

Holiness - This side of Heaven: NEEDS EDITING

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[0:00] 168. Let's stand and sing, shall we? Oh Lord my God, when I am an awesome one, I can't see it all.

! Just stop for a moment. We're just going to pray while we work out what's wrong with the song projection.

So let's pray. Lord, we just thank you today that we can come together and worship you and lift up your name and just put our thoughts on things above, not on things on the earth.

Help us, Lord, to have that heart that is in tune with you and to know your will and to do it. Lord, for your word to be food to us today and for the children and the children's church ministry today.

Lord, we just pray you'd work everything according to your purposes for your glory and honour. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen. Amen. Yeah, let's, okay, good idea. Let's face that way.

[1:16] Let's do that, can we? Oh Lord my God. Oh Lord my God, when I am an awesome one, I see you all.

The world's eye and a pain. I see the skies, I hear the rolling thunder.

I'm close to round the universe this day. How great thou art.

How great thou art. And when I think.

And when I think. That God his Son not sparing. Send him to die.

[2:50] I scarce can't take it in. That on the cross. I let him gladly bury.

He bled and died. To take away my sin. Then sings my soul.

Then sings my soul. My Saviour God to thee. How great thou art.

How great thou art. When Christ shall come.

When Christ shall come. When Christ shall come. With shout of acclamation. And take thee home.

[3:52] What joy shall fill my heart. Then I shall bow. In humble adoration.

And then proclaim. My God how great thou art.

In humble adoration. And then proclaim. My God how great thou art.

Then sings my soul. My Saviour God to thee. How great thou art.

How great Thou art, how great Thou art. Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee.

[4:59] How great Thou art, how great Thou art.

Amen. Please be seated. Amen. That was a bit of fun there, wasn't it? For those who got here late, we were all looking that way for a bit. You had your exercise this morning.

And we're going to call Brother Tom Gere, who's a missionary, and he's going to just tell us a little bit about himself and what's happening. Come in. Thank you. All right. I'm Tom Gere.

This is my wife, Chris. And we are from Austin, Texas. Amen. So we've come a long ways for services today. I think we got you beat on how far you came, okay?

This is the middle of Texas. That's half the journey. It's a long ways. Texas is a big place, okay?

And there were two Texans, and they were in Canada at the Niagara Falls.

[6:06] They were on the Canadian side of the Niagara Falls. And they're leaning over the rail there, which I've done it many times, and just watching the water go over, and they're just in awe and just praising the Lord for just like even a song we sang, how great thou art.

And so they were enjoying that. And this Canadian fellow came up behind him and kind of cleared his throat. Well, the two fellows turned around, and he looked them up and said, you guys are from Texas.

And they said, oh, yes, sir, we're from Texas. And he said, Texas, Texas, Texas. Isn't that where everything is big? Oh, yes, sir, everything's big in Texas.

And he said, hmm, come on, guys. You and I both know that you don't have anything like this in Texas.

And they said, oh, no, sir, we don't have anything like this in Texas, but we know a plumber that could stop that leak. And people say, are all Texans, you know, arrogant and proud and all that kind of stuff?

[7:18] Yeah, just kind of like you guys. Anyway. I've already heard it. I've already heard it. You're from where, Victoria? Yeah.

We're glad to be here. It's my third trip to your country. By the way, we love it over here. And my wife's second trip here. And my wife and I are in children's ministries.

We work in 17 different countries. And our focus, people say, are you a child evangelist? No, we're not.

All right? My first focus is to help people to reach today's child. Today's child is different. Any of you folks notice, and listen, I'm not trying to be smart or poke fun in any child that's here, but today's child is very, very, very, very different than what yesterday's child used to be.

All right? And folks, you're not alone in that. And I wouldn't say that to make you feel better.

Actually, it should make you feel worse.

[8:28] Today's youth in the world, adults today are not under attack. They're not under satanic attack. Today's adults are simply being entertained, placated.

Teenagers are not under attack. Children aren't. Because children, their minds and hearts are still moldable, shapeable, pliable to get them to kowtow to the philosophies of this world.

Adults and teens are pretty much set. This floor under here is concrete. And concrete has a youth. It's a baby.

We call it cement. That's what we call it. And it's liquid. You can mold it, shape it, texture it, color it. You can do all kinds of things to it. But it quickly hardens. This floor is harder today than it was yesterday.

And this floor will be harder tomorrow than it is today. Concrete hardens for 90 years. Isn't it just like the hearts of men? There's a moment in a person's life where we can do something with it.

[9:44] And then it hardens. Between that infancy of cement and hardened concrete, there comes a short period of time towards green.

At that point, it is very fragile. You can break it. We don't want our young people broken.

Amen. Just their wills, not their spirits. Amen. Amen. And so we help churches, local churches, to better reach, teach, and keep their own.

Now, I said that we're not child evangelists, but my wife and I have personally worked with over 100,000 children and teenagers. Teachers. It's taken us 37 years to do that, though.

Teachers we've trained today will exceed that number in 24 hours. In Romans chapter 10, verse 17, you don't need to turn if you just want to listen.

[10:54] A verse that probably many of you already know. So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. In Amos, this might be one you might want to underline, Amos.

And Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos. In Amos chapter 8, starting verse 11. Here's the one that's frightening.

In that day shall the fair virgins and the young men faint for thirst. Verse 14. They that swear by the sin of Samara and say, thy God, and it's not capital G, it's lowercase.

Odan liveth, and the manner of Beersheba liveth. Even they shall fall and never rise up again.

Young people, young people.

You're all young people. Folks, we have a window of time in a child's life to reach them. It's not very long.

[12:35] Our job is to help equip folks today to reach today's child. You say, what about the teens? I'm all for reaching teens.

But if we don't get them as a child, the likelihood of keeping them in a teen is pretty slim. Right? And so that's what we're here for.

