



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

The LORD Almighty--Holy pt. 3 (Select Scriptures)

APRIL 3, 2012

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Weekly Bible Study Schedule

- **Tuesday, April 3, 7 AM in HHR #5**
-Breakfast Provided
- **Tuesday, April 3, 8:30 PM in Room #301**
(Speaker Pro-Tem's office)

"Not all the vials of judgments, that have, or shall be poured out upon the wicked world, nor the flaming furnace of a sinner's conscience, nor the irreversible sentence pronounced against the rebellious devils, nor the groans of the damned creatures, give such a demonstration of God's hatred of sin, as the wrath of God let loose upon His Son."¹

Martin Luther (1483-1546) was a man who had an awful struggle with a holy God. After a time studying law, Luther dedicated himself to being a monk. In his time as a monk, he was excessive in his self-discipline, fasting, praying, and punishing his body (which led to a lifetime of physical ailments). He also was known for his excessive confession of sin, to the point of exasperating the monk who received his confession. Many of his fellow brethren believed he was going to confession so he would not have to do his work.

At the first communion that he was to perform, Luther faltered as he prayed the blessing over the elements. He later wrote,

"At these words I was utterly stupefied and terror-stricken. I thought to myself, 'With what tongue shall I address such majesty, seeing that all men ought to tremble in the presence of even an earthly prince? Who am I, that I should lift up mine eyes or raise my hands to the divine Majesty? The angels surround Him. At His nod the earth trembles. And shall I, a miserable little pygmy, say 'I want this, I ask for that?' For I am dust and ashes and full of sin and I am speaking to the living, eternal and the true God.'"

But, "Two things separated Luther from the rest of men," R.C. Sproul wrote, "First, he knew who God was. Second, he understood the demands of God's law. He had mastered the law. Unless he came to understand the gospel, he would die in torment."²

INTRODUCTION

Hebrews 12:14 (NIV) "...without holiness no one will see the Lord."

In a brief recap of earlier studies, there are two aspects which define God's holiness. First, God is great. He is completely separate and distinct from anything that has been created. He is majestic, sovereign, set apart, transcendent, and powerful. Secondly, God is good. He is absolutely without sin. He is pure, righteous, perfect, compassionate, merciful and just.

Because of His holy nature, God has hatred toward sin for sin is, by nature, personal rebellion toward Him. Therefore, sin must be punished; His holiness demands justice. All of this is exemplified by the cross of Jesus. God's hatred for sin, His demand for justice and His love for people are on display as His Son is lifted above the earth on the 'Ole Rugged Cross.'

In our wrap up study today, we want to look more fully at the cross of Jesus in light of God's holiness. It is the "therefore" conclusion of this short study. In other words, "God is Holy. Therefore..." Even though there could be a vast number of answers to complete that thought, we will look at three which are quite relevant to everyone.

WE CANNOT RESTORE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

"God is Holy. Therefore...we cannot restore a relationship with God." In other words, there is no way we can justify ourselves before the holy Judge of the Universe. God is holy. We are sinful and have personally rebelled against our Creator. No amount of good works or law-keeping can erase our sin-filled record.

The Apostle Paul wrote, *Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God; because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin (Romans 3:19-20). And again, *For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law, to perform them." Now that no one is justified by the Law before God... (Galatians 3:10-11a).**

CAPITOL COMMISSION BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS & STAFF: TUESDAYS @ 7AM, HEARING ROOM #5

LEGISLATORS: TUESDAYS @ 8:30PM, ROOM #301

TRUMAN BUILDING: THURSDAYS @ 7AM, 4THFLOOR CAFETERIA

PROCLAIMING THE GREATNESS AND GLORY OF GOD IN THE MISSOURI STATE CAPITOL

Missouri

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The Law handed down by God to Moses is good, but it only condemns. The attempt to live by the Law, or any set of rules and rituals, will not bridge the gap that stands between a holy God and an unholy person. In fact, the Law is what declares and shows a person that he or she is guilty of sin.

In the above passages, the term “justified” is a legal term coming from the Greek word “righteous” and it means “to declare righteous” or “to be shown to be righteous.” Therefore, Paul teaches that no one, by any amount of law-keeping, can be declared or shown to be righteous before a righteous, holy God. No one can fall back on their resume to show that they deserve restoration and are qualified to be considered a child of God in good standing.

**IF GOD IS GLORIOUS IN HOLINESS, WE SHOULD ALL SAY,
"WHO CAN STAND BEFORE SO HOLY A GOD!"**

--JEREMIAH BURROUGHS

In Philippians 3, Paul pulled out his resume to show that if anyone had the pedigree and religious record which could be beneficial, he was the one to have it: *circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless* (Philippians 3:5-6). But then he stated that he counts these accomplishments as nothing but trash. He knew that they could do nothing to make him right before God.

The chasm between a holy God and sinful men is much too wide.

A HOLY MEDIATOR IS NECESSARY.

“God is Holy. Therefore...a holy mediator is necessary.” The man Job understood this great chasm between himself and God. In the midst of his affliction, he wanted to plead his case to God and ask Him why these apparent punishments were coming upon him.

Job 9:32-33 For He is not a man as I am that I may answer Him, that we may go to court together. There is no umpire between us, who may lay his hand upon us both.

Job, though, knew that God is so far above Him that, on his own, he could not summons Him into a “court of law” to make God answer for His doings. Job had no one who could clearly and objectively look at both sides to give a resolution.

