

Intro

- ~ Read Revelation chapter 4 (This sets the stage for us with a picture of God's holiness)
- ~ When we read this we see that when there's a clear view of the throne the response is "Holy, Holy, Holy"
- ~ When we see the throne clearly we arrive at a "big God theology" and a "small man theology"
- ~ If we have a "big man theology" and a "small God theology" we'll live for self
- ~ A "big God theology" promotes holy living
- ~ Peter was an apostle who walked with Christ and he admonishes us to be holy
- ~ Prior to Christ's ascension Peter had a "big man theology"
- ~ Peter goes back to the OT to remind us to be holy

Outline

- V14 – Contrary to Holiness
- V15 – Called to Holiness
- V16 - Command to Holiness

Text

V14 – Contrary to Holiness

- ~ Peter describes what our tendency was before Christ
- ~ Paul describes our previous condition outside of Christ in Eph 2:1-5 by 7 characteristics
 - Dead in Christ, Satan was our master, We were the children of wrath, We acted according to our fallen sinful desires and lusts
- ~ The characteristics Peter uses to describe a life apart from Christ
 - Former lusts – Each person has particular lusts that lure them (pride, sex, to be right, power, control, defending ourselves, the lust for more and greater).
 - "Martial speaks of a woman who had reached her tenth husband; Juvenal of a woman who had eight husbands in five years; and Jerome tells us that in Rome there was one woman who was married to her twenty-third husband, she herself being his twenty-first wife." *Barclay*
 - Ignorance – Christ is the light of the world and by his word and the HS we're illuminated.
 - "It is hard," said Plato, "to investigate and to find the framer and the father of the universe; and, if one did find him, it would be impossible to express him in terms which all could understand."
- ~ Former lusts and ignorance are contrary to holiness

V15 – Called to Holiness

- ~ God has the right to call us to holiness because he himself is holy
- ~ Ex 15:11 *Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?*
- ~ Holiness to the Lord (Ex 28:36; 39:30) was upon the mitre the high priest wore on his head.
- ~ 1 Chron 16:29 *Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.*
- ~ The HS is called the Spirit of Burning (Is 4:4)
- ~ Look up verses on Christ's holiness in 1 Peter
 - 1 Pet 1:19 Christ is a lamb without spot or blemish
 - 1 Pet 3:18 Christ once suffered the just for the unjust
- ~ 2 Cor 5:21 *For he made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*
- ~ Heb 7:26 *For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens*
- ~ We're called to holiness because God himself is holy
- ~ Just as were called to salvation were also called to holy living
- ~ We're called to be imitators of God's holiness.
- ~ God calls his children to be like him
- ~ Be holy in all manner of conversation = Peter doesn't give specific examples of what "all manner of conversation" means except to say all the time, in all the places
- ~ The word all manner = all and every

~ The word conversation = behavior

~ "As we grow in holiness, we grow in hatred of sin; and God, being infinitely holy, has an infinite hatred of sin."

— Jerry Bridges, *The Pursuit of Holiness*

~ "But God has not called us to be like those around us. He has called us to be like Himself. Holiness is nothing less than conformity to the character of God." — Jerry Bridges, *The Pursuit of Holiness*

V16 Command to Holiness

~ God is holy and expects us to be also

~ God wouldn't ask us to come and be holy if it wasn't possible

~ Holiness is expected of us just as there's expectations all through life

~ Just as a married couple who has been married for a long time can finish each other's sentences (because there's anticipation) we can anticipate what the Lord wants from us

~ Peter repeats this command from Leviticus

- Lev 11:44,45 *For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 45 For I am the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.*
- Lev 19:1,2 *And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 2 Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy.*
- Lev 20:7,8 *Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God. 8 And ye shall keep my statutes, and do them: I am the LORD which sanctify you.*
- Lev 26:23,24 *And if ye will not be reformed by me by these things, but will walk contrary unto me; 24 Then will I also walk contrary unto you, and will punish you yet seven times for your sins.*
- Holiness is expected and God tells Israel he'll be against them if they are contrary to him and his holiness

~ All through the bible holiness is expected from God's people

~ Peter is speaking about suffering and trials he also speaks about holiness

~ Our trials don't excuse us from holiness

~ In the bible blessing is tied to obedience

Conclusion

~ Peter goes to word and the Spirit in v22-25 as the vehicles of our holiness and our awareness of sin

- Word – sets the boundaries for what is right and wrong, godly and ungodly, sinless and sinful
- HS – The HS convicts us based on the boundaries the word of God has set for us

~ "We are 100 percent responsible for the pursuit of holiness, but at the same time we are 100 percent dependent upon the Holy Spirit to enable us in that pursuit. The pursuit of holiness is not a pull-yourself-up-by-your-own-bootstraps approach to the Christian life." Jerry Bridges

~ With the word and the HS we ask God to search us as David did in Psalm 139

~ "Holiness, not happiness, is the chief end of man." Oswald Chambers

~ William Longstaff (1822-1894) heard a missionary to China speak on being holy (1 Pet 1:16). This led to his conversion. He later penned these words. He was wealthy but used his money to fund the gospel

1. Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord;
Abide in Him always, and feed on His Word.
Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak,
Forgetting in nothing His blessing to seek.
2. Take time to be holy, the world rushes on;
Spend much time in secret, with Jesus alone.
By looking to Jesus, like Him thou shalt be;
Thy friends in thy conduct His likeness shall see.
3. Take time to be holy, let Him be thy Guide;
And run not before Him, whatever betide.
In joy or in sorrow, still follow the Lord,
And, looking to Jesus, still trust in His Word.
4. Take time to be holy, be calm in thy soul,
Each thought and each motive beneath His control.
Thus led by His Spirit to fountains of love,
Thou soon shalt be fitted for service above.