

# THE PROMINENT ASPECTS OF THE GLAD TIDINGS

## Part 2: SANCTIFICATION/HOLINESS

### 2.a. Understanding the Importance of Holiness

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TGOCM

I pray, as God desires, that the Church would wake up to our value, that we would recognize how special we are in that God has rendered us holy through the work of his Son, Jesus Christ.

This study on holiness, as it is influenced by God, should establish the doctrine that we have been made holy by God's doing. And it should sharply reprove wrong thinking and practice where necessary.

Like our first study on us being made the righteousness of God, us being made holy through Jesus Christ's redemptive work in our behalf is another unalterable truth because it is another aspect of *"the eternal covenant."* (Heb. 13:20) Therefore, it will never change.

Only what is holy is acceptable to God and qualified to serve him.

WHAT IS HOLINESS? Holiness is the state of being made holy. Holy means sanctified, sacred, consecrated. That which is holy is pure from all defilement or fault, clean from impurities, innocent from all guilt, perfect, and so, acceptable to God who is holy. It further means, to separate out from all which are common or unclean, as in Mt. 25:31-46 where upon our Lord's return he separates the sheep from the goats. There is a distinction made where our Lord distinguishes between those who believe on him and those who don't. He divides the two groups. There is a difference between the two. The sheep are holy. The goats are unholy. This gives us God's perspective of VIP's (very important persons). Holiness is separation, being set apart from common or secular uses. See also Lev. 20:24-26.

Then, holiness carries the strong idea that what is made holy is in service to God. This is why God, our Father, made us holy through his Son, Jesus Christ. The Old Testament priests were also made holy *"that they may serve me (the Lord) as priests,"* Ex. 28:40-41. Also, Ex. 28:3, *"make Aaron's garments to consecrate (make holy) him, that he may minister unto me (the Lord) in the priest's office."*

#### KEY INSIGHTS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT REGARDING WHAT IS RENDERED HOLY:

1. When God gave Moses instructions regarding the priests he said, *"And thou shalt make a plate of pure gold, and grave upon it, like the engravings of a signet, HOLY TO JEHOVAH."* (Ex 28:36 ASV)
2. *"God reigneth over the nations: God sitteth upon his holy throne."* (Ps 47:8 ASV)
3. The word "holy" is used twice together regarding a few things under the Old Covenant which are especially special among his holy things. Among these are the holy of holies, the Ark of the Covenant which held the words of the Covenant (the Ten Commandments), the altar and its utensils, the laver, and certain offerings commanded by God. There is a quality about these of the tabernacle which should be noted. Whatever touched them became holy.
  - a. *"28 and the altar of burnt-offering with all the vessels thereof, and the laver and the base thereof. 29 And thou shalt sanctify them, that they may be most holy: whatsoever toucheth them shall be holy."* (Ex 30:28-29 ASV)

- b. *“Ye fools and blind: for which is greater, the gold, or the temple that hath sanctified the gold? 18 And, Whosoever shall swear by the altar, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gift that is upon it, he is a debtor. 19 Ye blind: for which is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift?”* (Mt 23:17-19 ASV)
4. The Scriptures speak of God alone as holy, holy, holy. Nothing, or nobody else is acknowledged with this highest of honors.
  - a. *“And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is Jehovah of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.”* (Isa 6:3 ASV)
5. Warnings against defiling what God has made holy, which is to defile his holy name.
  - a. *“7 ¶ And he said unto me, Son of man, this is the place of my throne, and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel for ever. And the house of Israel shall no more defile (make unclean, impure) my holy name, neither they, nor their kings, by their whoredom, and by the dead bodies of their kings in their high places; 8 in their setting of their threshold by my threshold, and their door-post beside my door-post, and there was but the wall between me and them; and they have defiled (make unclean, impure) my holy name by their abominations which they have committed: wherefore I have consumed them in mine anger.”* (Eze 43:7-8 ASV)
6. Sacrificial blood and anointing making holy.
  - a. *“And thou shalt take of the blood that is upon the altar, and of the anointing oil, and sprinkle it upon Aaron, and upon his garments, and upon his sons, and upon the garments of his sons with him: and he shall be hallowed, and his garments, and his sons, and his sons’ garments with him.”* (Ex 29:21 ASV)
7. God’s way is holy.
  - a. *“Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: Who is a great god like unto God?”* (Ps 77:13 ASV)

WHAT IS RENDERED HOLY IS NOT FOR COMMON, OR WORLDLY, USE: This point is regarding any thing or any one who is rendered holy.

