- C. BE the hopeful embodiment of Ephesians 2:1-10

II. BE-ing HOLY

*14*As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, *15*but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,

(see the Encouragement; Command; Warning, Contrast; and Standards)

Holiness is a multi-dimensional dynamic.

– JDP

A. Encouragement = *“As obedient children”*

If God is your Father and you are in-Christ...

holy is in your DNA. – JDP

(2 Corinthians 5:21)

While we are ALL the creation of God... only a
FEW of us are the children of God. - JDP

(Ephesians 2 & Matthew 7)

B. Command = *“Do not be conformed to...”*

When the Church conforms to & befriends the world,
James 4:4 says it is *an enemy of God...* and the
culture becomes the visible-church's pallbearer.

- JDP

C. Warning = *“former ignorance”*

The Christian's “former ignorance” is
the culture's current ignorance.”

- JDP

Let me tell you one of the Devil's favorite and most effective
recipes for disaster:

Mixing 33% **biblical ignorance** with 33% **personal
arrogance** and 33% **cultural tolerance**
makes 100% spiritual **poison**.

- JDP

VIDEO: *“God's Most Beautiful Words”* (9:55)

Gospel Gardening #21
“Healing Hope”

D. Contrast = *“but as He...you also...be holy”*

1. The command here is obvious & undeniable...

Where there is no LORDship
there is no holiness! – JDP

2. The commission here is Christ-like & beautiful!

Q: Do you want to know how the world got into
this evil & wicked condition?

A: **The Church let it!**

When the lights go out, darkness comes in!

Tragically, the Church has forgotten its King, His commands,
and their commission. To be more specific, Holiness and
faithful obedience have been intentionally-ignored, sinfully-
redefined, and purposely-replaced with the celebrations of
abominations! In short, biblical holiness is being mocked by the
majority of today’s self-affirming, blind and pitiful, lukewarm,
world-loving, praise-chasing, crowd-building, spiritual-whores...
otherwise known as the apostate, cultural church! – JDP

When the Church is dim the culture grows dark. – JDP

When the Church is silent, culture is deafening. – JDP

When the Church is confused, culture gets cocky. – JDP

When the Church is compromising, culture is winning.

– JDP

III. BE-ing HELP

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

- ~ Prophetic Vision
 - a. "since it is written" (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
 - b. "You shall BE holy" (down, up, in, & out)
 - a. Great Commandments...
 - b. Great Commission...

VIDEO: "BE Holy 13b" (6:39)
"Our LORD & Our Holiness"

- ~ Paraclete Victory (cf. Acts 1:8)

When it comes to God and His Gospel, there's an eternal difference between a miraculous HEART transformation and a manipulative head shift... &/or a mechanical slight of hands.

- JDP

- ~ Perfect Veracity: "for I am holy."
 - a. **2 Corinthians 5:21**
 - b. John 20:21
 - c. Matthew 28:18ff

VIDEO: "BE Holy 13c" (2:08)
"Our LORD & Our Holiness"

REVIEW:

BEing hope, holy, & help
is the blessing of BEing God's blessed family!

CLOSE: I want to leave you with a helpful quote
and healthy perspective from a **Paul Tripp** devotional:



Wednesday's Word

A WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL
FROM PAUL TRIPP

*“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory!” (Isaiah 6:3)*

The holiness of God needs to be at the center of how you make sense of life. Whether you are a homemaker, executive, pastor, plumber, farmer, designer, or professor, it is impossible to understand anything in your life correctly without the doctrine of the holiness of God.

But here's the problem: the culture around us, along with the systems and institutions of that culture, has abandoned the category of holiness.

When was the last time you heard a politician, educator, social media influencer, cultural critic, athlete, or entertainment icon use this category of holiness? Much of what you read, hear, watch, and interact with as a citizen in this present world will not discuss or consider holiness.

As a culture, we have philosophically walked away from holy. For many, holy doesn't exist, or even if it does, in the practical scheme of things, holy simply doesn't matter.

Holy doesn't factor into our evaluation of success. Holy is not seen as a framework to shape marriage and guide parenting. Holy never is discussed when people plan their careers or futures.

If it is ever talked about, holy is viewed as a dusty, historical, religious concept held on to by a shrinking minority. Yet, all the while, our culture demands justice, equality, peace, and

love. But here's the rub: none of those can exist without holiness!

It's not just secular culture that has abandoned this truth. Within the Church, the more and more the culture influences us, the less holy will have any practical, functional purpose in your life.

It's happening without us even realizing it.
...Be honest: when was the last time the doctrine of the holiness of God changed the way you made decisions in your everyday life?

It is very possible... to genuinely believe in the doctrine of the holiness of God, yet in our daily life, practice "holy-less" living...

Is the doctrine of the holiness of God a truth that is a shaping influence on everything in your life? Or, have you, without even realizing it, walked away from holy?

God bless,
Paul David Tripp

PRAYER

WORSHIP: *Holy, Holy, Holy; When Death Was Defeated; Come To The Alter*

“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 discipling 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 (ekklēsia in koinōnia & Homothoudon) 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!!!