We have classes Monday, Thursday, and Friday. Now, we will not get through all of our materials. It's Wednesday, Thursday, Friday.

I'm sorry. Okay? At what time? Seven to nine? Okay? From seven to nine. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. I would encourage you to come.

You say, I don't work with children. You have grandchildren? Children, the things that we can help you with can help you at home with grandchildren. That it can help you if you're a school teacher.

[13:32] If you're a business owner and you have employees, we can help you. All right? You say, how is that? You come and you see.

All right? And we can help you with that. And no charge. Okay? Absolutely free. Okay? Only two. There I go. The small prayer.

Please come. And church, we're here. We don't know it all. But we've been doing this for a long, long, long time.

We've learned some things. And today's child is so different. Let's reach them with the time we have. Amen? We do have some prayer cards. Okay? Can we hand those out?

All right? And pardon? Put them on the back table? Okay. I'll do that. Please take one. Please pray for us. Put it on your refrigerator. You'll visit us often.

[14:30] Thank you. Thanks, Tom and Chris. I know it's great to have people here from South America, isn't it? Pardon? So I heard the joke saying that Texas is South America.

Yeah. But so now the children will go to Sunday school now. So Tom and Chris are going to help with that.

So if you, yeah, just follow through this away. And children just head that away. And certainly it's a great opportunity to get some great training. If you at all, you know, can catch the vision of ministering to children and young people, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, please come from 7 to 9. We'd love you to be here for that. As many sessions as you can make it. We'll also be videoing the sessions. So if you can't get to all of them, you'll hopefully be able to catch up with the ones you missed.

Now we'll go to our next song, which is 2.45. Of course, we've still got the Monday night prayer meeting this week. But I think the Bible study daytime is on a break for one more week because the school holidays.

[15:46] 2.45. Let's stand, shall we? Let's stand, shall we?

We'll toil and sing, need the banner of the cross. Though the foe may rage and gather as the flood, let the standard be displayed.

And beneath its fold as soldiers of the cross, for the truth be not displayed. Marching on, marching on, marching on, marching on.

For Christ, shall we? For Christ, count everything but loss. And to crown him king, we'll toil and sing, need the banner of the cross.

Look and see wherever man may dwell. We'll make the glorious tidings known. Of the crimson banner.

[17:13] Now the story tell, now the story tell, while the Lord shall claim his own. Marching on, marching on, marching on.

For Christ, count everything but loss. And to crown him king, we'll toil and sing, need the banner of the cross.

When the glory dawns, when the glory dawns, tis drawing very near. It is hastening every day. Then before our King, the foe shall disappear.

And across the world shall sway. Marching on, marching on, marching on. For Christ, count everything but loss.

And to crown him king, we'll toil and sing, need the banner of the cross. Amen.

[18:15] Please be seated. We have had some requests for prayer, so we'll touch on those today. Okay. Peter Guttridge tells us that Rose, John's wife in Kenya, is in hospital.

She's got some pain issues, and so we pray for her. That's Rose. Also, I know Agnet is going to Darwin for a funeral for someone who's passed away there in a car accident.

Pray for her. I know Jim has not been well of late. He's back home, but he's not been at all well, so people can maybe make contact as well as pray.

That would be welcome. I think I'll just pray on our behalf. Is there any other points people wanted to mention? Just by the way, don't forget the prayer slips for raising issues that you like to have

prayer for.

Yeah. Oh, yeah. Yeah. Yeah, she's had it or not yet? Operation Naomi.

[19:21] Yeah. Yeah. Amen, Ian. All right, I'll just pray on our behalf. Oh, yeah, Stuart's got an injury.

We've had another ankle grinder injury. So, yeah, nasty. And for our brother Florea, too, for recovery. Let's pray. Yeah, the Gibbs.

Yeah. There's some... Are they at risk of the hurricane or something? All right. Oh, sure. Yeah, lots of concern for these things.

Oh, yeah. We'll pray for Stuart for his hand. I'll try to remember all these things, but I'm sure you can pray with me. Lord, we thank you today for your church, for this gathering, for our love and your grace to us, to save us, to bring us together today, to worship your name.

Lord, we pray for the children's ministry today, for Stuart and Jackie, and the work that is going on with helpers and workers today, and for Tom and Chris giving some support and assistance, and for the training ahead, for their visit with us.

[20:33] Lord, we thank you for these things, that we can have some visiting ministry to encourage our hearts, for the men's breakfast yesterday and the great time we had, the youth group last night. Lord, we pray for all these things.

We thank you, Lord, for the children and youth in this church, what a precious gift our children and grandchildren are, and how we yearn for them to know you and to follow you and to walk after you. For our children and grandchildren, we pray for them right at this time. Commit them into your hands. Speak to them, Lord. Minister to them. Save them.

May they put their trust in you wholeheartedly. Pray for Naomi and her operations she's facing, that you'd give her mercy, Lord. Help her to get through and that she'll manage that difficult time.

Pray, Lord, for Jim recovering from his sickness, for his well-being, and Jean also supporting him. Pray for Anyet in Darwin, who's going to that sad time of the funeral, saying goodbye to a loved one.

[21:42] And we pray, Lord, for Rose in Kenya with her needs. Thank you, Lord, for Stuart, and we pray you'd help him with his recovery after the angle grinder accident in Floria, also here.

Lord, we pray for our brothers and sisters in other countries right across this globe, many of whom have hardship and trial much more than we can imagine.

Much, much more. And, Lord, our tribulation here in the West is nothing, nothing at all. Lord, we pray for our brothers and sisters in lands where just to name your name is a death sentence.

Just to profess faith in you, Lord, is it means the death penalty and potentially suffering before they die.

Lord, we pray for mercy to them and for their persecutors that they might be saved, even as Saul, who became Paul, that you can work that miracle even today in those who hurt Christians today.

[22:55] Lord, we lift up each one here today. There's many needs. There's families going through hardship and trouble, Lord.

We know that you rule in the affairs of men and even when we can't always see your hand, you are working. And you're convicting people. You're drawing people to yourself and you're convicting people of their sin.

Lord, we just pray you'd work a work in those that are causing harm, that they would be brought to justice and brought to their knees to repent of what they're doing.

And we pray, Lord, you'd help families going through difficult times where there's anxiety and division and separation.

Lord, we pray you'd reunite and that you'd heal the hurts, Lord, that you'd heal the brokenhearted right now and help us to know that nothing is too hard for you.

[24:00] Nothing is impossible to you. Even what we think seems like it's too far away, you can make that which is impossible happen. We pray for everyone here today that we'd all be encouraged and lifted up in our faith and drawn closer to you.

In Jesus' name, amen. Now, Peter Guttridge has also mentioned to me there's a need in Africa as well. If you'd like to contribute to that need, see Peter for that and he'll be able to tell you more

about that need.

Now, I'm going to call Roy forward who's going to bring us around the Lord's table. Alan, I think it's deliberately blank because there's no songs at the moment. But yeah, come forward, Roy. Thank you.

Good morning.

It's lovely, isn't it, to spend time together as veterans and we can share our cares and people can pray for us and lift us up and encourage us.

[25:07] As we come here this morning to the time of, I like to call it communion. I know sometimes people don't particularly like that word, but I like it.

We're a community and we commune together and we speak about our Lord. That's what we're about. So before I start, could I ask the ushers, Ian, Peter, G, and Peter, and Bobby, please would you hand out the emblems, please?

Thank you. As we come to this time together, the desires of my heart, and I'm sure your heart, is to see our Lord Jesus Christ.

As Christians, I hope all the time that I might see him soon. I think like you, my greatest desire, like Paul, is to be with him, irrespective of the fact that I have a lovely life.

I really do. But, brothers and sisters, I am looking forward. In fact, I look up almost all the time. I'm looking up.

[26:31] I'm waiting for that time when he comes. Now, I'd like to talk to you this morning, just for a little while, a picture of our Lord and Saviour.

It was written 700 years before he was born. And as we read it, we see in it his life.

We don't see a picture of him, which we'd love to see, but we see a picture of his life. And a life that was spent caring for others.

That's all he ever did, to do his Father's will and to spend his life as he did. He spent it in caring for you and me.

And we weren't even born, were we? And yet, that's what he did. I'd like to read from Isaiah 53. I'm sure you all know it, but it's a blessed word because it gives us again an opportunity to look, to look at the one we love.

[27:43] It really does. 53, Who hath believed our report? And to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? For he, the Lord Jesus, shall grow up before him as a tender plant, as a root out of a dry ground.

He hath no form nor comeliness, and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we desire him. He was born as an ordinary man, the creator of heaven and earth and the universe.

He was born as an ordinary man, and many people could not see in him any more than that, an ordinary man. He is despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, and we hid, as it were, our faces from him.

He was despised and we esteemed him not. We, I believe he's talking about us too. I really do. Before we come to know him, we really didn't care, and if we'd seen him in a crowd, probably we'd have taken no great notice of him.

He was just, in many ways, an ordinary man. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows, yet we did esteem him, stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

[29:10] But, he was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with all his stripes, we are healed.

During his life, from what we can see as we read the word of God, even his family didn't care for him much. His brothers took no notice of him.

What a way to live. You know, he was just, he wasn't esteemed, he wasn't looked up to. In fact, people treated him badly all his life.

Yet, what did he want? He wanted your good. He wanted to care for you. All we, like sheep, have gone astray. We have turned everyone to his own way.

And the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Upon those shoulders was laid the iniquity of us all.

[30:14] He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth. He was brought as a lamb for the slaughter, as a sheep before a shearer's done. So he opened not his mouth.

You know, he had everybody to say something, didn't he? There was a couple of occasions in his life when there was this anger, this righteous anger, and it always fills me when I see it. But people couldn't see it in those days. They just couldn't see it. He was taken from prison and judgment, and who should declare his generation? He was cut off out of the land of the living, for the transgression of my people was he stricken, for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death. Because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth, yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him. he has put him to grief. When thou shall make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.

[31:30] He shall see the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied. By his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many, for he shall bear their iniquities.

I sometimes find it difficult to understand how this person, person who I love so dearly, could be treated so badly.

Then, I realise I probably would have been one of them. I'd probably have done exactly the same thing. I probably wouldn't have seen in him what I see now.

therefore, will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he hath poured out his soul unto death, and he was numbered with the transgressors, and he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

I'd like, if I may, just to read verses 10 and 11 again, as we come to the table. Yet, it pleased the Lord to bruise him, he has put him to grief, when there shall make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.

[32:52] He shall see the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied. By his knowledge, my righteous servant, justify many, for he shall bear their iniquities.

As we come to the table, turn with me to 1 Corinthians chapter 11, as we come to the table, let's again think of our Lord Jesus, the way he lived, the things he did, and the sheer fact that through that life, he justified many, including you and me.

Verse 23 of chapter 11, for I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, take, eat, this is my body which is broken for you, this do in remembrance of me. Dear friends, as we come to do this, I ask, if you know the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, please join us and look up. If you don't know him, let it go by, and if you need to know him, please come and see us afterwards.

Now, Peter O'Shea, would you please pray for the bread for us? Thank you. Thank you.

[34:39] Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Amen.

Amen. Let's eat together.

Father Ian, would you give thanks for the cup? Amen.

Amen. Drink together.

Thank you, brothers. If you'd pass your cups to the outside, please.

[37:13] Thank you. Yeah, we'll be waited on for our cups just on the outsides.

And the offering time just now as well. So we're going to sing as we give. 151, more about Jesus would I know.

So we'll remain seated. Just help our ushers there. 151, more about Jesus would I know. More about Jesus would I know.

More of his grace to others show. More of his saving fullness sing. More of his love who died for me.

More, more about Jesus. More, more about Jesus. More of his saving fullness sing.

[38:16] More of his love who died for me. More about Jesus let me learn. More of his holy will discern.

Sorry about this. I don't know what's... We've just been beset with so many problems. We need Adam back. Come back, Adam.

[46:11] We need you. If you're watching, can't believe it. All right. Holiness. This side of heaven. What is it? Holiness or sanctification.

It means separated. Separated by God, for God, from sin. Which means a clear-cut separation from evil. And unto a holy life.

Separated. And then you see here, set apart. It means set apart. What does set apart mean? It means we're consecrated for God's purposes. You know, back in the Word of God, in the Old Testament times, places were set apart.

They were sanctified. People were set apart. The priest, the high priest. Times were set apart. There was holy times, holy days, holy gatherings. What is holiness?

Next slide. Another way of looking at it is in three dimensions. We see here, what is holiness? Three dimensions. Another way of looking at it. It is in three dimensions, positional.

[47:12] Even the carnal Corinthians were called saints. That's amazing, isn't it? You see what the Corinthians were up to. They were a pretty amazing kind of church.

Everything was going wrong. Yet the Corinthians, the people at Corinth who knew God, go back. Even the Corinthians were called saints, holy ones.

So in other words, it's positional. Holiness is positional. Our position makes us holy because where are we? We are in Christ. We are in Christ who is holy.

Isn't that right? Positional. And we see here it's practical. We are to be separated from the world. The world, evil. So the practical dimension.

So this holiness, this doctrine, this truth of holiness, this teaching of holiness, it's practical. In other words, it relates to every choice of life, our whole choice of life, our everyday choices.

[48:14] Because we're a Christian, there's a practical dimension that we want to follow the Lord. In every dimension of life, there's this practical aspect and it's a process too. There's a development of Christian character.

It's a process. This practical aspect is a process. It's progressive. And then we see, next slide, we are being transformed. It's day by day we're being transformed.

It says here in 2 Corinthians 3 verse 18. We're changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Thank God for quiet workers just helping me look good. Just let's see if that's working now. Still not working. What's wrong? Don't worry about it.

I'll just give you a signal. My apologies, everyone. We're going to get this right one day. It's been, I think, eight weeks of technology failure. We're being transformed. We're being transformed from glory to glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord, into His same image, even as by the Spirit of the Lord, by the Spirit of God, by God's Spirit, we're being transformed.

[49:23] So we've seen separated, set apart. It's positional. It's practical. And it's positive. We're being transformed into something that's worthy, something that's precious, something that's positive, something that's beautiful, into His same image by the Spirit of the Lord.

And so God's Spirit is at work in us day by day, through the day by day of life, through the real life, through where the rubber hits the road. We're seeing we're being changed into the same image from glory to glory to glory.

And God's Spirit guides us through life's choices. So this practical aspect of holiness is about our walk with God and about His cleansing action in our lives. So next slide, we see 1 John 1 verse 7. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin. There's that walk, there's that practical aspect of our day by day walk, our day by day choices.

So God's people, as we are God's people, we're growing stronger. We're growing brighter and more fervent and closer to the Lord. That's His will for us. We know it doesn't always happen, but His will for us is that we grow brighter and brighter, from glory to glory.

[50:37] We get stronger, not dimmer, that we go stronger. Chambers, a preacher of old, said that by sanctification, God places us in the light He is in.

God places us in the light, and we walk in the light, the Bible says, the light of our Saviour. Next one is, but grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

God's will is that we grow. We grow in the knowledge of our Saviour. So just to recap thus far, here, what is holiness? Next, we are separated, set apart.

It's positional, it's practical, it's positive. It's positional, we are in who? Christ. It is practical, it shows in the transforming work day by day in our lives, and it is positive.

So thirdly, we see it is positive, not so much negative. You know, some people think, when you hear about the word holiness, you hear about the doctrine of sanctification, oh, that's negative.

[51:42] Don't do this, don't go there. There is that element to it. But holiness, rather, more so, has got a positive aspect. There's a positive impact on our lives from our holiness that God gives to us, such that our desire to live right and holy with God is a desire to please Him that motivates us to communicate Christ to others.

It motivates us to please God with our lives as a living sacrifice. It is positive in that it is finding pleasure and fulfillment in living for God's honor and glory.

Positive. Now think of that. Some people, again, I think being holy, holiness is all about what not to do. But really, it is what to do. It is how to live.

It is to be transformed into His image. Next, holiness is Christ's likeness. Notice what it says here in 1 Peter 1, verse 15 through 16.

But as He which has called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation, because it is written, be ye holy, for I am holy.

[52:53] Notice holiness is Christ's likeness. Be ye holy, why? For I am holy. Our Lord says, I am holy, so be ye holy. It's being like Christ.

It means being like Him. It means like God. You know, godliness means like God. Righteousness means living right.

Holiness means being more like our holy God. The holy one. It's one of His names, isn't it? And when you think back in the word that underlies this word holy, in the Greek translation, this word holy is ha-geos.

Now we know geos, geography, means the earth. Ha means a negative. It means the opposite of earthly.

It's an interesting thought, isn't it? It makes you think. Ha, opposite of geos, the earth. It means that we are not earthly.

[54:00] So, as God's people, that which preoccupies and overwhelms and dominates the world's thinking and the world's way of living, the world, the earth, this world, this planet, and the cares of this world or this life, as believers, we are ha-geos.

We are not of this world. We are not of the world. We are not earthly. So, it's an interesting thought as we consider that's how we're meant to be.

Not of this world. We don't set our affection on this planet, on this earth, but on things above, on that which is godly and pleasing to Him. So, now, secondly, next one, consider this question.

