

HE IS HOLY

Part II

Psalm 139:19-24

“If it’s not worth doing right, it’s not worth doing at all” was a common adage my father often repeated as I was growing up. I’m sure it wasn’t original with him, but by the way he lived it and expected it in others he certainly had ownership of it. Its meaning took on an extra measure of significance as I began to learn bits and pieces about the Great Depression during which he embraced this saying that largely defined his life. The Depression was something no one wanted to talk about and seldom did. Most would say, “You don’t want to know.” It was that devastating. It was a time when you made the best of everything you had, which was little or nothing, unlike today. Even then, few could take used up, raw material many considered worthless and shape it into something needed and make it work to perfection.

Often in a football or hockey chapel I will attempt to say (with the same conviction as my father) “If it’s not worth doing right, it’s not worth doing at all.” I ask the team why they would put themselves through the pain, discipline, and sacrifice of practice in a lonely arena or cold weight room hours upon hours, day after day, just to play a game. To settle for anything but a championship just doesn’t make any sense, does it? Perhaps that’s what Roger Staubach meant when he said, “There are no traffic jams on the second mile.”

So what if we who are called “The Body of Christ” were to adapt the same mindset and conviction in our work and practice it in our Christian walk? Is it not true that far too often we become complacent in that which is to have highest priority? In this sense, Jesus summarized all of Scripture and life in that one simple statement, “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness (holiness); and all these *things* shall be added to you.” Later, to the church, the Apostle Paul continued with the same theme “and *whatever* you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus;” and “whether, then, you eat or drink or *whatever* you do, do all to the glory of God.” If it’s not worth doing right, it’s not worth doing at all seems to take on a much deeper meaning when we filter it through the *righteousness* of God’s standard, doesn’t it?

Couldn’t we say that most conflicts we face—be it at work, in our marriage, in our family, in school, in every area of our life—would be resolved— if we just did it right?

Never in recent years has “doing it right” presented a greater challenge nor has it been more difficult than it is now. It seems every facet of our culture is out of tune with God’s standard of what is right and holy.

Today we are going to define even more clearly not only the standard but also what God has provided for us to meet that standard as we focus on the holiness of God.

LIFE RESPONSE

1. This week, continue to 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) Paraphrase this passage in the first person as if it were your own *adage* or saying that defined your life.
 - (b) What are some of the imperatives you find most difficult and challenging as you face your world?
2. Think for a moment about the significance of the imperative “you shall be holy, for I am holy” in your personal life as it relates to those closest to you. If married, your mate; if family member, your parents, your child; if single, your best friend; in the Body of Christ, those you have significant contact with such as Mini Church, Care Group, or Cell Group.
 - (a) Imagine what could happen in those relationships as you begin to accept responsibility to obey this critical imperative.
 - (b) A challenge for each husband, father, MC leader, CG leader, or Cell leader—take the initiative to set a time

when you can share your conviction of what this means to you and how together you can make it the identity of your family (group).

3. Psalm 119 consists of 22 paragraphs of 8 verses each. Each day consider one of those paragraphs to help you know and practice God's holiness.
4. Imagine what your life, relationships, and world would look like if and when we each come to know and experience His holiness. Now pray that God would make it real and observable.

THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

An attribute of God is a particular character trait of His perfection, unique only to Him, which serves to reveal His identity and to distinguish Himself equally and fully as God Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The significance: It is the One and *only* God in whose image we are created, and it is *only* by God's grace that we can know Him personally, and it is *only* through His Son Jesus Christ that we are made "partakers of His divine nature."

Psalm 139

- 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

Signifies something or someone who is separated and set apart or consecrated. God is holy because He is unique, totally separate in His nature from all His creatures and morally pure.

THE MOST FOUNDATIONAL ATTRIBUTE OF GOD

Psalm 139:19-24

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

REFLECTIONS OF GOD'S HOLINESS:

Old Testament

The Tabernacle - - Exodus 29

Moses on Mt. Sinai - - Exodus 33:18-23

Temple - - Isaiah 6:1-5

Burning Bush - - Exodus 3

REACTION IN LIGHT OF GOD'S HOLINESS:

Psalm 139:19-22 – Contrast

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

vs 21-22 “I hate them”
David's total disgust toward those who act in unholiness

The greater our knowledge/understanding of the holiness of God, the greater our hatred will be toward anything that distorts or stands between us and God.

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

RESPONSE TO GOD'S HOLINESS:

Holiness is non-optional

Lev 19: 1-2 “You shall be holy...”

1 Peter 1:13-16 “...be holy yourselves also in all your behavior.”

- To develop an intolerance for that which is offensive to God.

God, show me those things in my life that grieve You.

- To face the fact that I have a personal responsibility for my walk in holiness.

God, create in me the conviction and character to reject every personal sin.

- To come to know and take ALL sin seriously.

God, open my eyes to those sins our culture and church have been conditioned to accept.

Prayer:

Father in heaven, thank You for how You have chosen to reveal Yourself to us.

I thank You for what I am coming to know of Your holiness.

*I thank You for revealing Your holiness through Your Son, Jesus Christ and “the radiance of **Your** glory and the exact representation of **Your** nature.”*

God, show me those things in my life that grieve You.

God, create in me the conviction and character to reject every personal sin.

God, open my eyes to those sins our culture and our church have been conditioned to accept.

I ask that You reflect Your holiness in my life as a “partaker of Your divine nature,” for Your glory.

Amen