1. Any thing: The Lord God gave instruction to Moses to sanctify (hallow) the tabernacle and its utensils:
  - a. *“And thou shalt take the anointing oil, and anoint the tabernacle, and all that is therein, and shalt hallow it, and all the vessels thereof: and it shall be holy.”* (Ex 40:9 AV)
  - b. Moses carried out this command: *“And it came to pass on the day that Moses had fully set up the tabernacle, and had anointed it, and sanctified it, and all the instruments thereof, both the altar and all the vessels thereof, and had anointed them, and sanctified them;”* (Nu 7:1 AV)
  - c. In the book of Daniel a Gentile king used these utensils to help host his secular party: *“1 ¶ Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand. 2 Belshazzar, while he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king and his lords, his wives and his concubines, might drink therefrom. 3 Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which was at Jerusalem; and the king and his lords, his wives and his concubines, drank from them. 4 They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone. 5 In the same hour came forth the fingers of a man’s hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaster of the wall of the king’s palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. Then the king’s countenance was changed in him, and his thoughts troubled him; and the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another.”* (Da 5:1-6 ASV)  
*“25 And this is the writing that was inscribed: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. 26 This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and brought it to an end; 27 TEKEL; thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. 28 PERES; thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians. 29 Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with purple, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made proclamation concerning*

*him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom. 30 ¶ In that night Belshazzar the Chaldean King was slain.”* (Da 5:25-30 ASV)

2. Any one: Those who believe on Jesus Christ are called saints, holy ones, by God. We too have been rendered as holy. In the first epistle of Paul the Apostle to those numbered among us as saints who were in Rome, he writes, *“To all that are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints:”* (Ro 1:7a ASV). Actually, Paul’s epistles are filled with this special title referring to us.
  - a. God rendered us holy through Christ. We are set apart, separated from all others as his special people. Did you know that when God rendered us holy he now considers us as his priests? YES! What is a priest? A priest is one who is anointed by God *“to perform his functions”* (Strong’s definition), ones busied with his affairs. *“Priest”* comes from a root word meaning *“sacred, holy.”*
    - i. *“ye also, as living stones, are built up a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”* (1Pe 2:5 ASV)
    - ii. *“But ye are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, that ye may show forth the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:”* (1Pe 2:9 ASV)
    - iii. See also Rom. 15:15-16, Rev. 1:6 & 5:10.
  - b. We’re called saints: This means holy ones, sanctified ones, set apart from others to serve and worship God; *“properly, reverend, worthy of veneration,”* (On-line Bible Program). As saints we are worthy of the highest degree of reverence and respect. This leaves no room for egotism in those who know that this glorious position has been graced to us because of our Lord Jesus Christ’s work instead of our own. And the world will not acknowledge our position until our Lord returns. Nevertheless, the truth stands!
    - i. Among ourselves (the Body of Christ) we should be acknowledging and practicing this truth. This would include not thinking of each other as common, according to worldly standards. In this way we wouldn’t identify a saint according to their profession, their financial worth, their nationality, or even their fleshly habits and characteristics, but ONLY according to their true value as saints.

God, as the Creator, is Judge. What he renders holy is holy, and is therefore set apart from everything else. He has made us holy by the work of his Son, Jesus Christ. Therefore, he considers us special people. We are his inheritance (Eph. 1:18). During the Day of Christ Jesus we will be acknowledged by all as such. Until then this truth of God sanctifying us has been given by God to govern our lives, as well as every aspect of the Glad Tidings. The driving force behind God sanctifying us is his great love. The realization of our sanctification will continue to grow for us as we accept this truth and live accordingly.