

HE IS HOLY

Part III

Psalm 139:19-24

I couldn't care less if I ever saw a stationary bike again for as long as I live, was the expressed sentiment from the central figure of one of the all-time greatest comeback stories in professional sports. It has been called "The most anticipated return in PGA Tour history" as Tiger Woods, after extensive knee surgery, returned to tournament play in the Accenture Match Play Championship this weekend.

Many words could be used to describe what has contributed to his rehabilitation toward championship form. Words like being on schedule, tenacity, perseverance, day in/day out, just to mention a few. Perhaps the one word that stands out most in describing Tiger's road to the excellence which once described him is *consistency*. It is his consistency through pain, boredom, demands, and even feelings of hopelessness that has made this weekend the reality few thought possible. It's amazing what can happen when something becomes important to a person—any person.

The idea of consistency, however, should not surprise us, should it? Few things are truly successful without consistency. A restaurant's success is largely based upon the consistency of the food and service. The future of any business is based upon consistency of quality in product and delivery of that product. Child psychologists are quick to say that raising a secure child requires consistency of the parent in discipline, encouragement, and time with the child. Every successful marriage has, at its core, the consistency of communication, respect, and quality time. Any coach, regardless of the sport, when asked what is the most important ingredient necessary for a successful season, will answer that it is the need for *consistency*.

The same is true of our personal lives. You and I were/are created for nothing short of excellence. Scripture teaches that we are created in "the image" of God, "for His glory," and "He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him." These and myriad other passages leave little doubt as to the standard of excellence for which God has created each of us.

Having been given His purpose, we are left with either an exclamation point or a question mark. How can I *meet* such a high standard! or, how *can* I meet such a high standard? God would never create and ask something of us that He would not provide the means to experience.

The past two weeks we have focused our attention on the excellence of God's holiness. Today we are going to discover how we can cultivate the consistency that will enable us to experience and model His holiness in our personal lives, families, and to our community.

LIFE RESPONSE

1. This week, continue to MEMORIZE and MEDITATE on 2 Corinthians 3:18, "*But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.*"
 - (a) Consider the following passages in chronological order as a means of understanding more clearly and practically our growth in holiness as a believer.
Eph. 1:3-4 1 Pet. 1:15-16 2 Cor. 5:17-21 2 Cor. 4:16-18 2 Cor. 3:17-18 Col. 1:21-22
 - (b) As you read these passages in sequence try to picture in your mind the unfolding drama and work of God in our lives as we mature in holiness. Write down key thoughts and impressions that define each verse and its progression.

2. Continue your study of Psalm 119. Focus on a set of the eight verses each day. List as many practical principles as possible from each verse as you come to know more completely His holiness. What does each of the 176 verses have in common?
3. How do you think the average Christian values and practices the imperative of 1 Peter 1:15-16?
 - (a) How critical/important is it for us to commit to this imperative?
 - (b) How can you best establish a consistent process of cultivating a growth toward holiness?
 - (c) What steps can we take as families, Mini Churches, Care Groups, and Cell Groups toward our identity of holiness?

THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

That which distinguishes and helps us to identify some aspect of the nature and character of God.

The Significance

The more we as believers come to know and understand more fully the uniqueness of God through His revealed attributes, our whole framework of thinking changes our perception of Him and our response to Him as those who have spiritually become “partakers of His divine nature.”

Psalm 139

Psalm 139:1-6	God’s Omniscience
Psalm 139:7-12	God’s Omnipresence
Psalm 139:13-18	God’s Omnipotence
Psalm 139:19-24	God’s Holiness

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.*

REFLECTIONS OF GOD’S HOLINESS

REACTION IN LIGHT OF GOD’S HOLINESS	Hating that which is unholy
RESPONSE TO GOD’S HOLINESS	Lev. 19:1-2 / 1 Peter 1:13-16

REGENERATION IN HIS HOLINESS:

Old Testament – Reflections of God’s holiness were temporal and imperfect channels.

New Testament – Reflections of God’s holiness is eternal and perfect in His Son Jesus Christ.

John 1:1-5; 14	Personification of Holiness
Heb. 1:1-3	Radiance of His glory
	Exact representation of His nature

Why is Salvation called “Salvation”

Hebrews 12:14

Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.

- ✓ Salvation: Spiritual Birth
 - Heb. 10:19-20 Provided a new/living way to enter the Holy place
 - John 1:12 Child of God
 - 2 Cor. 5:17 New creation
 - 2 Cor. 5:21 Imputed righteousness

- ✓ Sanctification:
 - Word: —————> Psalm 119
 - Prayer: —————> 1 Thess. 5:17
 - Church: —————> Heb. 10:22-24

Prayer:

Father in heaven, thank You for Your grace and sacrificial love by sending us Your Son and providing Your forgiveness on the cross.

Thank you for removing the sin barrier between me and Your absolute holiness through Jesus that enables me to become a “partaker of the divine nature.”

I only ask that You will create in me an unquenchable thirst for You and Your holiness.

...that Your holiness will be my standard of life.

...that Your holiness will be my identity.

...that Your holiness will be that which distinguishes me from my culture.

Through the power of indwelling Holy Spirit strengthen me to discipline

- my will to be obedient to You.

- my hope to be fixed completely on You.

- my life to be conformed to Your holiness.

It is for Your glory I pray in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen