

## KNOWING GOD: LESSON 10: BEHOLD YOUR GOD! THE HOLINESS OF GOD! I Samuel 2:2

### I. INTRODUCTION: I

1. **2** In our last lesson we considered the wisdom of God. We learned that God manifests His wisdom in creation, in His scheme of redemption, in godly people's lives (e.g., Abraham and Paul), and in the gospel (I Cor. 1:18-2:5).
2. **\*\*** We also learned that in order to gain godly wisdom we must not only revere God, but we must also be both a hearer and doer of His word (Jas. 1:21-25).
3. **\*\*** It is so sad to consider how the world, even the "religious" or so-called "Christian" world has corrupted the concept of the true God:
  - A. The world has things "upside down"; the world has created a "god" in man's image, instead of man being created in God's image.
  - B. The world provides its own definition of God (e.g., Doting Grandfather) rather than letting God define Himself through His word ("Well, I think God is such and such..." Or, "I think God will do this or won't do that...").
  - C. The world creates a "god" that has no firm standards for man.
    - (1) A "god" who does not have a "word" that is the revelation of His mind.
    - (2) So, we don't have to obey the Bible, it's basically a myth or just loose "guidelines."
    - (3) This "god" accepts any form of service and worship which man decides is appropriate as long as one is "sincere."
4. This view of God is both arrogant and absolutely, positively, unequivocally wrong!!
 

**Isa. 6:1-4:** *"In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. 2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one cried to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!' 4 And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. 5 So I said:*

*'Woe is me, for I am undone!  
Because I am a man of unclean lips,  
And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips;  
For my eyes have seen the King,  
The LORD of hosts.'*"

**Ex. 15:11:** *"Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders?"*

**I Sam. 2:2:** *"No one is holy like the LORD, For there is none besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God."*
5. **\*\*** The God of the Bible is a holy God; and, to be His people, we must treat Him as a holy God by being holy people: **I Pet. 1:15-16:** *"but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy.'"*
6. **3** In this lesson let us consider what it means for God to be holy and how we must be holy in order to be able to lay claim to **Knowing God**.

### II. DISCUSSION:

1. **4** Definition of holiness: What does the Bible mean when it says God is holy?
  - A. Definition of holy:

- (1) **\*\* Old Testament:** *qodesh* (ko' - desh) sacred place or thing, sanctified (set apart).

**Ex. 15:11:** "Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders?"

**1 Sam. 2:2:** "No one is holy like the LORD, For there is none besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God."

- (2) **\*\* New Testament:** *hagios* (hag' - ee - os) sacred. "Fundamentally signifies separated (among the Greeks, dedicated to the gods), and hence, in Scripture in its moral and spiritual significance, separated from sin and therefore consecrated to God, sacred. (a) It is predicated of God (as the absolutely Holy One, in His purity, majesty and glory): of the Father, e. g., Lk. 1:49; Jn. 17:11; 1 Pet. 1:15, 16; Rev. 4:8; 6:10; of the Son, e.g., Lk. 1:35; Acts 3:14; 4:27, 30; 1 Jn. 2:20; of the Spirit, e. g., Mt. 1:18 and frequently in all the Gospels, Acts, Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Eph., 1 Thes.; also in 2 Tim. 1:14; Tit. 3:5; 1 Pet. 1:12; 2 Pet. 1:21; Jude 20." (Vines)

**Lk. 1:49:** "For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name."

**1 Pet. 1:15-16:** "but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy.'"

- B. **\*\* Note** that there are two basic ideas associated with holiness:

- (1) **\*\* Sanctification** (set apart or separated):

**\*\***"The primary meaning of holy is 'separate.' It comes from an ancient word that meant, 'to cut' or 'to separate.' Perhaps even more accurate would be the phrase 'a cut above something.' When we find a garment or another piece of merchandise that is outstanding, that has a superior excellence, we use the expression that it is 'a cut above the rest.'" (The Holiness of God, R. C. Sproul, p. 40) (all emphases mine, cvt)

**Ex. 15:11:** "Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders?"

**1 Sam. 2:2:** "No one is holy like the LORD, For there is none besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God."

**Psa. 89:8-10:** "Among the gods there is none like You, O LORD; Nor are there any works like Your works. 9 All nations whom You have made Shall come and worship before You, O LORD, And shall glorify Your name. 10 For You are great, and do wondrous things; You alone are God."

