

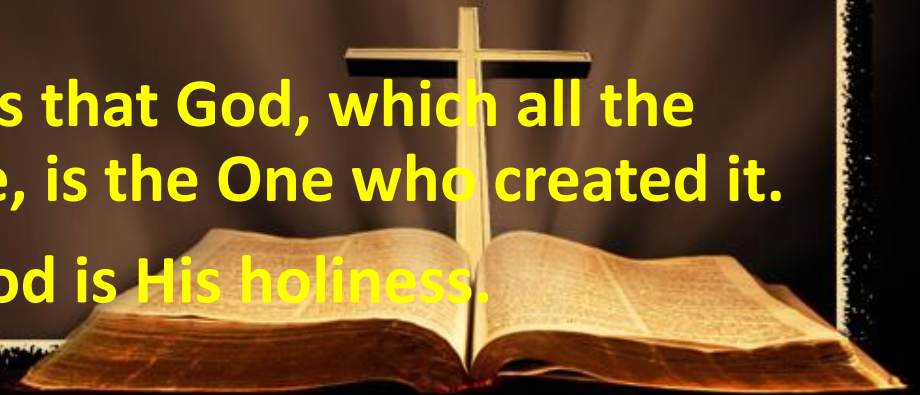
Holiness: The Big Picture

Psalms 96:1-12



Evangelical Nature of the Old Testament

- The modern church acts as if God had no interest in anyone, except for the children of Israel, before Jesus came.
- Psalm 96 issues a call for all the earth to sing praise to God.
- Why would all the earth want to praise God?
 - The psalm declares all other gods to be idols with no power and no life.
 - The psalm also declares that God, which all the earth is called to praise, is the One who created it.
- The source of praise for God is His holiness.



Holy

- The root word for holy actually means “apart, separate.”
- God is holy because He is separate from creation and its defilement.
- God stands outside creation and is master over all of it.
- God is holy because he is separate from sin, evil and all imperfection.
- God’s holiness is not compromised by our ungodliness; He remains set apart and perfect.
- God is able to declare something holy because it belongs to Him Who is altogether separate.



Separateness

- Separateness means that holiness has to do primarily with our relationship to God.
- We are holy because we belong to God.
- God has made us holy or separated for His use and pleasure.
- Holiness is basic to every Christian.
- Being holy requires us to redirect our desires and focus on fellowship with the Father and the Son.



Markers of Holiness

- A desire for God is the first marker of holiness.
- The second marker of holiness is the cultivating of the fruit of the Spirit that Paul lists in Galatians 5:22-24.
- The third marker of holiness is following the Spirit's urgings.
- The fourth marker of holiness is gaining ground against the onslaught of sin.
- Since we are dead to sin, we should no longer live as if we were still bound by its power.
- The final marker of holiness is the practice of Spiritual disciplines.
- Holiness does not happen by accident.



Conclusion

- We should deliberately set our course to run deep into the Father's arms.
- A picture of holiness can be seen by:
 - Having a desire for God.
 - Cultivating the fruit of the Spirit.
 - Following the Spirit's urgings.
 - Gaining ground against the onslaught of sin.
 - Practicing Spiritual disciplines.
- God has made us holy, separated for His use and pleasure.

