

THE PORTRAIT OF GOD: 2004 National Conference

Message #7

There is No Other: The Holiness of God

Dr. John MacArthur

The angels surrounding the throne of God proclaim, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts." In this session, John MacArthur will examine what the Bible has to say about the holiness of God, reminding us what our response to this holiness should be.

Subject of the Holiness of God

- I. Definition
 - a. Not one attribute among many
 - b. But the consummate composition of His moral perfection.
 - c. God is Holy and God's Name is Holy.
 - d. Connected to God's Aseity. Infinite perfection. His name is separate, distinct or HOLY. Prophets... majestic holiness.
 - e. Habakkuk God is too holy to look on wickedness Job 34:10 Far be it from God to do sin. Revelation 15:5 "You alone are Holy"
- II. Revelations of God's Holiness
 - a. Anywhere God reveals Himself, He reveals His Holiness.
 - i. Creation: Behold very good. Reflection of Himself
 - b. The Law of God
 - i. Reveals his absolute perfection Ps. 19:7 Law is perfect Rm 7:12 Commandment holy, righteous, good.
 - c. The Judgments of God
 - i. Gen 18:25 Shall not Judge of all the earth do right I Tim 4:8 The Lord, the Righteous Judge
 - ii. Heaven of Heavens Rev 4:2 Sees throne room. Glory. Flashes of lightening and thunders. Surrounded by glorious wonders. Ezekiel 1f reflects God of Judgment.
 - iii. God in Himself and His works is Glorious Holiness. James 1 Father of Light (pure light) with whom there's no variation.
- III. Most Discernable Manifestation of God's Holiness is the Incarnation
 - a. Only Christ Jesus Reveals the Fullness of God's Character
 - i. Hebrews 1:1-4 Jesus is the exact representation of God the Father is seen and revealed in the person of Jesus Christ!
 - ii. Luke 1 Angel Gabriel's revelation to Mary. Conception, be Great and Reign forever. Conceived of the HOLY Spirit
 - iii. Would be Holy Offspring. Contrast Psalm 51 In sin conceived

- iv. Luke 2. Son... in water. HOLY Spirit descends as Dove. Father says... This is my well beloved son... well pleased!!
 - b. Revealed in the Death of Christ
 - i. 2 Cor 5:21 Knew no sin
 - ii. 1 Peter 1:18 unblemished and spotless lamb of God... no defect.
 - iii. Hebrews 9:15 Offered self w/out blemish
- IV. Revealed in the Life of Christ
 - a. He was tempted, yet without sin.
 - b. Like a fish into water, Christ came into Abyss of sinful life and hell.
- V. Truest test is how it holds up here on earth... in a sinful environment.
 - a. John 8:23 You are from this world, I'm not, I'm from above.... Later, in verse 46 he says "Which of you convicts me of sin?" Who can say that?
 - b. John 14:30 "Ruler of this world is coming, he has nothing in me." Why? Completely other kind of being.
 - c. We can hardly imagine... cause we are from here, are sinful, need to be warned and reminded and encouraged. Defilement comes from within.
 - d. Even in discipline we have to be careful to be stained by sin...bad company corrupts good character 1 Cor 15... we have to beat our bodies into submission 1 Cor 9, and avoid certain places and situations. Walk in fear of God! What looking forward to in heaven? NO SIN or temptation.
- VI. Jesus and the Tax Collector Levi Luke 5
 - a. Takes worst of the worst and makes him an Apostle.
 - b. "Why does he eat and drink with Tax Collectors and Sinners."
 - c. Flow of holiness from Christ TO others. Untainted. Unaffected by the sinful desires of others.
 - d. Not infrequent... calls Jesus a wine-bibber and a glutton, a man who keeps company with tax collectors and sinners.
 - e. A Prostitute Luke 7...an alabaster viol of perfume. Standing behind... by His feet. Wets his feet with her tears, weeping, wiping his feet with her hair. Perfume. Judged by the thoughts in their heads. Not Jesus. He's not corrupted... rather "Your sins have been forgiven." She was a hamartolos (a great sinner). Had only heart water... only towel had was her hair... only one gift perfume
 - f. Jesus could go to hell and be holy.
- VII. Isaiah 6:1
 - a. King Uzziah Died. God killed him. Is. 5. Six sinful woes for judgments
 - b. Saw the Lord... high and lifted up. Glory filled the heavens. Holy Holy ... Isaiah's Response! WOE IS ME! Preach... till Christ. John 12:36ff