- Reductionalistic 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/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..."*

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

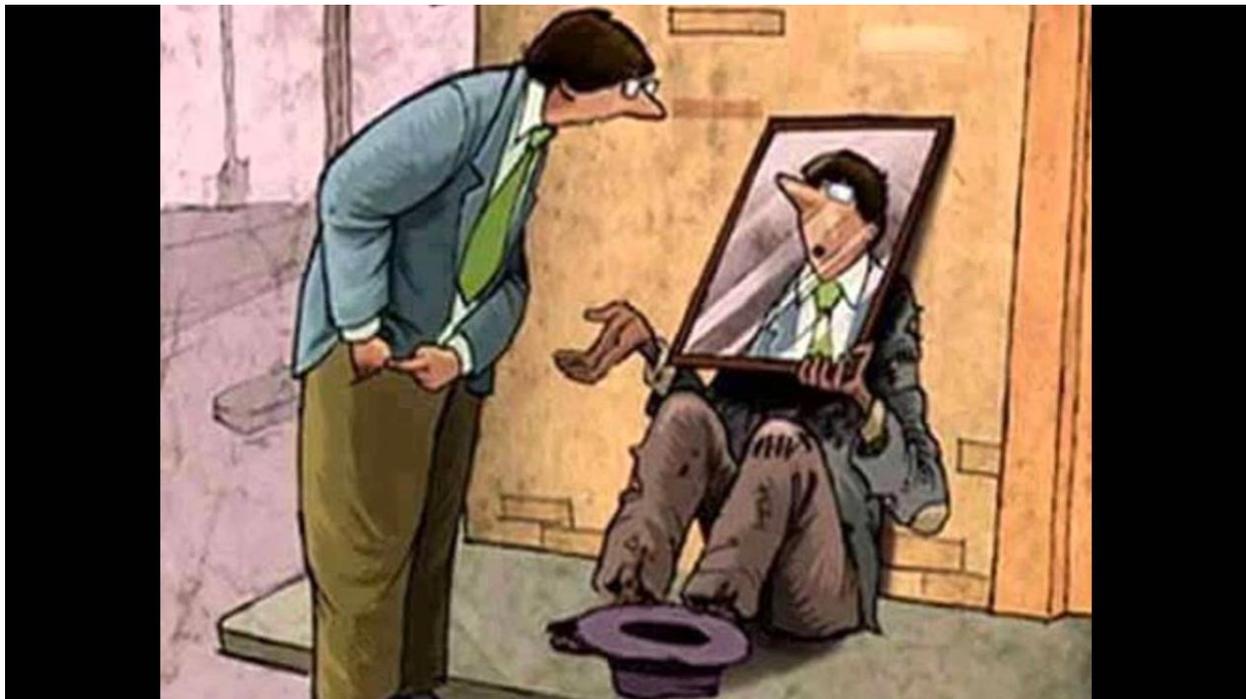
II. CONTEMPLATION

- 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...

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

B. Mission & Ministry

- Matthew 28:18-20
- Acts 1:8
- 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

“Holy Hope”

Joel 2:12a

June 28, 2020

INTRO:

- With all that’s going on in the world today...
- *If you could pick a sermon topic...*
- **Today** is a day of **HOPE...**
- I pray you will be taught AND touched today!
- Because *attitude...* usually determines *altitude...*
- **Proverbs 13:12...** *hope deferred = sick hearts*

CONTEXT:

1. **Series** (patterns & pointers of hope)
 - a. **Hope is one of the Bible’s greatest “patterns”**
 - b. “We are not to be dooms day preppers but rather, Day of the Lord proclaimers!” -JDP
2. **Sermons** (previous hope)
3. **Scripture** (today’s hope)
 - a. God grabbed me again & spoke clearly...
 - b. Back to Joel... but very, very narrowly focused...
 - i. *“Jesus wept.”* = John 11:35 = 2 key words
 - ii. *“Consider Him”* = Hebrews 12:3a (sermon)
 - iii. *“Unhindered”* = Acts 28:31c (sermon)
 - c. Today... **Joel 2:12a** = *“Yet, even now...”* (HOPE)
 - i. Joel’s pattern: *Realize, Remember, Respond*
 - ii. Joel’s account and **PROPHETIC VISION...**
4. **Salvation** (eternal hope)
5. **Sanctification** (daily hope)

T/S: Biblical hope is **IN** Christ & **FOR** Christ...
therefore...

BIG IDEA: Biblical hope **CANNOT** be stopped!

“overwhelming over-comer” (Romans 8:37)

I will build My church & the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Matt 16:18)

T/S: Further, I pray that you will see that
biblical hope lies at the center of the biblical gospel

1 Corinthians 13:13

*And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love.*

- **Grace** Saving Grace
- **Faith** Miraculous Faith
- **Hope** Holy Hope
- **Love** Lasting Love
- **Glory** God’s Glory

*See how hope holds on to faith while reaching
out in/to/for love...*

PREVIEW:

- | | | |
|------------------|----------|-----------|
| 1. <i>“Yet”</i> | REALIZE | Holy HOPE |
| 2. <i>“Even”</i> | REMEMBER | Holy HOPE |
| 3. <i>“Now”</i> | RESPOND | Holy HOPE |

I. REALIZE

A. DEFINING Hope

B. DESCRIBING Hope

“Yet, even now...”

T/S: Let's start by defining hope...

NOTE: Biblical hope begins with biblical hopelessness. - JDP

Noah Webster's 1828 dictionary:

HOPE, *noun* [Latin cupio.]

1. A desire of some good, accompanied with at least a slight expectation of obtaining it, or a belief that it is obtainable. *hope* differs from wish and desire in this, that hope implies some expectation of obtaining the good desired, or the possibility of possessing it. ***hope* therefore always gives pleasure or joy**; whereas wish and desire may produce or be accompanied with **pain** and **anxiety**.

Defining & Describing Holy HOPE:

Holy hope is **IN** the Creator, **NOT** the created!
Holy hope is **FOR** the Creator... and **NOT** for the created...

Psalm 39:7

"And now, Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in You.

1 Peter 1:21: *Through Christ you now trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.*

Faith gives birth to hope & hope nurtures faith

See **1 Corinthians 13:13**.... *(...faith, hope, & love...)*

- Love is supreme & never fails...
 - *Grace* is love's "**well-spring**"
 - *Faith* is love's **reservoir**
 - **Hope** is one of love's **rivers & streams**...

Faith is both the spiritual parent AND big brother of hope. -JDP

Definition of FAITH:

Biblical faith is a "**confident BELIEF.**"

Where "**hope**" has an **optimistic desire**, "faith" sees the invisible, holds on to the untouchable, pursues the unattainable, and accomplishes the impossible...

ALL by God's grace and ALL for God's glory! -JDP

VIDEO: "*The Anatomy of Faith*" (Erik Ludy)

T/S: Hope is the love child of grace & faith. - JDP

“Hope is the smile on a ‘no matter what!’ face.”

- JDP

God’s family of faith lives in His home of hope! - JDP

Holy hope both helps & heals! - JDP

Holy hope is never near-sighted. - JDP

Holy hope BOTH helps AND heals. - JDP

God’s family of faith lives in His home of hope! - JDP

WHAT HOPE IS NOT:

Hope without **God** is an idol.

Hope without **grace** is an impossibility.

Hope without **faith** is a superstition.

Hope without **truth** is a lie.

Hope without **love** is a selfish drug.

Hope without **koinonia** is a sad secret.

Hope without **mission** is a distraction.

Hope without **repentance** is a waste.

Hope without **praise for God** is a cracked mirror.

Hope without **worship** is a stolen gift.

Hope without **joy** is an oxymoron.

Hope without **sharing** is spiritual gluttony.

II. REMEMBER

- A. PROMISE of Hope
- B. PURPOSE of Hope

“Yet, **even** now...”

You need hope to cope!

Optimism is psychological...

Hope is the theological! - Rick Warren

Optimism ignores reality...

Holy hope KNOWS reality! - JDP

Holy hope is greater than every “even-if.” - JDP

“Hope is the ladder that climbs over ‘even if.’” - JDP

1 Peter 3:15

*But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. **Always** be prepared to give an answer to **everyone** who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have...*

Hope is a force-multiplying, offensive weapon in spiritual warfare! - JDP

VIDEO: *“Fools For Christ”* (Erik Ludy)

Holy hope is the fruit of faithful obedience. -JDP

- Noah’s boat building...
- Abraham’s road trip
- 3 boys and a furnace
- Daniel & the lion’s den
- David & the giant Goliath
- Joel 2:12a
- Disciples taking regular beatings
- Paul & Silas in Philippian jail
- Jude call for contending
- Ephesians 6:10ff
- Stephen being stoned...
- *“It is finished!”* (*Yet, even now*)

Romans 8:28

God is working all things together for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purposes.

III. RESPOND

- A. **ATTITUDE** of Hope
- B. **APPLICATION** of Hope

*“Yet, even **NOW...**”*

Friends... hear me, **Holy hope is ESPECIALLY for NOW!**

Hebrews 6:19

We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain,

Titus 2:13

waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

Titus 3:7

so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Fear, doubt, pessimism, and unbelief are all instruments of the enemy and are opposed to holy hope...

Worry is the opposite of worship and an **adversary** of hope!

Holy Hope's Healing & Helping Applications:

A **fear of God** is hope's **foundation**.

A **love for God** is hope's **focus**.

The **grace of God** is hope's **glue**.

The **glory of God** is hope's **bullseye**.
The **Gospel of God** is hope's **good news**.
 Christmas is hope's **birthday**.
 The **cross** is hope's **birth-place**.
 Great Friday is hope's **victory**.
Resurrection Sunday is hope's **validation**.
 Each Christian is hope's **ambassador**.
 The **collective Church** is hope's **army**.
 Baptism is hope's **aroma**.
 Discipleship is hope's **muscle**.
 Courage is hope's **backbone**.
 Love is hope's **language**.
 The Bible is hope's **blueprint**.
 Faith is hope's **confidence**.
 Faithfulness is hope's **contrast**.
 Obedience is hope's **narrow way**.
 The "few" are hope's **companions**.
 Ministry is hope's **touch**.
 Sacrifice is hope's **cost**.
 Evangelism is hope's **light**.
 A biblical worldview is hope's **design**.
The **sovereign work of God** is hope's **plan**.
 The **Holy Spirit** is hope's **Empowerer**.
 Koinonia is hope's **people**.
 The **Great C's** are hope's **purposes**.

Homothoomadon is hope's passion!
Your testimony is hope's keyhole.
Repentance is hope's doorman.
Proclaiming is hope's voice.
Preaching is hope's teacher.
A biblical witness is hope's sign-language.
Secret acts of kindness serve as hope's brail...
Service is hope's sweat.
Selflessness is hope's beautiful paradox.
Forgiving others is hope's eraser.
Authenticity is hope's credibility.
Reality is hope's reminder.
Transparency is hope's clearest translator.
Goodness is hope's personality.
Righteousness is hope's character.
Kindness is hope's reputation.
Gentleness is hope's demeanor.
Self-control is hope's restraint.
Shrewdness is hope's wisdom.
Sacrifice is hope's currency.
Patience is hope's time-keeper.
Joy is hope's smile.
Peace is hope's pleasure.
Prayer is hope's heart-phone.
Missional living is hope's megaphone.

