

HE IS HOLY
Psalm 139:19-24

Excellence—no, perfection—is something we have come to expect in most every area of our lives. More than one steak has been sent back to the chef because it was slightly undercooked or overcooked. In most instances, the restaurant is more than willing to accommodate the guest's desire in order to enhance their reputation of serving the perfect steak. When the time comes to have that special surgery, few would settle for an average surgeon just to get the procedure over with. Instead it would only be prudent to investigate, interview former patients, and seek a second and even a third opinion until you were able to find the very best surgeon for that perfect surgery.

Few new parents can be heard saying they just gave birth to an average child, or desire to be less than the perfect parents, and last night's Valentine roses would have wilted immediately had you introduced your wife by saying, "She was the best I could find at the moment," (while she was thinking you were more of a ministry than a husband).

In today's culture, excellence is not only expected but also demanded. Perhaps few professions are more demanding of excellence in performance than athletics. Hours upon countless hours are spent by both coaches and athletes in the constant review of literally miles of the game films of future opponents. It's not to review the opposing team so much as each opposing player. For instance, it's not uncommon for a defensive back to know before his assigned receiver even breaks the huddle if he is the intended receiver. The defenseman studies his eyes, the way he approaches the line, a twitch in his eye, the movement of his fingers, or perhaps his look at the defensive scheme. Then there is often the non-verbal communication between the receiver and the quarterback, not to mention the stance, number of steps, and length of stride all of which tell the defender something about his opponent. These are just a very few of the observations and studies necessary for a defensive back to grow toward the perfection of his position, otherwise he is looking at a short career. Have you ever imagined what our lives would reflect if a fraction of the effort we expend were spent expecting, demanding, or practicing the excellence God desires—no, the perfection He expects—in how we live our lives? Why is it that we so easily or even laboriously give such attention to the details that seem to matter most to us? Why do we seem to be so driven to excel in the temporal details that capture our immediate attention in hopes of success, and yet we are so passive and casual in regard to that which counts for eternity? It really doesn't make much sense to the thinking person does it? The truth is it doesn't make sense to God either.

As we enter today's study, we are addressing a subject of such magnitude that only God can teach us its substance through His Spirit. As we learn, it will change everything about us.

LIFE RESPONSE

1. This week, MEMORIZE and MEDITATE on 1 Peter 1:13-16, "*Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'*"
 - (a) Write this powerful, life changing passage on a card, computer screen, or note board.
 - (b) Note the superlatives in the passage along with the imperatives. What are your observations? What do you find most intimidating?
 - (c) On a scale of 1-10 (10 being *excellent*) where would you place yourself?
2. Psalm 139:19-22 and Luke 14:26-35 define a certain, unavoidable mindset and attitude toward those things that subvert our perception of God and the expectations of God. How does this impact or even define our life

as a Christian? Is it realistic? Possible? What if we ignore it?

3. Think for a moment about the exclusiveness, fidelity, and excellence surrounding the command “To be holy:” “to love the Lord, your God with all your heart” and “You are not your own for you have been bought with a price.” What does this mean to you and to His church?
4. Can a person actually live in our culture and survive if we were to take these passages at face value? Note Romans 5:1-8.

“A good man hates, as God Himself doth; He hates not the persons of men, but their sins; not what God made them, but what they have made themselves.” - Bishop George Horne 1730-1792

THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

Any one attribute of God is how He has chosen to reveal to man His perfections unique only to Him and serves to distinguish and identify Himself in His incomprehensibility as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in describing the nature of the Triune God.

In Short: God has and continually chooses to reveal His character and person to each of us that we might come to know, love, serve, and be transformed into His likeness.

Psalm 139:1-6 The Omniscience of God

Psalm 139:7-12 The Omnipresence of God

Psalm 139:13-18 The Omnipotence of God

Psalm 139:19-24

*O that You would slay the wicked, O God;
Depart from me, therefore, men of bloodshed.
For they speak against You wickedly,
And Your enemies take Your name in vain.
Do I not hate those who hate You, O LORD?
And do I not loathe those who rise up against You?
I hate them with the utmost hatred;
They have become my enemies.
Search me, O God, and know my heart;
Try me and know my anxious thoughts;
And see if there be any hurtful way in me,
And lead me in the everlasting way.*

THE ATTRIBUTE OF HOLINESS

Acts 1:8; 1 Peter 5:1-3

Psalm 139:19-24

Defines the heart, attitude, emotions of how we should respond to that which is contrary to the holiness of God.

GOD'S HOLINESS

“He is ‘glorious in holiness’ (Ex. 15:11) – holiness being the most sparkling jewel in His crown. As power makes Him mighty, so His holiness makes Him glorious.”

- Dr. Herbert Lockyer

Definitions from theologians:

- As the absolutely Holy One, God is free from evil and hates and abhors sin.
- Absolute purity or goodness, untouched and unstained by the evil in the world.
- God's perfection of holiness is the standard for our moral character and the motivation for religious practice.
- God is separate from all that is unclean and evil and that He is positively pure and thus distinct from all others.

Think About It!

This is the One in whom we have:

- . . . been grafted into
- . . . partakers of His divine nature
- . . . who we are to “imitate”

REFLECTIONS OF GOD'S HOLINESS:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Exodus 29 | - - The Tabernacle |
| Exodus 33:18-23 | - - Moses on Mt. Sinai |
| Isaiah 6:1-5 | - - Isaiah's sight of God's glory |

REACTION IN LIGHT OF GOD'S HOLINESS:

- Psalm 139:19-22
 - vs 19 “Slay the wicked”
 - David's anger toward unholiness
 - “Depart from me”
 - David's distancing himself from unholiness
 - vs 20
 - Thy name in vain
 - David's conviction of taking God lightly (casual relationship with God)
 - vs 21-22
 - “I hate them”
 - David's total disgust toward those who act in unholiness

■ Luke 14:26

Anything that stands between the believer and his/her focus or fixation on the holiness of our Holy God is sin and we should hate it!

**To cultivate
the same attitude
toward sin
God has.**

. . . Fix our eyes on God's holiness as we take those things God has given us (entrusted to us) and run it – filter it through the grid of His holiness.

. . . To hate anything that stands between the believer and his focus or fixation on the holiness of God and our union with Him and His holiness.

Prayer:

*“Search me, O God, and know my heart;
Try me and know my anxious thoughts;
And see if there be any hurtful way in me,
And lead me in the everlasting way.”*