Why do we need holiness? Why do we need it? Now, who cares? Why should we care? Why should we bother? The world, by and large, doesn't care at all about the things of God.

It follows on from the text that we just read, Be ye holy, for I am holy. Why should we care?

Because God says, Be ye holy. He says that.

[55:03] He commands it. He demands it. And holiness, or sanctification, these like words, these same concepts, holiness, and sanctification, is mentioned 1,066 times in the Bible.

Over 1,000 times in the Bible. This word holy, or derivations of it. And next it says, Hebrews 12, follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.

Follow this, pursue it, chase after this, peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord. As someone put it, our Lord has two abodes, the holy heaven, and a holy heart.

The holy heaven, and a holy heart. Why do we need it? Why do we need holiness? It makes for us to know, and to live, these truths, for us to live, a normal, healthy Christian life.

To have that Christian walk. To be a useful Christian. Next, it says in, 1, 2 Peter 2, verse 20, that we should be a useful vessel, for God's use, for the master's use.

[56:17] That we should be, a vessel unto honour, sanctified, in other words, made holy, and meet, you know, made fitting, and prepared.

What for? The master's use. The master's use. And prepared unto, every good work. Why be holy? Because God says, he wants you to be such a vessel.

He wants you to be, a container, filled with him, overflowing with him, for his use, unto his honour. Next, okay, this, how? How do we get it? We see, listed here, we're going to touch on these things, in the next section here. Let us consider, how? How do we need, how do we get holiness?

You know, so seeing what it is, we've seen what it is, we've seen, how important it is, why we need it, the big question really now is, how? How do we get this? How do we get this thing?

[57:17] How do we get this holiness, in our everyday lives, living as we do, in a, in a, unclean world? How can we live clean? How can we, how can we, live holy, in a, in an unholy world, that cares little, for the things of God?

In fact, it rejects God. It rejects God, and it rejects, largely everything about God. Let's face it. How can we live, holy, in a world like this? Rubbing shoulders, as we do, with people who care little, and in fact, oppose, the things of God, and mock us, for our faith.

The big question, the word tells us how. The word of God, tells us how. How we can have holiness, on planet earth, in the 21st century, in our real lives, walking in our real shoes.

How can we have holiness, this side, of heaven? The word tells us how. How we are to live, a clean life, in a dirty world. How we can live godly, in contrast to this godless age, and the spirit of godlessness, that infects our planet.

Number one we see next, is by faith, in Christ. It tells us Acts 26, 18, and we're displaying the verses, but let it not dissuade you, from looking them up, in your bible.

[58:31] It's a good practice. We want you to bring your bibles, and look them up. But it tells us here, how do we get it? By faith in Christ. This verse tells us that. In Acts 26, 18, as Paul was commissioned, the Lord charged him, that he's been called, sent, for this reason.

To, open their eyes, and to turn them, from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan, unto God. Next, that they may receive, forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them, which are sanctified.

How? By faith. That is in me. Notice here, Paul is charged, he's sent, to, communicate to those in darkness, to turn them to the light, to see them saved, that they may receive forgiveness, of sins and inheritance among them, which are sanctified, by faith, that is in me.

How are we made holy? How are we sanctified? Holiness is a gift. It's given to us, like salvation, is a gift, by faith.

Salvation is a gift, by faith. Sanctification is a gift, by faith. We don't deserve it. We don't earn it. We can't manufacture it, but we can receive it, as a gift.

[59:54] It's that inward cleansing, by his working within us. An old preacher, Dr. Griffith Thomas, said this, Holiness is not an achievement, to be accomplished, but, a gift to be accepted.

Not an accomplishment, to be accomplished, an achievement, to be accomplished, but a gift, to be accepted. By faith, we can be holy.

Next, we see, Christ is made unto us, a holiness. And the doubts, referred to this one, I blame. But of him are ye, in Christ Jesus, who, of God, is made unto us, wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.

Wow, the whole package deal, isn't it? That's who he's made unto us. Christ is made unto us. By faith, Christ is made unto us. Wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, redemption, that no flesh should glory in his presence.

It's all of him. It's all glory unto him. Sanctification, it's not something, holiness is not something, it's someone, someone. It's the holy one, our holy God, our holy Lord.

[61:04] Bible holiness is effected, as we appropriate, as we accept, as we receive, that which is our sanctification. That one, who is our holiness, he is our holiness.

His grace, his holy life, we receive it. And what a transformation, just to trust him, just to trust him, by faith. And next, we see the life of Christ is in you, is your righteousness.

We see, in Jeremiah 23, verse 6, here's a good verse, to use with the Jehovah's Witnesses. Where, we see this verse is, clearly, it's talking about Christ, who will come to Israel, and he'll bring peace, he'll bring salvation, and his name, by which he shall be called, is the Lord, or Jehovah, Yahweh, the Lord, our righteousness.

The name of Jesus is, the Lord, our righteousness. Think of that. The Lord, our righteousness. The Lord, your righteousness. He is your righteousness. The holiness is, his, him.

As someone has said, you have as much holiness, as you have of God in you. That is your holiness. Not any working of your own, not any manufacturing, not any thou shalt not, or thou shalt, of your own making, or doing, or thinking, but all of him, all of him.

[62:29] To have more of him, is to have more of that, that truth, that reality. You can be holy, you can live right with God, you can live right for God, you can be a bright and shining Christian, because Jesus is in you, living in you, as you walk with him, in oneness with him.

We see next, that we've seen, we've seen thus far, faith, by faith, Christ has made unto us. We see, secondly, that it is by the word, by the word of God.

This word, creates faith, doesn't it? Hearing of his word, creates faith. And, it tells us that he sanctifies us, through his truth.

Our Lord Jesus, in his time of praying, for his people, he said, sanctify them, make them holy, how? Through thy truth, through thy truth, thy word, is truth.