CLOSE:

Romans 15:4

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

VIDEO: *“Falling Plates”*

Hope is the sweet song of redeemed wretches! - JDP

Romans 15:13

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Hope Happens Here!

Let's PRAY!

HOPE

Trustful expectation, particularly with reference to the fulfillment of God's promises. **Biblical hope is the anticipation of a favorable outcome under God's guidance.** More specifically, **hope is the confidence that what God has done for us in the past guarantees our participation in what God will do in the future.**

This contrasts to **the world's definition** of hope as **"a feeling that what is wanted will happen."** Understood in this way, hope can denote either **a baseless optimism** or a vague yearning after an unattainable good. If hope is to be genuine hope, however, it must be founded on something (or someone) which affords reasonable grounds for confidence in its fulfillment. **The Bible bases its hope in God and His saving acts.**

Words for Hope.... In the Old Testament the words which are most often used to connote "hope" are tigwa ("to look for something with eager expectation"), batach ("to rely on something reliable"), and yachal ("trust"). In the New Testament "hope" is the proper translation for the verb elpizein and the noun elpis. Other words which belong to the vocabulary of hope are pepoithenai ("to trust"), hupomenein ("to endure"), and prosdokan ("to expect" or "to await"). It is important to note that the reality of hope is often present where the exact words are absent. A case in point is the New Testament Book of Revelation. The word "hope" does not appear in its pages. The message of Revelation, however, is permeated with the reality of hope.

A complete examination of hope would have to include all of the exhortations, prayers, promises, and future tenses in the Bible.

The Ground and Object of Hope... In the Old Testament, God alone is the ultimate ground and object of hope. Hope in God was generated by His mighty deeds in history. In fulfilling His promise to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3), He redeemed the Israelites from bondage in Egypt. He provided for their needs in the wilderness, formed them into a covenant community at Sinai, and led them into the successful occupation of Canaan. These acts provided a firm base for their **confidence in God's continuing purpose** for them. **Even when Israel was unfaithful, hope was not lost.** Because of God's faithfulness and mercy, those who returned to Him could count on His help (Mal. 3:6-7). This help included forgiveness (2 Chron. 7:14; Ps. 86:5) as well as deliverance from enemies. Thus, **Jeremiah addressed God as the "hope of Israel,** the saviour thereof in time of trouble" (Jer. 14:8; compare 14:22; 17:13).

Likewise, the psalmist called on Israel to ***"hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.*** He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins" (**Ps. 130:7-8** NIV; compare 131:3).

A corollary of putting one's hope in God is refusing to place one's final confidence in the created order. All created things are weak, transient, and apt to fail. For this reason it is futile to vest ultimate hope in wealth (Ps. 49:6-12; 52:7; Prov. 11:28), houses (Isa. 32:17-18), princes (Ps. 146:3), empires and armies (Isa. 31:1-3; 2 Kings 18:19-24), or even the Jerusalem Temple (Jer. 7:1-7). God, and God only, is a rock that cannot be moved (Deut. 32:4,15,18; Pss. 18:2; 62:2; Isa. 26:4) and a refuge and fortress who provides ultimate security (Pss. 14:6, 61:3; 73:28; 91:9). An accurate summary of the Old Testament emphasis is found in Psalm 119:49-50. "Remember

your word to your servant, for you have given me hope. My comfort in my suffering is this: your promise preserves my life” (NIV).

A significant aspect of Old Testament hope was Israel’s expectation of a messiah, that is, an anointed ruler from David’s line. This expectation grew out of the promise that God would establish the throne of David forever (2 Sam. 7:14). The anointed ruler (messiah) would be God’s agent to restore Israel’s glory and rule the nations in peace and righteousness. For the most part, however, David’s successors were disappointments. The direction of the nation was away from the ideal. Thus, people looked to the future for a son of David who would fulfill the divine promise.

The New Testament continues to speak of God as the source and object of hope. Paul wrote that it was the “God who raises the dead” on whom “we have set our hope” (2 Cor. 1:9-10 NIV). Furthermore, “we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men” (1 Tim. 4:10 NAS). Peter reminded his readers that “your faith and hope are in God” (1 Peter 1:21 NAS). In the New Testament, as in the Old, God is the “God of hope” (Rom. 15:13).

For the early Christians, hope is also focused in Christ. He is called “our hope” (1 Tim. 1:1), and the hope of glory is identified with “Christ in you” (Col. 1:27). Images applied to God in the Old Testament are transferred to Christ in the New. He is the Savior (Luke 2:11; Acts 13:23; Titus 1:4; 3:6), the source of life (John 6:35), the rock on which hope is built (1 Pet. 2:4-7). He is the first and last (Rev. 1:17), the day-spring dispelling darkness and leading His people into eternal day (Rev. 22:5).

New Testament writers spoke of Christ as the object and ground of hope for two reasons. 1) He is the Messiah who has brought salvation by His life, death, and resurrection (Luke 24:46). God’s promises are fulfilled in Him. “For in him every one of God’s promises is a “Yes” (2 Cor. 1:20 NRSV). 2) They are aware of the unity between Father and Son. This is a unity of nature (John 1:1; Col. 1:19) as well as a unity in the work of redemption. Because “God

was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself" (2 Cor. 5:19), hope in the Son is one with hope in the Father.

