

RYDE BAPTIST CHURCH SUNDAY SERVICE

14 June 2020

As this verse helps us see, the word sanctification is closely related to holiness. The word sanctification can be used in a similar sense in the New Testament, and in one sense, believers are already sanctified because of what Jesus has done for them. Hebrews 10:10 tells us that as followers of Christ “we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”

But most of the time when Christians use the word sanctification, they are referring to the progressive work of God to make a believer more like Jesus Christ. As such Paul can write, “For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality” (1 Thessalonians 4:3). He commands Christians to “present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification” (Romans 6:19). As believers have been set free from their slavery to sin, “the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life” (Romans 6:22).

APPLICATION. How do we apply this today in our lives? When we sin we often feel shame or regret. However, each day is a new day and we need to keep short accounts with God, that is we need to confess sin regularly each day and by the power of the Holy Spirit move on in our journey of sanctification. “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John

1:9) I end with that wonderful and encouraging promise in Philippians 1:6: “And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” Amen

SUGGESTED SONG

Purify My Heart—Refiner’s Fire
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Y8zP34AhuU>

BLESSING

For your goodness and generosity in giving us all we need,
help us to praise you O God.

In every circumstance of life, in good times and bad,
help us to trust you, O God.

In love and faithfulness, with all that we have and all that we are,
help us to serve you, O God.

As we speak or write or listen to those nearby or far away,
help us to share your love, O God.

In our plans and work for ourselves and for others,
help us to glorify you, O God.

In every thought and word and deed, by the power of your Holy Spirit,
this week, may we live for you, O God.

<https://rydebaptist.xyz>

Dear Friends,

Over the last couple of weeks our news has been full of Black Lives Matter responses from around the world. I don’t know how we have each been responding personally. For myself, I remember the first time I attended equality and justice training and had to grapple with the reality of white privilege, with its helpful insight that just because I was born a white male I was likely to enjoy so many benefits not enjoyed by my black brother. One small yet significant example: I don’t have to get up in the morning fearful of going out, wondering whether I am going to be pulled over and searched by the police just for going about my daily business. Is it really true that if I am not actively part of the solution, then by default I am part of the problem? Recognising things about ourselves that are to do with the way we have been brought up or society at large, things often hidden or invisible, is not easy. Reading 1 John 1:8, “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us” challenges me to check my heart, put on the full armour of God, prepared for the daily battle with sin that is subtle and deceptive. I need to be humble. I cannot

be defensive or claim that it has nothing to do with me, or that there is nothing I can do about it. Praise God through his Son Jesus Christ for the presence of the Holy Spirit who can do what I cannot, challenging, changing and transforming me day by day.

Today’s sermon notes have been written by Ian Pratt, who calls us to Biblical holiness. Thank you Ian. We meet online via Zoom for our Sunday Morning Fellowship Meeting at 10.30am and our online Monday Prayer Meeting is at 7.00pm. If you are able to join us, you will be very welcome. If you are reading this sheet on your computer or device you can click on the readings and songs, and you will find many other helpful resources at <https://rydebaptist.xyz>

CALL TO WORSHIP

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (1 Peter 2:9-10)

BIBLE READINGS

[Exodus 19:2-8](#)

[Romans 12:1-21](#)

[1 Peter 2:9-10](#)

SUGGESTED SONGS

Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YY_OuWju3rU

Revelation Song—Holy Holy Holy
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dsiDukXleVY>

PRAYER

Father God, we enter into your presence today in worship in the name of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ and by the enabling power of your Holy Spirit. You are the Alpha and the Omega; you are Mighty and Majestic; you are Awesome and Holy. Yet you are also Abba Father, who has come close to us when we are so far away; and into whose presence we can come, ransomed, healed, restored and forgiven, through the poured out blood of our Lord and Saviour, and the open floodgates of your Father heart. Forgive us our sinfulness, and fill us with your holiness. May our lives reflect your love and grace, not only in what we think, or say, or do, but most fundamentally through who we are. May your holiness saturate us so that it touches everyone and everything that we come in contact with this week.

TO PONDER

We are all being encouraged to wash our hands regularly for at least 20 seconds with soap and running water as the best way to prevent transmitting and succumbing to the Covid-19 virus. What is the spiritual equivalent that we should make a part of our regular routine to prevent transmitting and succumbing to the sin that so easily entangles and ensnares? (Hebrews 12:1-3). What should we throw aside, and what should we pick up? What is the spiritual mirror that we need to look at daily?

SUGGESTED SONGS

Holy Holy Holy
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AgHrNNM23p8>

Spirit of the Living God
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BagH-zTfnsQ>

MINI-SERMON OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION. I became a Christian on November 8th, 1970, in my first term at University. When I look back on almost 50 years of living as a believer, my main regret is my lack of holiness. Some days I don't feel I have made any progress at all as a Christian. So today I want us to look at holiness.

We all know that God is holy, but holiness has such a bad press. It is not a cool word. Hence the words holy joe,

and holier-than-thou, and the use of holy before various swear words to intensify the strength of the curse.

Being holy in common parlance means someone is prudish or critically morally superior. The dictionary definition of holy is different though. It means dedicated or consecrated to God or a religious purpose; sacred; morally and spiritually excellent.

Someone once said that we are as holy as we want to be and there is much truth in that. What does the Bible teach about holiness then?

EXPOSITION. Here are a few verses about holiness which will give a flavour of what God is trying to teach us through His word.

“Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.” (2 Corinthians 7:1)

“But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’” (1 Peter 1 :15-16)

“Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.” (Hebrews 12:14)

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual

worship.” (Romans 12:1)

“You shall be holy to me, for I the Lord am holy and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be mine.” (Leviticus 20:26)

I am sure we all get the picture now. God is perfect in every way and He is holy. When we become Christians we receive a call to become holy too, like the Lord Jesus.

The watching world is very critical of anyone who professes Christian faith, almost expecting perfection at all times. However, although that should not excuse sinful behaviour, we are all works in progress, some further along the path of holiness than others. I believe that at the moment of death our holiness will be completed in an instant, unlike teaching about purgatory, whereby we need to be purged of our sin after death. Jesus's death on the cross for us dealt with the sin question once and for all.

However, there is a process by which we are being made or becoming holy which is called sanctification. Therefore, God's people are sometimes said to be sanctified because they are set apart for God's special purposes in the world: “Consecrate yourselves, therefore, and be holy; for I am the LORD your God. Keep my statutes, and do them; I am the LORD who sanctifies you” (Leviticus 20:7–8).