So the word of God is, which helps us, generates, that faith, that direction, for holiness. It's through the word. Next, we see, Psalm 119.

[63:34] Another good one, to hide in your heart, is, wherewithal, shall a young man, cleanse his way, by taking heed thereto, according to thy word? How can a young man, cleanse his way?

By taking heed, to the word of God. The word purifies, it cleanses, it reveals sin. Now, excuse me, now, someone has calculated, in the New Testament, it's listed, in the New Testament, 103, 103.

Now, you might have a, a thinking, well, this sin's worse than that sin, or, she or he, is a worse sinner, because she or he, does this or that, whatever it be. Point the finger, can't we?

But maybe we're guilty, of one of those, 102 other sins, amen, in the New Testament. Of course, there's many more, no doubt, there's many more, that you could consider sin, or sinful, and such, so, let's not, poke the finger at others, but think about, I need the word, to reveal to me, where I need to, straighten things out, a bit, where I need to, let go of some things, you know, there's, I know the preacher yesterday, was saying, the sins of, commission, the things that we do, and there's the sins of, omission, the things that we omit, the things that we don't do, so that, it may not be so much, what you do, that's sinful, but sometimes it can be, what is right, that you're not doing, you know, and we need to be convicted, of that too, don't we?

And so the word, purifies, it cleanses us, it acts like a mirror, it says in James 1, verse 22, through 25, we don't have a slide, for this one, but it talks about, how the word of God, is like a mirror, and we can see ourselves, we can, we can, it reflects, who we are, doesn't it, it shows things up in us, like a mirror does, and it shows how, we need to fix some things up, the mirror, word of God, it shows us, you see that spot of dirt, as it were, it shows that to you, and it speaks to us, and it helps us to find, how to cleanse, and wash it away, and so we see next, by the blood of Christ, Hebrews 13, 12, it says, where Christ, also that he might, sanctify the people, with his own blood, suffered without the gain, so the Lord Jesus, that he might, sanctify, that he might, make the people holy, it says that the Lord Jesus Christ, suffered outside the gain, he went to the cross, that he might, sanctify, make us holy, how can we, we be made holy, by the blood of Jesus Christ, by the blood of Jesus Christ, we have holiness today, because of the cross, it's because of the cross, because the Lord Jesus Christ, laid down his precious life, for you, for me, on a rough piece of wood, and was nailed for our sin, and because of his holiness, because of his sacrifice, we can know, his forgiveness, we can know, his eternal life, by the virtue, by the power, of his cleansing blood, and as the word reveals sin, the blood, cleanses it away, but trust him, trust him, trust him now, you can

have victory, in your life, as you identify, with Christ, and what happened, at the cross, for you, as if it were you, as standing there, at the foot of the cross, maybe mocking him, or in the crowd, spitting upon him, as I was, and my sin, was all over him, and my sin, made it happen, that should grip us, wouldn't it, by the blood of Christ, we can be made holy, next we see, 1 Corinthians 6 verse 11, by the Holy Spirit, we made holy, it tells us, in the context there, of 1 Corinthians 6, it tells us, how some have got, all these wicked sins, wickedness, but then, it says, and such, were some of you, but, ye are washed, but, ye are sanctified, but, ye are justified, in the name of the Lord, and by the Spirit, of our God, the Spirit of God, does a work, doesn't it, not a work of the flesh, now some people, try to be holy, by the working of the flesh, but it's got to be, by the Spirit of God, doesn't it, all our efforts, are vain, and inadequate, and, fall short, yet, by the Holy Spirit, by his empowering, by his enabling, we, no, we are washed, sanctified, justified, by the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit, he's given to us, at conversion, and we made, his living temples, he doesn't reside, in some brick building, but he lives, within human flesh, within human skin, within, your, body, as his living temple, so we need, to heed his call, the Spirit of God, be, responsive, to his working, in your life, amen, let's do that, that he can do, that work of grace, so, just to recap, next, how do we get holiness, we see here, how do we get it, we've seen thus far, it's by faith, wow, a gift, it's by the word, [69:11] he's a mirror, wow, show me Lord, how to, how to be more like you, by the word, by the blood, at Calvary's hill, it was all done there, for his glory, by the blood, of our Saviour, the Spirit of our God, not our working, of our own, we will miserably fail, but it must be, his Spirit, working, powerfully, as we, let him, by the Spirit, how do we get holiness, we've seen the word, tells us, these things, and lastly, we see, as the last one there, that it is yielding to God, yielding to God, yield, stop fighting, please, let's stop fighting, Romans 6, verse 19, next, we see, it tells us, for as you have yielded, your members, servants, to uncleanness, and to iniquity, that's how we were, wasn't it, that's how I was, yielded my members, to uncleanness, and to iniquity, next, we see, it goes on, to say, that now, unto iniquity, even so now, yield, your members, servants, to righteousness, unto holiness, so, this, sense of, members, you could, some have compared it, to weapons of war, lay down your arms, lay down your arms, stop fighting, yield, make peace with God, come before God, stop fighting him, and let him have, all of you, let him have you, heart, body, soul, mind, spirit, let him have your, your whole being, how do we yield, how do we yield, you might say, I've been fighting so long, with God, fighting him every day, fighting the conviction, of the Holy Spirit, restless, you know, the Bible says, the wicked are like a, like a restless sea, just chucking up, muck, it tells how, we were like, a man, in miry clay, oh, stood in, thick mud, oh, can't get out of it, it says, he puts us on, the rock, but we've got to yield, don't we, stop fighting, let him pull you out, of the muck, in the mud, how do we yield to God, it takes a real brokenness, it takes a surrender, wave the white flag, I've had enough, of fighting you Lord, it takes a brokenness, for him, we love God, he'll affect that change, and will actively hate evil, it takes a time, there's a struggle, it's ongoing, isn't it, but we'll, have that heart, to seek after his way, we'll want to hate evil, and we'll want to be more like Jesus, we'll want to draw closer to him, we'll want to obey his word, not out of something that's irksome, but Lord, master, show me, show me how to live, tell me Lord, I want to hear, your servant, is listening, you'll want to, follow him, because love, goes further than duty, or law, doesn't it, you might have some, preach, go on about particular things, to, we need to hear that sometimes, but it's not, doing it out of duty, it's not, out of, oh yeah, I feel so bad, I've done that, not out of duty, not out of law, out of love, isn't it, don't you love him, do you love him, if we love him, we'll want to obey him, won't we, because we love him, and we'll want to avoid, those things that displease him, he'll point them out, he'll tell you what, displeases him, you'll know, you won't be happy, you won't be restful, you won't be at peace, doing those things, and so, holiness, you'll want to dedicate, your life to him, you'll want to be his servant, for a lifetime, you'll want to follow him, moment by moment, and sure, you'll slip and slide, there'll be times, you'll falter, yet, he'll help you through, he'll help you get back on track, so what is the scope, of this yielding, we see next, 1 Peter 1 15, it tells us that, but as he which has called you, is holy, so be ye holy, in all manner of conversation, so in all the, conduct of life, in all the, way of living, in every, way of, every