The Future of Hope While the New Testament affirms the sufficiency of Christ's redemptive work in the past, it also looks forward to His return in the future to complete God's purpose. Indeed, the major emphasis on hope in the New Testament centers on the second coming of Christ. The "blessed hope" of the Church is nothing less than "the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13). See Future Hope.

This expectation filled the horizon of the early Christian community. Jesus Himself spoke of it (Mark 8:38; 13:26; 14:28; John 14:1-4). His disciples were promised that "this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11). Apostolic preaching reiterated the theme (Acts 3:19-21; 10:42; 17:31). References in the epistles are numerous. Paul reminded the Philippians that "our conversation is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Phil. 3:20 NAS; compare 1 Cor. 15:51-54; 1 Thess. 1:9-10; 2:19; 4:13-18; 1 Tim. 6:14). Christ "will appear a second time... to save those who are eagerly waiting for him" (Heb. 9:28 NRSV). Christians are "shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time" (1 Peter 1:5). If the Lord's coming seems delayed unduly, it is still certain because "the Lord is not slack concerning his promise" (2 Peter 3:9). The last book of the Bible begins and ends with a reference to Christ's return. "Behold, he cometh with clouds" (Rev. 1:7). "He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Rev. 22:20).

The content of the hope which will be realized in the future is described in different ways. Christians will "obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God" (Rom. 8:21 NRSV); realize their hope of "righteousness" (Gal. 5:5); be "transformed into his likeness" (2 Cor. 3:12-18 REB; compare 1 John 3:1-3); acquire possession of

the inheritance (Eph. 1:14), and experience the resurrection of the body (1 Cor. 15:21,50-55).

Hope is not merely individual in scope, however. It has cosmic dimensions as well. God's purpose is to redeem the whole creation. Thus, Christians expect that "the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God" (Rom. 8:21). Peter expressed it like this: "we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness" (2 Pet. 3:13).

The Assurance of Hope Christians live in hope for two basic reasons. The first reason is because of what God has done in Christ.

Especially important is the emphasis the New Testament places on the resurrection by which Christ has defeated the power of sin and death. "By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3 NRSV).

The second reason is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God" (Rom. 8:16). Furthermore, the Spirit is the "first installment of our inheritance, so that we may finally come into full possession of the prize of redemption" (Eph. 1:14 Williams). "Hope never disappoints us; for through the Holy Spirit that has been given us, God's love has flooded our hearts" (Rom 5:5 Williams). Hence, Paul's prayer that "the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost" (Rom. 15:13).

Given the assurance of hope, Christians live in the present with confidence and face the future with courage. They can also meet trials triumphantly because they know "that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance character; and character, hope" (Rom. 5:3-4 NIV). Such perseverance is not passive resignation; it is the confident endurance in the face of opposition. There is, therefore, a certitude in Christian hope which amounts to a qualitative difference from ordinary hope. Christian hope is the gift of God. "We

have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure” (Heb. 6:19 NIV).

Bert Dominy

Holman Bible Dictionary.

FAITH Trusting commitment of one person to another, particularly of a person to God. Faith is the central concept of Christianity. One may be called a Christian only if one has faith. Our English word “faith” comes from the Latin *fides*, as developed through the Old French words *fei* and *feid*. In Middle English (1150-1475) “faith” replaced a word that eventually evolved into “belief.” “Faith” came to mean “loyalty to a person to whom one is bound by promise or duty.” Faith was fidelity. “Belief” came to be distinguished from faith as an intellectual process having to do with the acceptance of a proposition. The verb form of “faith” dropped out of English usage toward the end of the sixteenth century.

Old Testament Expressions The word “faith” occurs in the Old Testament only twice in the KJV, eighteen times in the RSV, and sixteen times in the NIV. This discrepancy becomes even more interesting when we note that the RSV and the NIV agree on only five of these verses of Scripture (Deut. 32:51; Judg. 9:16,19; Isa. 26:2; Hab. 2:4), and the KJV concurs with them only on the translation of Habakkuk 2:4. These differences revolve around problems with the translation of two Hebrew roots, *ma’al* and *‘aman*.

The first of these roots, *ma’al*, is a negative term that means “to be deceitful, treacherous, or unfaithful.” The RSV, NAS, and the NIV translate this word with the phrase “broke faith” (Deut. 32:51; Josh. 22:16) or with “acted unfaithfully” (Deut. 32:51; Josh. 7:1). The KJV translates this root in those same verses with the word “trespass.”

While the Hebrew uses no single noun for “faith” in these verses, the translators have in each case rendered the sense of the Hebrew. The second root, ‘aman, is more difficult to translate because its meaning changes as it passes through the various Hebrew verb forms. There are seven such forms, but this root occurs in only three of them. In the first and most basic verb form the root means to support or nourish and is used of a parent’s care for a child. In the second verb-form one encounters a range of meanings having to do with being secure.

Only the third verb form was rendered with the Greek word for faith in the New Testament and in the Septuagint, an early Greek version of the Old Testament originating in Alexandria. ‘Aman expresses the idea of stability and steadfastness in this form and is translated as standing firm (Job 39:24, RSV; Isa. 7:9b NIV), or “to trust” (a person) or “to believe” (a statement). One stands firm in one’s convictions. In relationships, one trusts persons and believes their testimony or promises. Thus, we find no Hebrew noun for “faith” in the Old Testament, only verbs that have been translated with “faith” because of New Testament influence.