**\*\***"When the Bible calls God holy it means primarily that God is transcendently (beyond normal limits, cvt) separate. He is so far above and beyond us that He seems almost totally foreign to us. To be holy is to be 'other' to be different in a special way." (The Holiness of God, R. C. Sproul, p. 55) (all emphases mine, cvt)

**Psa. 99:1-3:** "The LORD reigns; Let the peoples tremble! He dwells between the cherubim; Let the earth be moved! 2 The LORD is great in Zion, And He is high above all the peoples. 3 Let them praise Your great and awesome name; He is holy."

**Isa. 55:8-9:** "'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,' says the LORD. 9 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.'"

- (2) **\*\* Purity** (*hagneia*, cleanliness. Note: from same root word as holy):

**Hab. 1:13a:** "You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness."

**Psa. 24:3-5:** "Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol,

Nor sworn deceitfully. 5 He shall receive blessing from the LORD, And righteousness from the God of his salvation.”

\*\*\*“...’in a moral sense (holy, cvt) [means] pure, sinless, upright, holy’ (Thayer 7). Deity is completely and absolutely separated from sin, and, accordingly, there is no sin or darkness in Deity (1 Jn. 1:5; 3:5, 8-9). There is in the character of Deity only that which is pure because there is no admixture of error or immorality in Deity.” “Christ was separate from sinners and undefiled (Heb. 7:26).” (*Truth Commentary on 1 Peter*, C. D. Hamilton, p. 42) (all emphases mine, cvt)

\*\*\*“When things are made holy, when they are consecrated, they are set apart unto purity. They are to be used in a pure way. They are to reflect purity as well as simple apartness. Purity is not excluded from the idea of holy; it is contained within it. But the point we must remember is that the idea of holy is never exhausted by the idea of purity. It includes purity but it is much more than that. (*The Holiness of God*, R. C. Sproul, p. 57) (all emphases mine, cvt)

C. Importantly, holiness is more than a mere attribute of God:

\*\*\*“When we use the word holy to describe God, we face another problem. We often describe God by compiling a list of qualities or characteristics that we call attributes. We say that God is a spirit, that He knows everything, that He is loving, just, merciful, gracious, and so on. The tendency is to add the idea of holy to this long list of attributes as one attribute among many. But when the word holy is applied to God, it does not signify one single attribute. On the contrary, God is called holy in a general sense. The word is used as a synonym for his deity. That is, the word holy calls attention to all that God is. It reminds us that His love is holy love, his justice is holy justice, his mercy is holy mercy, his knowledge is holy knowledge, his spirit is holy spirit.” (*The Holiness of God*, R. C. Sproul, p. 57) (all emphases mine, cvt)

2. **5 Importance of God’s holiness:** We cannot lay claim to knowing God until we fully appreciate how important God’s holiness is to Him!

**Let’s consider two Biblical examples that demonstrate the importance of God’s holiness...**

A. **\*\* Moses:**

- ✓ God appointed Moses as the one through whom He would deliver His people from Egyptian bondage (Ex. 3-7),
- ✓ God delivered Israel out of Egypt with His mighty hand (Ex. 7-14),
- ✓ God miraculously preserved a grumbling Israel (Ex. 16-18),
- ✓ Israel accepted God’s covenant (Ex. 19-24),
- ✓ Israel built God’s tabernacle according to God’s “pattern” (Ex. 25-40),
- ✓ Israel accepted God’s laws (Lev.),
- ✓ God organized Israel and prepared them to enter the Promised Land (Num. 1-9),
- ✓ Israel continued to grumble (“Who will give us meat to eat?”, Num. 11:4) so God gave them quail (Num. 11),
- ✓ Israel investigated the promised land and rebelled against God (Num. 13-14),
- ✓ Korah, Dathan, and Abiram rebelled against the leadership of Moses and God opened the ground and swallowed them up (Num. 16),
- ✓ The next day Israel rebelled against Moses & 14,700 died from the plague (Num. 16),
- ✓ God reconfirmed Moses’ leadership (Num. 17).

- (1) In Numbers chapter 20 the children of Israel arrive at Kadesh.
  - (a) Recall that the Hebrew word for **holy** comes from *qodesh* (ko' - desh)).
  - (b) Moses, the children of Israel, and **us** (Rom. 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:11) are about to learn something about God's **holiness**! Read **Numbers 20:1-13**
    - ✓ Moses had good reason to be angry with the Israelites, they were indeed a "stiff-necked people" (Ex. 33:5),
    - ✓ The people were hostile to Moses and Aaron; they wished they were dead instead of being in their predicament (v. 3),
    - ✓ They unfairly laid all the blame on Moses and Aaron, they felt "misled" rather than "led" (v. 4-5).
- (2) There was no water in Kadesh (v. 2), so God told Moses to "**Speak** to the rock...and it will yield its water" (v. 8).
- (3) Instead, Moses "**struck** the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly..." (v. 11). (BTW: based on the result, Moses could have thought everything was "ok" with God, i.e., ends justifies the means mentality of so many today! After all, striking the rock worked earlier! Ex. 17:6)
- (4) God denied Moses entrance into the Promised Land as a result of his actions!
 

**Num. 20:12b:** "therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them."
- (5) Moses disobeyed God because he did not treat God as **holy**!
 

**\*\*Num. 20:12:** "Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, 'Because you have not believed Me, to treat Me as **holy** in the sight of the sons of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.'" (NASV)

  - ✓ Striking the rock instead of speaking to it was an act of disobedience, a failure to follow God's instructions,
  - ✓ The act is identified by God as an act of unbelief (v. 12); an act of rebellion! (Num. 27:14),
  - ✓ Every act of disobedience, regardless of how small, is an act of unbelief; an act of rebellion; an act that violates the holiness of God! (v. 12)
- (6) Moses' root sin was **irreverence** (a lack of respect for God's **holiness**).
  - (a) Moses let his anger toward Israel overcome his **reverence** for God and His word.
  - (b) His **irreverence** showed lack of respect for God and His word, a lack of respect for the **holiness** (separateness, purity) of God and His word!
  - (c) Such a small sin (i.e., according to human wisdom) is classified as **blatant** and **complete rebellion** against God! (**Num. 27:14:** "For in the Wilderness of Zin, during the strife of the congregation, you rebelled against My command to hallow Me at the waters before their eyes.")

**Surely, we can see from this example how seriously God takes His holiness and the holiness of His word!**

**B. \*\* Uzzah:**

- (1) God had given a very specific "pattern" (i.e., instructions) concerning the ark:
  - ✓ It's size and the materials from which it was to be made (Ex. 25:9-13),

- ✓ The ark of the covenant was overlaid with the mercy seat (Ex. 25:17),
- ✓ In the ark was the pot of manna, Aaron's rod, the tablets of the covenant (Heb. 9:4),
- ✓ The ark was only to be carried by Levites (specifically the "sons of Kohath", Num. 4:1-20; 1 Chron. 15:15), and,
- ✓ The ark was only to be carried in a very specific way,

**Ex. 25:12-15:** *"You shall cast four rings of gold for it, and put them in its four corners; two rings shall be on one side, and two rings on the other side. 13 'And you shall make poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold. 14 'You shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark, that the ark may be carried by them. 15 'The poles shall be in the rings of the ark; they shall not be taken from it.'"*

(2) A brief history of the ark:

- ✓ It was captured by the Philistines and kept as a "trophy" (1 Sam. 5),
- ✓ God strikes the Philistines with "tumors" for defiling the ark in their pagan temple (1 Sam. 5),
- ✓ The Philistines "wise up" and decide to get rid of the ark; they treat it like the proverbial "hot potato"! (1 Sam. 6),
- ✓ They transported the ark on a cart pulled by two oxen (1 Sam. 6),
- ✓ The Philistines transport the ark to Beth Shemesh. The men of Beth Shemesh looked into the ark and 50,070 of them were killed by the Lord for their sin (1 Sam. 6),
- ✓ The people of Beth Shemesh quickly ship the ark off to Kirath Jearim where it stayed for 20 years (1 Sam. 7:1-2),
- ✓ In time, Samuel the prophet, through God's word, got the people of Israel to repent of idolatry and God granted them victory over the Philistines (1 Sam. 7),
- ✓ Saul is appointed king of Israel (1 Sam. 9),
- ✓ David succeeded Saul as king of Israel (1 Sam. 16; 2 Sam. 6),
- ✓ During his reign, David sought to return the ark to Jerusalem (2 Sam. 6).

(3) It is very important to remember:

- ✓ The ark was **holy** because it was associated with God's presence and resided in the **holiest** place in the tabernacle, the "**holy of holies**" (Heb. 9:3-5):  
**Ex. 25:22:** *"And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony..."*
- ✓ The ark was only to be carried by Levites (specifically the "sons of Kohath," Num. 4:1-20; 1 Chron. 15:15), and,
- ✓ The ark was only to be carried in a very specific way (Ex. 25:12-15), and,
- ✓ To touch the ark meant death! **Num. 4:15b** *"...but they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die. These are the things in the tabernacle of meeting which the sons of Kohath are to carry."*

(4) David and his men transport the ark: **2 Sam. 6:1-11** But notice...

- ✓ The ark was NOT transported correctly (i.e., according to God's word)! Their way of transporting the ark imitated the Philistines!

**2 Sam. 6:3:** “So they set the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill; and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart.”

- ✓ I wouldn’t be dogmatic, but I cannot find any evidence that Uzzah or Ahio were “Kohathites.”
  - ✓ When the oxen upset the ark, “Uzzah reached out toward the ark of God and took hold of it” (v. 6), and,
  - ✓ Precisely as He had promised, God strikes Uzzah dead! (v. 7).
- (5) What was Uzzah’s sin? It was the same sin Moses committed when he struck the rock instead of speaking to it!
- \*\*2 Sam. 6:7:** “And the anger of the LORD burned against Uzzah, and God struck him down there for his irreverence; and he died there by the ark of God.” (NASV)
- ✓ God’s word forbade carrying the ark, except by the right people (sons of Kohath) using the right method (its rings and poles)! (Num. 4:1-20; I Chron. 15:13-15; Ex. 25:12-15)
  - ✓ God’s word strictly warned that anyone, even the Kohathites who touched the ark would die! (Num. 4:15),
  - ✓ Uzzah’s act was in direct contradiction to God’s word!
  - ✓ Uzzah’s act, regardless of his motives, was an insult to God’s holiness!
  - ✓ We learned from Moses that every act of disobedience, regardless of how small, is an act of unbelief; an act of rebellion; an act that violates the holiness of God!
- (6) The root of Uzzah’s sin was the same as that of Moses’: irreverence (a lack of respect for God’s holiness).
- (a) Uzzah allowed his concern for the safety of the ark to overcome his reverence for God and His word.
  - (b) His irreverence and lack of respect for God and His word was a lack of respect for the holiness (separateness, purity) of God and His word!

**Surely we can see from this example how seriously God takes His holiness and the holiness of His word!**

3. **6 Responding to God’s holiness:** How should we respond to the holiness of God and His word?

**Let’s consider some Biblical examples to demonstrate the correct response to the holiness of God and His word...**

A. **\*\* Isaiah:** Isa. 6:1-11

- ✓ Consider: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD...” (v. 3),
- ✓ Is God ever called “wise, wise, wise” or “merciful, merciful, merciful”? NO! Then certainly His holiness MUST BE IMPORTANT!
- ✓ Contrast Isaiah’s response to God’s holiness versus the response of Moses, Uzzah, or most people today (even people claiming to be members of the Lord’s church)!
- ✓ The world says things like, “One church is as good as another.” Or, “Join the church of your choice.” (cf. Matt. 16:18; Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18; Eph. 4:4) “You follow your creed or tradition and I’ll follow mine.” “I am of the \_\_\_\_\_ faith, what faith are you?”



"We're all going to heaven, we are just traveling different roads to get there." (cf. Jn. 14:6; Matt. 7:21-23)

**Isa. 6:5:** "So I said: 'Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips;'"

- ✓ Notice what God told Isaiah to tell the people:

**Isa. 6:9-11:** "And He said, 'Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.' 10 'Make the heart of this people dull, And their ears heavy, And shut their eyes; Lest they see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart, And return and be healed.' 11 Then I said, 'Lord, how long?' And He answered: 'Until the cities are laid waste and without inhabitant, The houses are without a man, The land is utterly desolate,'"

- ✓ Keep on preaching to them even though they will not pay attention!
- ✓ Keep on preaching to them even until they bring on themselves their own destruction, DON'T QUIT PREACHING THE TRUTH!
- ✓ That's the attitude of one who recognizes and appreciates the **holiness** of God and His word!

**2 Tim. 4:1-5:** "I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. 5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry."

**Surely, we can see from Isaiah 6 the need to appreciate and pay very close attention to the holiness of God and His word!**

**B. \*\* Paul: Acts 20:17-37**

- ✓ Paul set a good example, lived and preached with humility (v. 18-19; cf. 1 Tim. 4:12),
- ✓ Didn't preach for material gain (v. 33-35; cf. 1 Cor. 9:14-15; Phil. 1:5; 4:15-16),
- ✓ Didn't stop preaching the truth because there were trials (v. 19, 22-24; cf. 2 Tim. 4:2),
- ✓ Didn't hold back any of the truth, preached the "whole counsel of God" (v. 20, 27),
- ✓ He warned people about the destructiveness of false doctrine, because it was sure to come, even from those within the church! (v. 26-31).

**Surely, we need to imitate Paul's example. By his manner of life and manner of preaching Paul showed that he understood and respected the holiness of God and His word!**

**4. 7 Applications:** Let's make some applications concerning the holiness of God and His word:

**A. \*\* Preaching and teaching:** Examples:

- (1) The world (and many brethren!) says that "doctrine" (teaching) doesn't matter. Awhile back I had a conversation with a man and the subject of infant baptism came up. I pointed out that the Bible taught that:
  - (a) Infants are "safe" because they do not "inherit sin" (Ezek. 18:20; Matt. 18:3; 19:14), &

- (b) Baptism is for “believers,” people of an age and state of mind to accept (i.e., “believe”) the gospel (Mk. 16:16; Acts 8:36-38; **Acts 18:8**: “And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized.”).
- (c) The response I received was, “It doesn’t matter, it’s no big deal, infant baptism is ok.” “All denominations agree on the basics, that’s all that matters.” “You’re setting up your own denomination.” (i.e., when one demands book, chapter, and verse for teaching.)
- ✓ Was it a “big deal” when Moses struck the rock rather than speak to it? 1 Pet. 4:11
  - ✓ Was it a “big deal” when Uzzah reached out and touched the ark?
  - ✓ Did Paul think it was a “big deal” to preach the “*whole counsel of God*”?
  - ✓ Was Paul setting up his “own denomination” when he taught the “*whole counsel of God*”? (cf. Gal. 1:6-9)
  - ✓ Who made these “small things” a “big deal”? GOD!!
  - ✓ Is infant baptism according to God’s word? NO! Therefore, it’s a “big deal,” because to teach something not found in God’s word is an insult to God’s holiness!
  - ✓ **2 Jn. 9**: “Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God.”
- (2) Many of our brethren justify the “social gospel” by saying:
- “We need these tools (i.e., food, recreation, puppet shows, jugglers, clowns, etc.) to get people to come. Then when we get them in the building, we can preach the gospel to them.”
- ✓ The gospel is the “*power of God unto salvation*”! (Rom. 1:16), not food, fun, and frolic!
  - ✓ The gospel is God’s way of calling man, not carnal things like hot dogs, soft ball games, and jazzercise! (2 Thess. 2:13-14)!
  - ✓ Jesus didn’t say, “Go ye into all the world and get people to come to “church” with lasagna dinners and softball games.” (cf. Matt. 28:19-20),
  - ✓ The ends do not justify the means! Recall the Israelites placing the ark on the cart!
  - ✓ Neither do results justify the means! Recall that when Moses struck the rock water came forth, but his actions were not justified, indeed they were condemned!

***Our preaching and teaching will never have any true power unless we contemplate and appreciate God’s holiness. And, then express our understanding and appreciation for His holiness with book, chapter and verse preaching! The way Paul preached, not appealing to the carnal needs of man, but appealing to man’s spiritual needs; not employing persuasive words of man’s wisdom but employing the wisdom of God...the gospel!***

- B. **\*\* Worship and work of the church**: Example: I used to receive a monthly mailing entitled “**MONTHLY NOTICE**.” According to the editor (R. Vernon Boyd) the “**MONTHLY NOTICE**” “is a newsgathering & disseminating paper serving a cappella churches of Christ and related institutions in Michigan and nearby areas.” Notwithstanding this brother’s obvious misunderstanding of the church, two items “**On the Calendar**” caught my eye:

***Dec. 19 Seasonal Celebration at South Lyon church (xxx) xxx-xxxx***

***Dec. 24 Candlelight service at 5 p.m., Troy church***



- (1) What authority is there in the Bible to hold a “seasonal celebration” or a “candlelight” service on “Christmas Eve”?
- (2) In what chapter of Acts does Luke record early Christians observing a “seasonal celebration”?
- (3) In which epistle does Paul, Peter, James, or John give inspired instructions for a “seasonal celebration”?
  - ✓ No more authority than Moses had to strike the rock!
  - ✓ No more authority than Uzzah had to touch the ark!
- (4) Well, preacher you’re just a big “Scrooge”! “Bah, humbug!” “Christmas is not “big deal”! “You’re just an old Pharisee!”

- ✓ Striking the rock instead of speaking to it doesn’t sound like a “big deal,” but...