department, of your life, in every, dimension of your behaviour, in all manner of conversation, that, you won't have some kind of thing, oh, oh,

I've only got 10 minutes more, to be acting like a Christian, until 10 o'clock next day, oh, yeah, I'll put my Bible on the shelf, for another, another week, oh, I'll just, you know, some people, don't live like that, as a, a very young Christian, I was a bit like that, like a bit of a chameleon, acting one way, in front of Christians, in a different way, when I was at school, and, I had to come to the point, where no, that's not, that's not right, I'm going to, fighting, I'm going to start, standing up for God, and doing what's right, and starting to really, take it seriously, in all manner of conversation, my whole life, belongs to him, I don't clock on, and clock off, my Christianity, I'm a 24 by 7, by 365, Christian, so we see, next, how do we get it, how do we get it, we've just seen, just a quick recap, well this is actually, just a quick,

I would look at, just the next three things, I'm going to talk about, how do we get it, again it's a process, so there's a development, there's a desire, and there's a decision, so firstly, next is a development, that as, as a Christian, we grow in holiness, it says, draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you, the stages of holiness, you might be closer, to God today, than you were yesterday, and you'll be closer, tomorrow, God willing, let's hope it works that way, sometimes it's, one step forward, two steps back, but hopefully it's, two steps forward, one step back, that'll be better, so we see that development, we draw nigh to God, the stages of holiness, such as, the stages of being filled, with the spirit, talks about being filled, with the spirit, being filled, it's continuous, it's ongoing, we don't, just have a one off, wow, wow moment, where we think about God, and do something spiritual, and then we just kind of, become a little, stagnant, and stale, but we should be, being filled, and then we see next, 1 Thessalonians 4 verse 1, where Paul says, [76:56] I beset you brethren, I beset you, I exhort you, by the Lord Jesus, that as you have received, for us how you ought, to walk, and please God, so you would abound, more and more, that's what he wants, isn't it, we abound, more and more, so that Christian life, isn't, some kind of ruts, some kind of stagnant, can't take it, or leave it, when I feel like it, kind of thing, but this is, life, eternal, this is life, abundant, life abounding, that's what it is, and more and more so, and then we see, the next one, and that it preoccupies, the whole thought patterns, and how we, it's not just how we talk, a lot of Christians, they're all talk, but it's actually, obsessing us, it's a holy obsession, isn't it, a holy obsession, it captivates our thinking, it captivates our, devotion, our affection, our, mindset, is utterly different, from the mindset, of the world, such that we're thinking, right thoughts, finally brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, do we think about these things, it goes on, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on, these things, there's a development, even in our thinking, such that our thought patterns, get reprogrammed, we're being programmed, aren't we, that's why they call it,

TV programs, isn't it, we're getting programmed, let's get a, Bible program instead, what sort of things are good for us, let's think on these, and then we see, it's a desire, a longing for God, it gives us a desire, a longing for him, we long to be more like him, and, and we don't feel right, when we're not right, because he shows us, he convicts us, and he helps us get right, he helps us get victory, his desire is victory, for you, for me, not that we walk in defeat, but that we walk in victory, and look, let's be real, life is a battle, it is hard, we're constantly bombarded, you know, our children are bombarded, constantly bombarded, let's develop that longing, to serve God, let's impart it to our families, to our loved ones, the deepest longings of our soul, let this drive us, let this be our driving force, that we don't serve God, an irksome sense of duty, because we have to, but because we love him, and there's this desire to please him, and that deepest longing of our soul, is to walk closer to him, and to draw others to him, to point others to our Lord, and to be willing to part with sin, and uncleanness, when God points his finger, when God, let's listen to him, amen, listen to him, and so we see, there is that development, it's a process, there's that desire, and thirdly, lastly, next, a decision, it's a decision that has to happen,

Paul says, let everyone that nameth the name of Christ, depart from iniquity, if you really are a Christian, Paul says, if you name his name, depart from iniquity, leave it alone, don't toy with it any longer, it's doing you harm, there's a dying to sin, and a rising to life in Christ, Romans 6, 4, there's that desire, that healthy desire, to please him, to want to seek after heavenly things, to want to seek for things above, next, we see Colossians 3, things above, not things on the earth, set your affection there, you know, some, what the Bible, kind of speaks about, they're professors, but not possessors, you know, they profess, that they know him, profess, oh, blah, blah, blah, I'm a Christian, I'm born again, blah, blah, blah, profess, that they know God, but, in works, they deny him, shouldn't it be, shouldn't it be, there should be a congruity, if you profess, that you know him, why, in works, do you deny him, let's ask God about that, read the context later, if you like, of that one, so, is our mind purified, or defiled, is our heart purified, or is our heart, uncommitted, really, you know, the Bible talks about being double minded, doesn't it, is there this kind of mind shift, going all the time, or is there, is there carnal thinking, kind of, taking over sometimes, we all have to, answer to God,