If we do not find the noun “faith” in the Old Testament, we surely find the concept named with other words. In the Old Testament faith is described as the “fear of God” (Gen. 20:11; Ps. 111:10; Eccl. 12:13; Mal. 4:2), and in terms of trust (2 Chron. 20:20; Ps. 4:5, Isa. 26:4), and obedience (Ex. 19:5; 1 Sam. 15:22, Jer. 7:23). Faith is a New Testament concept that encompasses and enriches these Old Testament concepts. The English versions of the Old Testament have translated a pair of Hebrew verbs using the noun “faith.” They do so in order to express the understanding of God’s relation to humanity that has grown out of the New Testament.

Because the Old Testament does not have a word equivalent to the English noun, “faith,” does not mean the idea of faith is unimportant for the Old Testament. Habakkuk 2:4 was properly taken by Paul as the center of Old Testament religion. God prepared the way for His people in mercy and grace, then called them to obedience. To accept

the responsibilities of God's covenant was to trust His word that He alone was God and to commit one's life to His promises for the present and future. That is faith.

New Testament Expressions The Greek noun, *pistis* (faith), is related to the verb *pisteuo* (I have faith, trust, believe). The noun and verb are found virtually everywhere in the New Testament, with the notable exception that the noun is absent altogether from John's Gospel and occurs only once in 1 John. The verb form does not occur in Philemon, 2 Peter, 2 and 3 John, or Revelation.

Classical Greek used *pistis* and *piseuo* to mean "trust" or "confidence." In this period belief in the existence of the gods of the Greek pantheon would be expressed with the verb *nomizo* (to think, believe, hold, consider). In the Hellenistic period, however, both the noun and verb moved from secular to religious usage. The noun came to mean piety, and the verb took on the meaning "to believe"—a usage derived from debates with atheism in which faith required the overcoming of objections.

In the New Testament "faith" is used in a number of ways, but primarily with the meaning "trust" or "confidence" in God. This basic meaning is particularly evident in the Synoptic Gospels. Mark 1:15 introduces and summarizes the Gospel with Jesus' charge to his hearers to "repent ye, and believe the gospel." (The word usually translated "believe" in this verse is the verb form of "faith" for which there is no English equivalent. The call is repeated as "Have faith in God," using the noun form, in Mark 11:22.) Thus, Jesus called His hearers to place their confidence in God. It is common in the Synoptics for Jesus to say after healing someone, "thy faith hath made thee whole" (Matt. 9:22; Mark 5:34; Luke 7:50; 8:48.) One's confidence in or allegiance to God makes one whole. John expressed a similar understanding of faith in 6:29 and 14:1 where people are called to have faith in the Christ. The difference between John and the Synoptics is a grammatical one; John used only the verb and never the noun for faith.

Outside the Gospels faith is related to the keynote concepts of the Christian message: the state of salvation (Eph. 2:8-9), sanctification (Acts 26:18), purification (Acts 15:9), justification or imputed righteousness (Rom. 4:5; 5:1; Gal. 3:24), adoption as children of God (Gal. 3:26). Each of these comes by faith. As in the Gospels, faith is an attitude toward and relationship with God mediated by Christ Jesus. It is surrender to God's gift of righteousness in Christ rather than seeking to achieve righteousness alone.

Faith is also called a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22)—something God creates in a person. In another place "faith" is used quite differently as a gift of the Holy Spirit that is given to some but not to others (1 Cor. 12:8-9). Apparently such special gifts of faith refer to the ability to do great acts for God, what Jesus called moving mountains (Matt. 17:20; 1 Cor. 13:2).

The New Testament sometimes uses "faith" to designate Christianity itself or that which Christians believe (Acts 6:7; Eph. 4:5; Col. 1:23; Tim. 1:19; Jude 3). In this usage it is clear that an element of what we call belief is essential to the personal relationship we are calling "faith." Here it would be well to note Hebrews 11:6 also—"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is" In this verse also the word translated "believe" is the Greek verb form of "faith." Context here dictates that we understand it in the sense of intellectual acceptance of a proposition, "belief." To have a right relation with God, it is necessary to "believe" that God is, that God has revealed Himself in Christ, and to accept God accepts you.

If faith is the religion itself, it is so in more than an intellectual way. Faith is also the living out of the religion; it is Christianity in action. This is the meaning of "We walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Cor. 5:7). "Walking" represents the totality of one's way of life. Paul wrote that "faith," both in the sense of Christian piety and of the trust and confidence one puts in God, determines action in life. Faith changes the standards and priorities of life. Similarly, using the imagery of a

soldier's armor, Paul said that faith is a shield against sin and evil in our lives (Eph. 6:16; 1 Thess. 5:8).

If Christianity itself may be called "the faith," then it is a small step to the New Testament usage of the participle of the verb form of faith to designate Christians. This form is often translated "believers" (it occurs most often in the plural) or "those who believe" (Acts 4:32; Rom. 1:16). If we continue our distinction between faith and belief, we would prefer the translation "those who have faith" or the ungrammatical "those who faith."

The nearest the New Testament comes to presenting a definition of "faith" per se is in Hebrews 11:1. Here faith is called "the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (RSV). Thus, Hebrews closely ties faith very to Christian hope. The personal conviction of faith encourages the Christian to continue hoping for the fulfillment of the promises of God, but it is not the substance (as in the KJV) of these "things hoped for" in any normal sense of "substance." The "things hoped for" have a reality greater than anyone's hoping for them. Faith is then meant as a sort of foretaste of the hoped for things.