**Num. 20:12:** *“Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, ‘Because you have not believed Me, to treat Me as **holy** in the sight of the sons of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.’” (NASV)*

- ✓ Steadying the ark was a “good work,” it was no “big deal,” right? But...

**2 Sam. 6:7:** *“And the anger of the Lord burned against Uzzah, and God struck him down there for his **irreverence**; and he died there by the ark of God.” (NASV)*

- ✓ Who is showing respect for God’s **holiness**? The one who involves the Lord’s church in that which is NOT found in God’s word, or he who speaks out against such?!
- ✓ Who’s imitating the “Philistines”? One who involves the church in celebrating a holiday invented by man and his denominational churches or one who insists on book, chapter and verse preaching and teaching? 1 Pet. 4:11
- ✓ God’s holiness means He is “separate,” He’s “different,” He’s “extraordinary”...

**Isa. 55:8-9:** *“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. 9 ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.’”*

- C. **\*\* Personal righteousness:** By matters of “personal righteousness” I mean matters of conduct, thoughts and attitudes that are primarily between the individual Christian and God. God expects, no **DEMANDS** that His people be different!

**Eph. 1:4:** *“just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be **holy** and without blame before Him in love,” (cf. Eph. 5:27; Col. 1:22; 1 Tim. 2:8; 2 Tim. 1:9; Titus 1:8)*

**Col. 3:12-17:** *“Therefore, as the elect of God, **holy** and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”*

**1 Pet. 1:14-16:** *“as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; 15 but as He who called you is **holy**, you also be **holy** in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, ‘Be **holy**, for I am **holy**.’”*

**1 Pet. 2:4-5:** “Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

**1 Pet. 2:9:** “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;”

**2 Pet. 3:11:** “Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,”

- ✓ Christians are holy, because they are separate from the world!
- ✓ Can the world tell that you are different, that you are holy? Or, do you blend right in with the crowd?

**Eph. 4:17-24:** “This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; 19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. 20 But you have not so learned Christ, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”

- ✓ **Holiness** should permeate every aspect of our lives!
  - What we read and what we don’t read,
  - What we watch on TV and what we don’t watch on TV,
  - The websites we visit or don’t visit.
  - Who we marry or don’t marry,
  - Who we chose or don’t chose for friends,
  - How we use our time or don’t use our time,
  - How we spend our money or don’t spend our money,
  - How we treat our spouses or don’t treat our spouses,
  - How we treat our children or don’t treat our children,
  - How we treat our job/schoolwork or don’t treat our job/schoolwork,
  - How we drive our car or don’t drive our car,
  - Etc., etc.!

✓ **Specifics:**

- (1) **\*\* Attendance:** **Heb. 10:24-25:** “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”
- (2) **\*\* Study of God’s word:** 1 Tim. 4:13; 2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Pet. 1:5-7
- (3) **\*\* Readiness to teach others:** 1 Pet. 3:15; Mk. 16:15; Acts 8:4; Matt. 16:26
- (4) **\*\* Benevolence:** **Heb. 13:16:** “But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.”; **1 Jn. 3:17:** “But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his

brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?"; cf. Matt. 25:31-46

**\*\*What authority do we have for ignoring these responsibilities?**

- ✓ No more authority than Moses had to strike the rock!
- ✓ No more authority than Uzzah had to touch the ark!
- ✓ Who is showing respect for God's **holiness**? Does a Christian respect God's **holiness** when he/she **FAILS** to discharge his/her responsibilities to faithfully attend services, study the Bible, teach others, help out others in need?

***Our personal profession of faith will never be what it must be until we contemplate and appreciate God's holiness. And, then we express our appreciation for His holiness by doing ALL of His will. Cf. Lk. 6:46; 1 Jn. 5:3***

### III. CONCLUSION: 8

1. Do you **Know God**? You do not **IF** you do not respect God's **holiness**.
  - A. Do you think God made too "big a deal" out of Moses' striking the ark? Or, Uzzah's touching the ark? If so, you do not really **Know God**!
  - B. Irreverence for God's **holiness** is a dangerous and fatal illness!
2. A failure to respect God's **holiness** or the **holiness** of His word is evidence that one does not really **Know God**! I don't mean to be unkind, but listen to God:
 

**Isa. 57:15:** "For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: 'I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.'"

**1 Jn. 2:3-4:** "Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."
3. The first step to respecting God's **holiness** is to obey His call to become a child of God. There will never be a more convenient time to do so than **NOW**! 2 Cor. 6:2

Some of the material in this sermon  
is from *Knowing God*, J. I. Packer