



Chosen in Christ to be Holy

Scripture Reading:

I Corinthians 1: 23-31

INTRODUCTION

The world's concept of holiness involves awe-inspiring cathedrals, traditional practices and procedures of a religious nature that attempt to bridge the vast chasm between God and mankind.

The truth is that mankind cannot bridge the eternal gap that separates man from God, but that God HIMSELF has provided that necessary bridge. His name is Jesus Christ - God the Son.

One of the amazing facets of the believer's position in Christ is that we were chosen to be holy in Him before the foundation of the world – Eph 1:3-4

Holiness Defined and Displayed

Defined: unique, uncommon

- “Separated from something”
- “Separated unto something”

Displayed

- By God as one of His eternal attributes
- By angels – 4x in NT
- By things – places, food, procedures, etc.
- By people – the nation of Israel
 - Lev 11:43-45, 20:24b-26

HOLINESS BY THE NUMBERS

•OT

- 450x = consecrated, set apart. Hebrew “kaw-dosh”
- 32x = pious toward God, zealous of good works. Hebrew “kaw-seed”
- Both words are sometimes translated “saints”

•NT

- Verb 28x = to make separate. Greek “hag-i-od-zo”
- Noun 259x = used in 5 noun forms. Greek “hagios”
 - Used for the Holy Spirit 91x
 - Translated “saints” 62x

HOLINESS AND THE GRACE BELIEVER

- **WHERE** are we made holy (set apart)?
 - IN CHRIST – I Cor 1:30
 - We are individually made saints at salvation
- **HOW** are we made holy?
 - By Holy Spirit baptism – II Thess 2:13
 - When we believed “the truth” that is the gospel
 - cf II Thes 2:10-13
- **THEREFORE**, we now are holy (separated) UNTO God in our position IN CHRIST

PRACTICING HOLINESS

I Peter 1:13-16

• Why put holiness into practice?

- Because God is holy in His unique person and purpose AND we now belong to Him – He has bought us! vs 15-16
- How do we separate ourselves unto God’s character and purpose?
 - By a clear, unhindered understanding of our salvation – vs 13
 - By being in control of our senses (“sober-minded”)
 - By expecting (“hope”) for the future installment of grace - vs 13c
 - By refusing to live according to our former unsaved lifestyle – vs 14 (“that’s NOT who I am NOW!”)

CONCLUSION

- We can now approach the formerly unapproachable **HOLY GOD**
 - because HE has made all who believe HIS salvation-provision thorough HIS SON to be holy, by seeing us in His Son, the Holy One.
 - Separated FROM our sins. and
 - Separated UNTO Himself
- We are **HOLY in Christ!**
- Now, choose to live out this holiness through our daily activities by His enablement.