Faith as the Way to Salvation. The concept of faith is primarily that of a personal relationship with God that determines the priorities of one's life. This relationship is one of love that is built on trust and dependence. We receive it by trusting the saving work of Jesus. Faith is the basic Christian experience, the decision for Christ Jesus. It is the acceptance of Christ's lordship (i.e., His God-given, absolute authority). In this sense faith is doubly a break from the past: it is one's removal from sin, and it is one's removal from all other religious allegiances (1 Thess. 1:9). As a break from the past, faith is the beginning of relation to God and not an end. It is, especially in Paul's letters, the inauguration of incorporation "in Christ," in which one continues to grow and develop.

If faith is primarily a relationship into which one enters through acceptance of Jesus' authority, it also includes a certain amount of "belief." As a derived use, then, "faith" may also denote the content

of what is believed. In this sense faith is the conviction that God acted in the history of Israel and “that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself” (2 Cor. 5:19). In theological usage “the faith” may refer to many more doctrines and dogmas that have been developed since New Testament times, but in the New Testament “that which must be believed” was more limited as Romans 10:9-10 may demonstrate. Conclusion Faith is what we believe, it is Christianity itself, but primarily it is the relationship we have with God through what Jesus accomplished in His death and resurrection.

William L. Self

- Holman Bible Dictionary.

“Healing Hope”

Joel 2:12a-b

July 5, 2020

INTRO: Ask **3** of the most **eternally important** questions:

- Is there a heaven?
- Who gets to go... & how do they get there?
- Proverbs 29:18... “prophetic vision... or perish”
 - *Coulda, woulda, shoulda are death-traps!*

- JDP

CONTEXT:

1. **Series** (patterns of & pointers to hope)

Hope is one of the Bible's greatest patterns. - JDP

2. **Sermons** (previous hope)

3. **Scripture** (today's hope is **HEALING Hope!**)

- i. Joel's pattern: *Realize, Remember, Respond*
- ii. **BE ready!** *“the Day of the LORD is NEAR!”*

BIG IDEA:

HEALING Hope IS The GOSPEL in action!

m M m

Whereas Holy Hope is open-heart surgery...

Healing Hope is a holy, heart-transforming transplant! - JDP

(cf. Ezekiel 36:26)

TEXT:

Joel 2:12a-b

*“Yet even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to me with all your heart,*

I. History of hope

Horrific hope - Fall of man... *“Did God really say”*

Human hope - *You will be like God...* (cf. Babel)

Human hope is an oxymoron... - JDP

*“If we are to gaze into the face of God, we must look
beyond our present circumstances.”* - AW Tozer

Man’s hope is an empty treasure chest. - JDP

*Human hope is nothing more than a worldly
wish with a dress on (it’s like putting lipstick on
a pig... in the end, it’s still pig).* - JDP

Hurting hope ... see the 5 Warnings of Hebrews
(cf. Proverbs 13:12)

Holy hope ... God’s unchanging design/desire

Healing hope ...our message for today...

NOTE: Healing hope begins with biblical hopelessness. - JDP

Faith gives birth to hope & hope nurtures faith

Holy hope is **IN** the Creator, NOT the created!
Holy hope is **FOR** the Creator... and NOT for the created...

HOPE per Webster's 1828 dictionary:
hope always gives pleasure or joy; whereas wish and desire may produce **pain** and **anxiety**.

WHAT HOPE IS NOT:

Hope without **God** is an idol.
Hope without **grace** is an impossibility.
Hope without **faith** is a superstition.
Hope without **truth** is a lie.
Hope without **love** is a selfish drug.
Hope without **koinonia** is a sad secret.
Hope without **mission** is a distraction.
Hope without **repentance** is a waste.
Hope without **praise for God** is a cracked mirror.
Hope without **worship** is a stolen gift.
Hope without **joy** is an oxymoron.
Hope without **sharing** is spiritual gluttony.

VIDEO: *"Where Are The Christians"*

II. HOLY Hope

“Yet, even now...”

(Realize, Remember, Respond)

BIG IDEA: Biblical hope **CANNOT** be stopped!

Holy hope is greater than every “even-if.” - JDP

*When your right now... is worse than your ‘even-if,’...
even then... especially then... what you NEED
is Holy, Healing HOPE!* - JDP

“overwhelming over-comer” (Romans 8:37)

I will build My church & the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Matt 16:18)

Remember holy hope lies at the center of the biblical gospel

1 Corinthians 13:13

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.

But the greatest of these is love.

**Hope is a force-multiplying, offensive weapon
in spiritual warfare!** - JDP

See how hope holds on to faith while reaching out in/to/for love...

Holy hope is the fruit of faithful obedience. - JDP

Hope is a force-multiplying, offensive weapon in spiritual warfare! - JDP

Romans 8:28

God is working all things together for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purposes.

Holy Hope's Healing & Helping Applications:

A **fear of God** is hope's **foundation**.

A **love for God** is hope's **focus**.

The **grace of God** is hope's **glue**.

The **glory of God** is hope's **bullseye**.

The **Gospel of God** is hope's **good news**.

Christmas is hope's **birthday**.

The **cross** is hope's **birth-place**.

Great Friday is hope's **victory**.

Resurrection Sunday is hope's **validation**.

Each Christian is hope's **ambassador**.

The **collective Church** is hope's **army**.
 Baptism is hope's **aroma**.
 Discipleship is hope's **muscle**.
 Courage is hope's **backbone**.
 Love is hope's **language**.
 The Bible is hope's **blueprint**.
 Faith is hope's **confidence**.
 Faithfulness is hope's **contrast**.
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 The "few" are hope's **companions**.
 Ministry is hope's **touch**.
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 The **Great C's** are hope's **purposes**.
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 Your testimony is hope's **keyhole**.
 Repentance is hope's **doorman**.
 Proclaiming is hope's **voice**.
 Preaching is hope's **teacher**.
 A **biblical witness** is hope's **sign-language**.
Secret acts of kindness serve as hope's **brail...**

Service is hope's sweat.
Selflessness is hope's beautiful paradox.
Forgiving others is hope's eraser.
Authenticity is hope's credibility.
Reality is hope's reminder.
Transparency is hope's clearest translator.
Goodness is hope's personality.
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Joy is hope's smile.
Peace is hope's pleasure.
Prayer is hope's heart-phone.
Missional living is hope's megaphone.

Romans 15:13

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Hope Happens Here!

T/S: *Only HOLY hope heals... Holy ONLY!* -JDP

NOTE: My new friend Glenn... to paraphrase him:

*“Healing Hope is where & when
Holy Hope’s... rubber really hits the road... to heaven.”*

Holy hope both helps & heals! -JDP

Holy Hope describes what Healing Hope delivers.
-JDP

III. HEALING Hope

*Think of Holy Hope as the gospel’s living caterpillar
and
Healing Hope as The Gospel’s soaring butterfly.* -JDP

*Holy Hope gives **SIGHT** to the caterpillar, whereas
Healing Hope gives **FLIGHT** to the butterfly!* -JDP

**Healing Hope is God’s hope
&
The Gospel’s hope!** -JDP

*“Yet, even now, declares the LORD,”
“return to me with all your heart,*

1. Healing Hope is Holy hope

2. Healing Hope is HIS hope... (*God's hope*)

- *“Declares”*
- *“the LORD”*

3. Healing Hope IS The Gospel in action...

- | | |
|----------------|----------|
| i. Grace | m |
| ii. Repentance | m |
| iii. Faith | M |
| iv. Obedience | m |
| v. Glory | m |

A. Grace

a. **Called**

Matthew 22:14

For many are called, but few are chosen.

b. **Commanded** *“return to Me...”* cf. John 6:44

c. **Chosen**

2 Corinthians 4:4

*The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers,
so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays
the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

B. Repentance

a. *Realize.... the "Roman Road"*

b. *Remember*

1 Corinthians 2:14

The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

c. *Respond*

i. *Remorse*

ii. *Repent*

Mark 1:15

*"The time has come," He/Jesus said. "The kingdom of God has come near. **Repent and believe** the good news!"*

iii. *Return*

Joel 2:12-13

Matthew 11:28

***Come to Me**, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.*

C. Faith

In the same way that you cannot get to biblical restoration without biblical repentance, so it is that you cannot get to healing-hope without healing-faith. - JDP

(cf. Hebrews 11:6)

a. Holy ONLY

i. Realize

1. miracle
2. Messiah
3. mission

ii. Remember

1. BC (Before Christ)
2. @ (@ the cross)
3. AD (After Death to self)

iii. Respond

1. Remorse
2. Repent
3. Return

b. Home-based

*Whereas Holy Hope comes from the home of heaven,
Healing Hope comes back home to heave. - JDP*

c. Heaven-bound

- i. Invited/Offered
- ii. Promised
- iii. Guaranteed

*Healing Hope is eternal
and come's with the Almighty's blessed assurance!*

- JDP

D. Obedience = Fulfills the Great Commandment

E. Glory:

BE-ing healed & a hope-filled glorifier bring God glory!

- i. Returning to Him is Christlike...
- ii. He returned to the Father....
- iii. He will be returning to us...
- iv. So together, we can/will return to heaven!

THIS is Holy, Healing HOPE!

CLOSE:

Let's answer our 3 opening questions

1. **Is there a heaven?** - Jesus said Yes!

2. **Who gets to go to heaven?**

Those who, by God's grace and for God's glory, THROUGH The Gospel of Jesus Christ... are:

- Chosen
- Called
- Consummated

3. **How do the called, chosen, and the consummated get to heaven?**

- They **REALIZE** (m M m)
 - miracle
 - **MESSIAH**
 - Mission

- They **REMEMBER**
 - **God's Word**

Ezekiel 36:26

*I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you;
I will remove your heart of stone and
give you a (new) **heart of flesh.***

- **God's Will**

John 3:16

- **God's Ways**

John 3:36

John 14:15

- They **RESPOND**
 - a. Heart-wrenching *Remorse*
 - b. Heart-transforming *Repentance*
 - c. **Holy Returning** to our Holy God!

Friends... PLEASE... don't ever forget...

1. There is an eternal heaven and an eternal hell.
2. ONLY Holy Hope REALIZES the TRUTH of The GOSPEL
3. Holy Hope REMEMBERS the LOVE of The GOSPEL
4. Healing Hope RESPONDS by RETURNING to the ONLY Holy God...
5. Healing Hope RETURNS with REPENTANCE & biblical BELIEF (a.k.a. "FAITHFUL OBEDIENCE") to The GOSPEL

1 Peter 2:24-25

He himself (Jesus) bore our sins in His body on the tree/cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you (biblical Christian) have been healed.

*25 For you were straying like sheep, **but have now returned to the Shepherd** and the Overseer of your souls.*

Now THAT's "good news!"

That's HEALING Hope!

Let's PRAY!

(VIDEO: "The Gospel" – Ludy)