I have to answer to God, he wants our hearts, and minds purified, it's a battle, it's a battle out there, as you go out, into the concrete jungle, as it were, and, you are, you are a target, the crosshairs, are always, looking for the next target, and it's a battle, for the mind, the control room, isn't it, we know it is, the nerve center, the battle for holiness, is a constant thing, next we see, next one, it's not a sin, to have a bad thought, but it is a sin, to nurture a bad thought, 2 Corinthians 10, tells of, bringing into captivity, every thought, every thought, to the obedience of Christ, be encouraged this morning, people of God, you are called, saints, which means, holy ones, even the Corinthians, saints, holy ones, we see, quickly to recap, and we can turn the, slides off now, we've covered thus far, how we can, holiness, this side of heaven, to be separated, set apart, we've seen it's position, we are in, Christ, it's practical, and it's positive, we've seen it's by faith, by the word of God, by the blood of Jesus, by the spirit of God, by our yielding to God, and we've seen it's a development, doesn't happen overnight, but it will happen, won't it, he is working, sometimes we can't fathom, and sometimes maybe the trials, are making us more holy, because we need it, don't we, sometimes I need it, it's a development, there's a desire, he'll spring that up in you, this desire to serve him, this desire, and that love of our master, will want to serve, will want to do right, and it takes a decision, doesn't it, it takes a decision, such that we say, I'm going to stop fighting, and I'm going to let everyone, that nameth the name of Christ, depart from iniquity, I'm going to say, I'm going to leave it alone, and when it comes along, I'm going to say, no,

[84:41] I don't want that anymore, and I'm going to bring into captivity, every thought, every thought, to the obedience of Christ, I pray you've been encouraged this morning, it's just really a, a glossing over of this, heavy subject, a heavy subject, but we need more holiness, don't we, why, be ye holy, because I'm holy, he says to you, and he'll make you holy, thank God for that, amen, he'll do it, just yield, just yield to him, now I've been preaching really, to Christians this morning, I can't take for granted, that everyone here is a Christian, you might not even know, how to be, a Christian, let me quickly cover it, the Lord Jesus, offers eternal life, the Bible says, we've sinned, every man, and woman, is a sinner, the Bible says, the wages, what it will cost, of sin, is death, eternal death, hell, but Jesus died, on the cross, to take our sin, to pay the price, the penalty, the death penalty, he paid it in full, the question is, who's going to pay for your sin, is it going to be you, or him, you've got to say,

Jesus, please pay, for my sin, pay for my sin, and if you say that, he will pay for your sin, if you don't say that, you will have to pay, for your sin, and the wages of sin, is death, so get right with God, don't leave it a day, don't leave it a moment longer, to settle it now, and make peace with God, come to Jesus, come to Jesus, say, Lord save me, the Bible says, whosoever shall call, on the name of the Lord, shall be saved, call on his name, call on him, Lord Jesus, let him be your master, your saviour, from now, for eternity, and follow him, truly, and Christians, be exhorted today, to walk truthfully, with your God, be exhorted today, let us pray, Lord we thank you, that your word, is the way, we know, of our own doing, we cannot, measure it, yet Lord, we've all come, with God, but your gift, the gift of eternal life, is,

Jesus Christ our Lord, and likewise to you, give of your holiness, as it were, like a robe, around us, the robes of your righteousness, you cover us, and complete us, and infill us, and we are in you, and you are in us, and so Lord, we look to you, encourage each believer, today Lord, we pray, as we enter the battlefield, ahead of this week, as we have, the ground of the mind, Lord help us to yield, help us to, help us to yield, our mind, to your keeping, to follow you, pray, in Jesus name, Amen, we're going to close, with our final song, 200, and be encouraged, today, now don't forget, we have got, a missionary visitor, who's come all the way, from the big state of Texas, to come and preach, to us tonight, and I'd love you to be there, really would love you, to be there, let's stand shall we, saved by the blood, six o'clock, saved by the blood, saved by the blood, saved by the blood, of the crucified one, now ransomed from sin, and a new work begun, sing praise to the father, and praise to the son, saved by the blood, of the crucified one, saved by the blood, saved by the blood, saved by the blood, and my gift is all gone.

Glory and sing. Glory and sing. I'm saved by the blood of the crucified one.

Saved by the blood of the crucified one. The angels rejoicing because it is done.

[89:23] Sing from the Father, join me with the Son. Saved by the blood. Saved by the blood of the crucified one.

Glory and sing. Glory and sing. Glory and sing. My sins are all parted. My guilt is all gone.

Glory and sing. Glory and sing. Glory and sing. I'm saved by the blood of the crucified one.

Saved by the blood of the crucified one. The Father, he spake and his will, it was done.

Great price of my pardon. His own precious Son. Saved by the blood of the crucified one.

[90:25] Glory and sing. Glory and sing. Glory and sing. Glory and sing. My sins are all parted. My guilt is all gone.

Glory and sing. Glory and sing. Glory and sing. Glory and sing. Glory and sing. Glory and sing. Glory and sing.

Glory and sing. Glory and sing. Glory and sing. Glory and sing. Glory and sing. Glory and sing. is Glory and Savior, glory and Savior, and saved by the blood of the crucified one.

Amen. Let's pray. Lord, we thank you for your great grace, for your great salvation, for your great keeping and leading and guiding and infilling, equipping, enabling, empowering.

And that spirit of God that makes us holy, despite our many faults and failings, Lord, that you can do the work and keep on doing it until we see you face to face, Lord.

[92:08] All glory and praise unto your name. Amen. Bless God. Amen.