

SERIES: THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD TITLE: Three Times Holy SPEAKER: Bob Marvel DATE: March 28-29, 2020

1. When we think about holiness, we often think about a particular kind of person who seems to fit that concept. When you hear the word "holiness" what images/persons come to mind? Prior to this message, what have been your "go to" definitions or ways of thinking about holiness?

2. Read Isaiah 6. Why are the first seven words of Isaiah 6:1 significant? Share with the group what tragic moment(s) in history you personally remember experiencing or one that we are all walking through together right now. Did they cause you to think more deeply about God's sovereignty? If so, why?

3. Isaiah continues on in Isaiah 6:1 to say that the train of God's robe "filled the temple." Isaiah was describing the majesty of God. What is an appropriate heart response to this image of the supreme majesty of God? What effect could this have on the way we approach God?

4. In Isaiah 6:2, seraphim - angels in the heavenly court which minister to the immediate presence of God - are described. What does the translation of the word "seraph" mean? Why are their description and the exact positions of their wings significant?

5. The Church of St. Anne's (often said to be an instrument only to be played with the human voice) makes even bad singers sound great. Have you ever experienced acoustics like that? A shower? An amphitheater? Where? How do you think your personal experience of acoustical "perfection" compares to the singing of the seraphim?

6. In written English we emphasize with italics, underlining, bolding and ALL CAPS and more. The Bible emphasizes with repetition and never over uses it. What is the significance of the song of the seraphim? (See Isaiah 6:3) The only example of triple repetition of an attribute is with reference to God's holiness. What does this say about the importance which God places on His holiness?

7. Goodness is often a definition associated with holiness but is not the primary meaning. Read 1 Samuel 2:2. What is the primary meaning of holiness? Referring to Habakkuk 1:13, what is the secondary meaning of holiness? Does this alter your understanding of holiness? If so, how?

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8. Since God alone is holy, what makes something holy? What examples of "holy things" were provided in the message? What additional examples can you add? Read 1 Peter 1:15-16. Why is the concept being "chosen" important to us as Christians?

9. Read Ephesians 1:4 and Colossians 3:12. Holiness is not an attribute of God, but the very core of the character of God, His Essence. Why is the concept of being "chosen" important to us as Christians?

10. How important is holiness to you? How much thought, attention, and effort do you devote to the pursuit of holiness? Why care about being holy? Do you think holiness (living a life that is set apart and pleasing to God) is truly possible? Why? Why not?

11. Is it difficult for you to live a holy life? Why or why not? What do you think it means to rely on God's help to be holy?

12. Read Isaiah 57:15. As believers pursuing holiness, what does it mean to you that our God is not only transcendent (above and only) but immanent (right here with us)?

“The Holy Father chooses us because of His love for us. The Son of God covers us with His blood for His purposes. The Holy Spirit changes us, transforms us all for His glory. It is the Godhead at work in redeeming our lives. It is because He is holy that He calls us and selects us to be holy and set apart for His glory” – Bob Marvel

MISCELLANEOUS

1. What would you like to discuss from this message not addressed in the questions above?

2. What specific truth in this message has had the greatest impact on you? Describe how it has convicted, blessed, or motivated you?

3. PERSONAL CHALLENGE: As you spend intentional time alone with God this week, read 1 Peter 1:1-25. Ask Him to show you specific ways for you to passionately pursue holiness – a life dedicated to the purposes of God.

“Because by one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.” – Hebrews 10:14

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