In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul has a similar burden. In Romans 7:14ff, he describes his struggle with sin. He does things he does not want to do and the things he wants to do, he does not do them. Finally, he cries out, *Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?* (Romans 7:24) Paul knows from experience that he cannot do and live in the way that God has commanded; therefore, he needs someone to bail him out, to set him free.

Job and Paul both recognize their need for a “go-between” or a mediator. They both are looking for someone who will help them in their time of need; to release them from the bondage they are under.

And these men reflect the plight of all humankind. Friend, we are all in a desperate condition. We all are need of someone who will be our “go-between.” We all are in need of someone who will rescue and deliver us from the bondage in which we have put ourselves. Don’t be like the foolish man that I played golf with one day who said he will just stand before God and “take his chances.” We have no chance, friend, unless someone who is qualified and found worthy will go on our behalf before God to set us free.

THE MEDIATOR IS GOD’S HOLY SON--JESUS CHRIST

“God is Holy. Therefore...the only mediator is God’s Son, Jesus Christ.” The go-between that all people need has been found. And He is none other than the unique Son of God, Jesus Christ.

1 Timothy 2:5-6 For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.

Jesus Christ was found to be the worthy mediator or “umpire” as stated by Job. He is the only One who can clearly and objectively look at both sides so that a resolution may be given. And the work of Christ as mediator was that He gave His life as the ransom to set people free (Mark 10: Hebrews 8:6; 9:15; 12:24).

The only way that the uncrossable chasm standing between a holy God and unholy people could be bridged was by the perfect sacrifice. The blood of bulls and goats was not acceptable (Hebrews 9:13). And the blood of a human being is stained with sin; therefore, found to be unacceptable. No amount of “money” or “actions” or “materials” could even begin to make amends. It was the sacrifice of the man, Jesus Christ (who was also God), which was found to be acceptable.

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1 Peter 1:18-19 ...knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

Colossians 1:13-14 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

Jesus Christ is the only mediator. Therefore, all who want to be reconciled to God must come through Him (Acts 4:12). We do not approach God through any and all religions. Do not be misleading: not all "paths of faith" lead to God, the only way is through Christ (John 14:6). Only through the man Christ Jesus can men draw near to God.³

CONCLUSION

In every man-made religion in the world, man must do this and this and this and this to be right before God or to make it to the next level of being. In the only "God-made" religion in the world, God condescends to man to lift him up out of the miserable condition in which man was found.

My friends do not attempt to stand before God in all your glory and strength, because you have none. By faith, stand before God in all of Christ's glory and righteousness, because that is the only hope we have as we stand before a holy, holy, holy God.

God can forgive your sins, are you interested??

One last thought. It may be long, but well worth it.

"Lastly, what need we all have of Jesus Christ. If God is glorious in holiness, we should all say, "Who can stand before so holy a God!" Were it not for the holiness of the blessed Mediator who stands between the Father and us, and presents His infinite satisfaction to the Father for our sins, and clothes us with His righteousness, woe, woe unto us! If you could possibly imagine that all of the excellencies of heaven and earth were put into one creature except holiness, if that creature had only the least drop of uncleanness and unholiness in it, God would eternally hate that creature. Were there not a

Mediator between that creature and God, God would eternally let out His wrath upon it, for God is so glorious in holiness that He infinitely hates filthiness. We wonder when we hear of the great misery threatened to wicked men, but we would not wonder if we knew God's holiness.

Now what is the reason that, though we have so much uncleanness in us, God is pleased to be reconciled to us, and admits us into His presence and gives us hope to see His face with joy to all eternity? It is this: because we have a Mediator... Were it not for that, we could weep streams of blood from our eyes and God would hate and abhor us. His wrath would eternally seize us.

Therefore, though you may rejoice in inherent holiness, let your hearts be particularly upon the perfect holiness of Jesus Christ and offer that up to God. Though you have much uncleanness in yourself and in your duties (for what is it for us to offer duty to the holy God), let this comfort you. You do not have to deal with God in yourself but through Christ, and in Him you have liberty to come. You may look upon God's face with boldness. This is the great mystery of godliness revealed in the gospel that, notwithstanding the infiniteness of God's holiness, there is a way for us polluted creatures to look upon this God with joy. This mystery is only taught in the gospel. And if you are not acquainted with God in this way of reconciliation, you will be undone forever. Therefore, study the mystery of the gospel. Make use of Christ that the glory of God's holiness may not be to your terror but to your comfort."
--Jeremiah Burroughs

¹ Stephen Charnock, *The Existence and Attributes of God* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 1996), vol. 2, 135.

² R.C. Sproul, *The Holiness of God* (Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1998), 93.

³ In our society and world today, this point cannot be emphasized enough. Only through Jesus can one be reconciled to God; and the Jesus that is revealed in Scripture. We cannot be reconciled to God through a Jesus we have made up in our own minds--that is nothing else but making a god in our own image. We live in a world that says all religions are relevant and equal and all lead to God ("we just call him by different names").

For some, this may sound quite exclusive and may think "What right do you have to exclude others from God?" My simple reply is that this is not my opinion or conclusion. This is the clear truth that Jesus taught (John 14:6) and handed down by His followers (Acts 4:12; 1 Timothy 2:5). The question becomes, thus, are you willing to follow after Him and make Him your mediator? You have no other choice.