

## 1 Peter 1:17-21 Why Holiness Matters

### Last week call the walk in Holiness

A) Holiness is our Identity not just a calling

B) Finished by asking the question Why Holiness matters ?

- 1) Jesus is coming we want to be ready
- 2) That is how the world sees God in us.

Continue 2 more reasons why Holiness matters

<sup>17</sup> And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to **each one's work**, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay *here* in fear; <sup>18</sup> knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like silver or gold*, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, <sup>19</sup> **but with the precious blood of Christ**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. <sup>20</sup> He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you <sup>21</sup> who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

### Why does Holiness Matter?

#1 There is a judgment coming:

B) When we talk about the judgment of God

1) it is important that we realize his judgment for believers and unbelievers is different.

C) Unbelievers are going to be judged on one thing – what did you do with Jesus? Accept or reject ?

**D) No neutral ground – Jesus said – you are either for me or against me**

E) Where you spend eternity is based solely your response to the gospel –

### Gospel means good news –

A) The good news man was lost, separated and Jesus left heaven earth die for sins – Rose to give life

B) A person either believes that and embraces Jesus or reject that good news and reject Jesus

C) That is the one thing that unbelievers are going to be judged by

**But there is a coming judgment for Christ followers as well.**

A) But it is a judgment of rewards – verse 17 who without partiality judges according to each **one's work**,

B) The question we will be judged on is what did we do with, what God has given us?

C) What did we do with our Salvation – grow in it – grateful for it

1) Or did we neglect it and grow unappreciative of it - did we take it for granted.

### And Our judgment will consist of

A) What did we do **with the gifts** God has given us

B) What did we do with the opportunities God has given us

1) What did we do with the resources God has given us?

C) Jesus described the faithful believer living in light of his coming in this way:

“Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom *his* master will make ruler over his household, to give *them* their portion of food in due season? <sup>43</sup> Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Luke 12:42,43

**D) Jesus described the faithful steward as one who knows he is here on earth for the purpose of representing his master**

1) Blessed is the servant whom Jesus finds doing that when he comes

E) Jesus described our responsibility for using what we have been given in this way.

For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more. Luke 12:48

**Paul asked the question what is required of a Steward? 1 Corinthians 4:2 It is required that they be found faithful.**

A) That is what the Lord is looking for in us – is faithfulness

**B)Those who are faithful with what the Lord has entrusted to them will be rewarded with more –**

1)More - Resources, responsibility and opportunities

C)So our judgment is not about salvation –

1) but it is about rewards, it is about the role we get to play in God's kingdom when Jesus returns

**Question how is God going to Judge?**

And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work,

A)**Without partiality** is without masks – We often put on masks – we try to appear better than we are.

B)God sees behind all of that – he sees the real us – and when it comes to his judgment –

1)He judges our character and motives

C)This is exactly what the apostle Paul was writing about in 1 Cor 3:11 when he said

**11 For no one can lay any foundation other than what has been laid down. That foundation is Jesus Christ.**

1 Corinthians 3:11

**D)There is only one foundation for effective ministry – that is The foundation is Jesus –**

1)Our Mission statement – Simply Jesus

- All for Jesus – His glory –
- All about Jesus – He is the Focus
- All through Jesus – His Power

**E)So Jesus is the foundation that true ministry is built upon**

1)What Paul says next speaks to Character and motives

**12 If anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw, 13 each one's work will become obvious. For the day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire; the fire will test the quality of each one's work. 14 If anyone's work that he has built survives, he will receive a reward.** 1 Corinthians 3:11-13

**That which is done w/ the right motives /right heart is gold, silver & Precious Stones that withstands the fire**

A)But That which is done from the wrong motives / wrong heart is the wood Hay & Straw

B)that gets burned in the fire !!!!- NO REWARD

C)So God is looking at Character and motives in our work/ service

**In light of this coming Judgment –where we will be judged for our work - Peter says conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear;**

A)Is Peter suggesting that we need to be afraid of God – no!

B)The word fear that Peter uses here is the Greek word Phobos -

1)We get our word Phobia from that – A Phobia is something that you are afraid of

**C)In light of this coming Judgment – where we are going to answer for our stewardship?**

1)Peter wants us to conduct ourselves with a phobia of having nothing to show for what we have been given.

D)A fear of squandering what God has given to us?

**I have a fear – not being prepared to preach – the last thing I ever want to do is show up and fake it**

A)So study hard – 15-20 hrs each message

B)Engrained in me when first in ministry 18

1)Richard at camp – Devos – Be ready – don't want to be called on and be unprepared.

