

Eleutheros Newsletter

July 2017

News of Interest

A few weeks ago God allowed this ministry the opportunity to present “a book and a Bible” to the troops at a Toledo, OH based charity called Heroes in Action. A hero in Action takes donations and sends them to military personnel every month.

This was possible because of the generous donations of Christian people.

If you would feel led to donate to this cause, please access this website:

<https://www.purecharity.com/eleutheros-books-global-fund>

All contributions are tax deductible.

The Role of God the Father in Our Salvation

Part 4

For I am the Lord that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy ([Leviticus 11:45](#)).

In the past three newsletters we have considered various aspects of God the Father’s role in our salvation: His *sovereignty, His knowledge and foreknowledge, and His love*. In this edition we will consider His holiness.

Somehow in this 21st century many have either decided to rebel against the truth that God is absolutely holy or to ignore it.

These reactions, as devastating as they are to those individuals who have made such decisions, do not change the fact that God really is holy (see [Leviticus 11:45](#) as quoted above).

Man’s attitudes about God, His will, and His ways may change, but His nature *cannot* change! This important truth is found often in Scripture, but notice what one Old Testament prophet was inspired to write: *For I am the Lord, I change not ([Malachi 3:6a](#)).*

This means that all of God's attributes are *immutable* (i.e., they do NOT change); therefore, it doesn't matter what 21st century man thinks about God. It matters that He is holy!

God pointed this out to Moses while he was standing near the burning bush in the desert: *And He said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground* ([Exodus 3:5](#)). The fact that God was there and speaking to Moses made that place and occasion holy.

God's holiness will be proclaimed in heaven: *And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come* ([Revelation 4:8](#)).

God's holiness extends to all that He does and commands.

This is true about what He expects in our worship: *Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name: bring an offering, and come before Him: worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness, Fear before Him, all the earth...* ([1 Chronicles 16:29-30a](#); see also [Psalm 29:2](#); [Romans 12:1-2](#)).

Further, God's holiness extended into His planning of our salvation. Consider these things:

1. Religions have their ideas, vastly different from the God-centered truth found in the Bible. The ways of man are all extremely sinful: *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord search the heart; I try the reins, even to every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doing* ([Jeremiah 17:9-10](#)).

Since man is so wicked, it is to be expected that man's ideas about eternity and salvation will be badly corrupted. That is certainly the case!

How many religions practice idol worship, contrary to [Exodus 20: 3-5](#)? How many religions insist that people must give large sums of money to their causes in order to make it into heaven, rather than trusting in the precious blood of our Savior ([Ephesians 1:7](#))? And how many religions mandate that people follow their man-made rules in order to gain favor with their leadership and their "god," opposing the truth of the Gospel (see [Galatians 1:6-7](#))!

2. God's holiness demands that His people be holy forever. Because God is holy, *absolutely* holy, He cannot tolerate sin. *My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not* ([1 John 2:1a](#)). Of course, there is sin in

this world, and even as believers we sometimes stumble into it, so there is God's gracious offer of forgiveness of sin, based on our true confession of it (I John 1:9). Notice that God not only *forgives* our sin, but He also *cleanses us* from all unrighteousness, according to this verse.

God's plan not only involves a settlement of our sin while we live in this world, but He also insists that there will *never* be sin in heaven: *Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless* ([II Peter 3:13-14](#)).

Here is the testimony of an angel to heaven, as recorded by the Apostle John: *And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand. He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still* ([Revelation 22:10-11](#)).

Righteousness and justice, along with God's great love, will reign forever!

3. God's holiness was also manifested in allowing His Son, our Savior, to die on the cross. What an amazing plan! God could not allow a sinful sacrifice to be the payment for man's salvation. God also knew that *without shedding of blood is no remission* ([Hebrews 9:22b](#)), and the blood of bulls and goats could not pay for the eternal deliverance of mankind ([Hebrews 9:12-14](#)).

So how could God deal with this seemingly insurmountable problem?

But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent for His Son, made of a woman, made under the Law... ([Galatians 4:4](#)). This, of course, is what we celebrate every Christmas! Because *the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us* ([John 1:14](#)), God devised His plan so that a man was dying for sinful man, not an animal!

Because Jesus is God, sent by the Father (John 3:16), He is sinless, making the sacrifice acceptable ([Isaiah 53:4-6](#)). *For He hath made Him to be sin for us, Who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him* ([II Corinthians 5:21](#)).

God accomplished what man surely could not do! He came up with the plan of the Gospel, in no way violating His unchanging holiness, so that we sinners could be saved!

There is nothing that Satan can do to attack this plan, even though he is the “accuser of the brethren” ([Revelation 12:10](#))! He cannot say that God’s plan was not for mankind, because Jesus became a man; He cannot say that the plan violated God’s holiness, because the plan was God’s will and His Son was (and always will be!) without sin; and He cannot say that blood was not shed, for Jesus’ blood poured out of His body when He was beaten and crucified!

Surely religions have their ideas, but do they honor the holiness of God when they invent their theories?

The role of the Father was amazing! He demonstrated His sovereignty in eternity past when He decided to send His only Son into this world to die for us; He recognized our need in His knowledge and foreknowledge; He was willing to see His Son suffer an awful death for us; and He never violated His holiness in any of this!

Praise God!

*Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God almighty!
Early in the morning
Our song shall rise to Thee!
Holy, holy, holy,
Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons,
Blessed Trinity!*

*Holy, holy, holy,
Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man
Thy glory may not see.
Only Thou art holy,
There is none beside Thee!
Perfect in power, love, and purity!*

Reginald Heber