

Pastor's Pen

He is Holy!

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come." Rev 4:8

We are told of a fantastic scene in heaven by John. He says that there are *"four living creatures, each one of them having six wings,"* and their responsibility is to say day and night without ceasing: *Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come.*

From the prophet Isaiah, we know why these angels have six wings, "with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew." John MacArthur writes the following about the purpose of the wings: "Four of their six wings related to worship; with two they covered their faces, since even the most exalted created beings cannot look on the unveiled glory of God without being consumed. They also used two wings to cover their feet, since they stood on holy ground. Worship is thus their privilege, calling, and permanent occupation."

God is not described in any other manner using the same word three times. He is not love, love love, or wrath, wrath, wrath, or mercy, mercy mercy. But, He is holy, holy, holy. Why is He described this way? John MacArthur writes:

God's holiness is His utter and complete separation from evil in any and every form. He is absolutely untainted by any evil, error, or wrongdoing—unlike angels (some of whom sinned) or humans (all of whom sinned). In 1 Samuel 2:2 Hannah declared, "There is no one holy like the Lord," because He alone is "majestic in holiness" (Ex. 15:11). The prophet Habakkuk praised God because "[His] eyes are too pure to approve evil, and [He] can not look on wickedness with favor" (Hab. 1:13). "God sits on His holy throne," declared the psalmist (Ps. 47:8), while Psalm 111:9 adds, "Holy and awesome is His name." In 1 Peter 1:16, God Himself declared, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

But on this occasion, the praise is for God's holiness specifically exhibited through judgment. Being holy, God hates sin, and pours out His wrath on it. "Will not His majesty terrify you?" Job asked his would-be counselors (Job 13:11). After God executed some of the men of Beth-shemesh for irreverently peering into the Ark, the survivors exclaimed, "Who is able to stand before the Lord, this holy God?" (1 Sam. 6:20). After Uzzah was executed for touching the Ark, "David was afraid of the Lord that day; and he said, 'How can the ark of the Lord come to me?' " (2 Sam. 6:9). Overwhelmed by his vision of God's majestic holiness Isaiah cried out, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips" (Isa. 6:5).

As believers in Christ, we must understand the holiness of God. If we do not fully comprehend that He is holy, holy, holy, we can fall into the trap of thinking He is just like us. Job was quick to find out that God is not like us.

"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding, Who set its measurements? Since you know. Or who stretched the line on it? On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone, When the morning stars sang together And all the sons of God shouted for joy?

"Or who enclosed the sea with doors When, bursting forth, it went out from the womb; When I made a cloud its garment And thick darkness its swaddling band, And I placed boundaries on it And set a bolt and doors, And I said, 'Thus far you shall come, but no farther; And here shall your proud waves stop?' (Job 38:4-11).

Quote of the Week

"When God is about to do a mighty new thing He always sets His people praying."
-Jonathan Edwards

We can only truly worship God when we understand that he is perfectly holy and we are not. He is not the old man upstairs or our co-pilot. He is God, creator of heaven and earth, and the author and finisher of our salvation, and because He is God we sing:

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!
—Reginald Heber (1826)

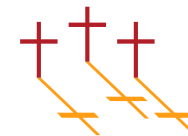
Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

Grace Gems

The Holiness of God
— R.C. Sproul

"When we understand the character of God, when we grasp something of His holiness, then we begin to understand the radical character of our sin and hopelessness. Helpless sinners can survive only by grace. Our strength is futile in itself; we are spiritually impotent without the assistance of a merciful God. We may dislike giving our attention to God's wrath and justice, but until we incline ourselves to these aspects of God's nature, we will never appreciate what has been wrought for us by grace. Even Edwards's sermon on sinners in God's hands was not designed to stress the flames of hell. The resounding accent falls not on the fiery pit but on the hands of the God who holds us and rescues us from it. The hands of God are gracious hands. They alone have the power to rescue us from certain destruction."



Weekly Gatherings

Bible Classes

Old & New Testament Classes
Ladies Class
Young Adults Young Parents
Youth Surge
Sunday Morning @ 9:00AM

Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM Men's Bible Study
1st and 3rd Saturday
Women of Grace | 9AM
Wednesdays | 6:30PM AWANA

Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM
Please check church website
for start date and directions to each

Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team
and need to sign up, please contact the
team leader at the appropriate email
address on the back of this bulletin.

Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM
Youth Study; AWANA & Surge!

Service Times

Sunday Services 10:30AM
Sunday School 9:00AM
Children's Church @11:00AM

Giving from service on 04/21/2024

General Offering 11,578.47
Building Fund 2,680.00
Uganda Missions 260.00
G3 Offering 194.00

Total.....\$14,712.47
Attendance 214
Online.....26
G3 Foreign Missions\$1,591.50

Build the Body Ministries

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org
AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org
Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org
Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org
Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org
Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org
Maintenance-maintenance@ghbcva.org
Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org
Communications-communications@ghbcva.org
Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org
Security-security@ghbcva.org



GRACE HARVEST BIBLE CHURCH

GO GATHER GROW GO

ghbcva.org | 804.561.3742
9821 South Redfield Drive, Amelia, VA 23002

Grace Harvest Bible Church

Apr 28, 2024

Welcome