C)My Worst ministry experience – A pitch to Pastor Chuck and the Board at CCCM —

1)trying to get a loan to help with Building project

D)You picture PC as warm and Charismatic big smile

1)But in person he could be really intimidating – especially concerning Business things = Shrewd

**I had to make a presentation –**

A)I was told I would have 15 min – then questions – Sent a folder a week ahead of time

**B)Nervous – drove up to CCCM make sure early – I was 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 4 things on their agenda –**

**1)I waited almost 2 hrs to meet with them**

**C)I get in there and PC says – Hi Rob, good to see you – you have 5 minutes –**

1)I panicked – thinking 5 minutes I was told I had 15 – I was prepared for 15 – I was not prepared for 5 minutes

**D)It worst presentation I have ever given in my life**

1)I drowned my sorry in a big thing of Ice cream on the way home

**I never want to experience that again**

**A)PC and board at CCCM are men – intimidating yes – but men**

**B)Imagine – what it is going to be like to stand before God and give an answer for what he has given us!**

1)So KNOWING THAT DAY IS COMING- we need to conduct ourselves with a phobia of being unprepared

**C) We want to use our resources, opportunities and influence to the fullest -**

**D)Serving God with right heart and right motives**

1)Our privilege to serve HIM and His glory is the goal

**E)So Holiness matters #1 There is a judgment that is coming**

**#2 Because of Jesus sacrifice V.18**

<sup>18</sup> knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. <sup>20</sup> He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you <sup>21</sup> who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

**Holiness is the rightful response to the price that has been paid for our redemption**

**A)Jesus gave his all to save us, and we should give our all in worship adoration and surrender to him!**

**B)For the rest of our time this morning – I want to talk about why the Blood of Jesus is precious to us.**

1)His Blood is precious to us because of its USEFULNESS

**C)What is more precious to a Starving man in the desert –suitcase full of 10 million dollars?**

1)or a Loaf of bread & some water

**D)Ten million dollars will not do him any good if he starves to death**

**Now We could spend all day talking about the preciousness of Christ's blood**

**A)I hope you enjoy the Devos we will send out this week – nuances of the blood**

**B)But for the sake of time today and leading to communion –**

1)3 reasons why the blood of Jesus is precious

**#1 It is Precious because of its redeeming Power**

**A)Peter says that we were not redeemed by corruptible things – silver or gold / gems**

**B)I Love this – those are most valuable commodities in our culture**

1)But no amount of money could redeem us from our sinful condition

**B)Not redeemed by earthly commodities but by the precious blood of Jesus - Perfect sinless blood**

**Bb)Pilate at the trial of Jesus – I found no fault in this man**

**C)When a lamb was brought for sacrifice – it had to be inspected to be found without spot or blemish.**

**During the week leading up to the Crucifixion of Jesus /**

**A)The religious leaders came over and over again to inspect him.**

**B)Trying to find something to accuse him of**

1)They questioned his authority – passed flying colors

**C)They questioned Loyalty – Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar – Coin – who’s image on the coin –**

1)give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar  
Give to God what belongs to God

**D)The Implication was Who’s image is on you?**

1)The Bible says that you have been made in the image of God.

**E)You belong to Him – Give yourself to him**

**All week long they inspected him trying to find something that they could accuse him of –**

A)he passed every test - He was the Lamb without spot or blemish

**B)Finally they hired people to make things up –**

1)accuse him of insurrection against Rome and Blasphemy against God

**C)My point being – Jesus is the only Human being who could die on the cross to pay the price for our sins**

1)Pay the price of our redemption

**D)He was perfect through and through**

**E)So His blood is precious because of its REDEEMING POWER**

**#2 It is precious because of its cleansing power. Not just redeemed but cleansed.**

**1 John 1:7 *The Blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin***

A)Sin has a **direct defiling** affect upon a person

**B)The world’s worst & deadly disease – It is always – FATAL**

1)**The soul that sins will surely die – All sinned.....God**

– all infected – nothing could protect us -

**C)Born with sin nature – born with a death sentence**

**But there is a fountain filled w/ Blood that flows from the Saviors veins**

A) no matter how great the offense No matter how many, nor how deeply-seated our offenses may be

**B)the blood of Jesus cries out**

**“Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”**

**C)It is the song of heaven/ “We have washed our robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”**

**D)The Blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us of all sin**

**And the blood of Jesus Cleanses our Conscience as well - Guilt**

A)**Hebrews 9:14 *The Blood of Christ has cleansed our Conscience from dead works to serve the Living God !***

**B)Charles Finney the great Revival Preacher of the early 1900’s was preaching in Detroit one night**

**C)One of the notorious thugs of the area went to hear him preach.**

1)Finney Preached a message on the power of the Blood of Jesus to cleanse and transform a man.

**D)This thug was so moved by the message that he wanted a private meeting with Finney after the service**

1)Everyone cautioned Finney from meeting with this man – but Finney went

**When Finney entered the room – where they were meeting this Thug shut the door and locked it and pulled a gun from his pocket.**

A)He said - "**Don't be afraid, Mr. Finney. I am not going to shoot you.**"

**B)I heard you preach tonight about the Lord Jesus Christ. This GUN has killed four men.**

1) Is there any hope for a man like that?"

**C)Mr. Finney replied, "The blood of Jesus Christ GOD’S Son cleanses us from all sin"**

**The man persisted - "You don't understand, Mr. Finney.**

A)I have helped send men down the road to hell; I have **helped men to rob their own children of food and CARE**

**B)Is there any hope for a man who would do that to others?**

1)Once again Finney replied, **The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin**

**C)The man continued, I have been a gambler all my life.**

**1)I have spent my life taking money from people illegally. IS there any hope for a man like that?**

D)"Mr. Finney said, **"The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin**

**The man persisted. "Across the street there is a wife I have abused, a little girl who is disfigured.**

**A)One night I came home from gambling and drinking in a drunken stupor.**

**B)The child ran to put her arms around me and I pushed her away from me.**

1)She hit the heater and is terribly disfigured. Is there any hope for a man like that?

**C)Finney responded yet again – the Blood of Jesus Christ God's son cleanses us from all sin**

**D)They talked a little longer and then Mr. Finney left**

1)The man stayed up all night praying and talking to God – his heart had been radically impacted by the gospel

**Early in the morning he went home stumbled into Bed.**

**A)He was sound asleep when his wife said to the little girl - "Tell your daddy it's time for breakfast"**

**B)She went upstairs and said, "Mama says it's time for breakfast"**

1)The man said, "Maggie darling, I don't want any breakfast this morning.

**C)She ran back downstairs and said, "Mama, Daddy said he did not want any breakfast this morning and he called me darling."**

**The mother said, You made a mistake; you heard him wrong.**

**A)Go back up there and tell him it's time for breakfast.**

B)In a moment the man came down, took his wife in his arms and his little girl on his knee. He wept said "O honey, I have sinned against you like few men have ever sinned against anyone, but last night I heard the preacher preach.

**C)I heard about Jesus and about the blood of Jesus.**

**D)The blood of Jesus has cleansed me from all my sin.**

1)You have a new husband. Daughter, you have a new daddy."

**The blood of Jesus is able to cleanse a person totally – any sin**

**A)This room is filled with testimonies - Mike V prison**

**B)David Zamora Fontana– no High School Diploma**

**1)He is the VP of a local Christian college –**

**C)On the Board are Officials from Biola and Asuza**

1)Talking budget – David you are really good with numbers how did you get so good – Selling Dope

**D)That is the power of the blood of Jesus – Completely transform a person**

1)Cleans a person from all sin  
Cleans a conscience from all Guilt

**E)Do you need cleansing today ? Sin ? Guilt ?**

**#3 The Blood is Precious because it Provides a Way of Access into the throne of God**

**A) <sup>19</sup> And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus Hebrews 10 :19. CSB**

**B)This is a radical and amazing truth that would mean so much more to the people of Israel than it does to us unfortunately**

**C)The day that Jesus died on the cross and his blood poured out his body and amazing thing happened.**

**In the temple of God there was this Veil that hung between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies.**

A)The Jewish worship system was one that communicated distance –

B)Only the priest could actually enter the temple building

C)The people could only come into the courtyard area where the sacrifice happened.

**The temple consisted of two rooms –**

A)The first room was called the Holy place – the priest would go in there daily to offer prayers

B)Beyond the Holy Place was another room – an inner sanctum – called the Holy of Holies –

1)in there was Shekinah glory – Ark

C)And only one priest – the High Priest – could enter in there –

1)and only on one day of the year. The day of Atonement

**D)The High Priest could only enter into the Holy of Holies only after he had offered sacrifices for his sin**

1)and the sin of the people.

E)Rope and bells – If he had Sin he would die

**So the whole process spoke of how radical the Holiness of God is and that sinful people could not come into his presence**

A)Now between these two rooms was this huge Veil – don't think of a thin curtain –

B)think – A very thick rug

1)According to Josephus the Jewish historian - The Veil was 60 feet wide 30 ft High and 4 inches thick

2)It took 300 priest to hang the veil in the temple

C)So the veil stood as a thick wall – do not enter - No entrance

**But on the day that Jesus died on the cross and declared it is finished**

A)The work of Redemption was done –

**B)HE VIEL WAS RIPPED IN TWO - ACCESS GRANTED –**

1)OPEN HOUSE - WELCOME

**<sup>20</sup> By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place.**

**<sup>21</sup> And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's house, <sup>22</sup> let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water. Hebrews 10:20-22 CSB**

**B)Chapter 4 the writer of Hebrews – declares**

**<sup>16</sup> So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most. Hebrews 4:16**

C)Have you embraced the work of Christ on your behalf – Come boldly- Open house

1)Grace and mercy in our time of Need

**D)You in need today? God is for you – Says come – you don't need an appointment – come –**

1)the Blood of Jesus is an All Access pass

As we celebrate Communion today –

A)The Body given

B)Blood Shed

C)Come boldly –

**Embraced Christ? For me or against me**

A)Open your heart today – Cleansing – freedom from sin from guilt