

Book Tour 2018 (Leviticus)

God is Holy

Leviticus 11:44-45

God's Word is true. God's Word is sharp and good. I will tell others of its great power **so that He will receive all worship and power in our life.**

Introduction: Here is the Book of Leviticus God is giving instructional, it is a very instructional book.

1. In particular to the Levities that is where the name of the book comes from.
 - It is instruction concerning sacrifices and offering and what God is requiring from the priestly tribe of Israel.
 - But the very core of this book is the idea that God is Holy!
 2. That is a fact that is somewhat lost in the contemporary Christian mind set those are just simply words "God is Holy"
 - But God word is very clear that He is indeed holy and that He alone is Holy!
- **The only way to really define Holy is to say that is absent from anything wrong, anything unrighteous, anything that is not good and perfect and clean and pure.**
 - **Up against that test only God remains as thee Holy one!**
 - **So this is what the Paul writes to the Romans 9 What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin; 10 as it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one; 11 There is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God; 12 All have turned aside, together they have become useless; there is none who does good, There is not even one."** Romans 3:9-12
 - So then that leaves man with this dilemma God is Holy and man is not holy so we are separated from God.
 - So God demands an offering a blood offering the old covenant.

- Then the Lord called to Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting, saying, 2 “Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘When any man of you brings an [a]offering to the Lord, you shall bring your [b]offering of animals from the herd or the flock. 3 If his offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he shall offer it, a male without defect; he shall offer it at the doorway of the tent of meeting, that he may be accepted before the Lord. 4 He shall lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, that it may be accepted for him to make atonement on his behalf. 5 He shall slay the [c]young bull before the Lord; and Aaron’s sons the priests shall offer up the blood and sprinkle the blood around on the altar that is at the doorway of the tent of meeting. Leviticus 1:1-5

➤ That was the Old Covenant but listen God has not changed He is still Holy and He demands a perfect sacrifice:

- 6 Now when these things have been so prepared, the priests are continually entering the [a]outer [b]tabernacle performing the divine worship, 7 but into the second, only the high priest enters once a year, not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the [c]sins of the people committed in ignorance. 8 The Holy Spirit is signifying this, that the way into the holy place has not yet been disclosed while the [d]outer tabernacle is still standing, 9 which is a symbol for the present time. Accordingly both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make the worshiper perfect in conscience, 10 since they relate only to food and drink and various washings, regulations for the [e]body imposed until a time of reformation.

11 But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things [f]to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect [g]tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; 12 and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, [h]having obtained eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the

[i]cleansing of the flesh, 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through [j]the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse [k]your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? Hebrews 9:6-14

- The New Covenant in Christ did not changed or diminish God's Holiness in the least it was fulfilled in His Son and through Him we are made holy not of our own works but through the perfect unblemished Holy sacrificial lamb of God Christ!

Transition: So when we look at our text this morning we are looking at instructions to God's people we are God's says to His people "Be Holy for I am Holy"

A. This is what this text tells us as God's people!

I. **The Lord is Our God.** Verse 44

- A. The is a statement that I have heard most of my Christian life "you need to make God the Lord of your life"
 1. Let me explain how that statement is not biblical.
 - God is Lord you don't have anything to do with that and neither do !!
 - Now maybe what we mean by that is that we need to be obedient to the principles of God Word and character which is very true and is a big part of our text this morning but listen God is Lord.
 2. The word lord itself means in absolute control as in absolute control of a family or even a country but when we simply chaptalize the L the Hebrews would pronounce it Adonai.
- **And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."** Revelation 19:16
 - God is Lord He is in absolute control over those who are in absolute control He is Sovereign.
- B. For God's people for the believer He is our God.
 1. He is not our spare tire to be pulled out when things go wrong!

2. He is not a glorified Santa Clause that dishes out gifts if we are good little boys and girls.
 3. He is not a part of our life that is too balanced with everything else in our life He is our God!
 - You see something or someone is the god of your life (Now there is only one God that has been established) and we by our actions do not make God Lord He is Lord but the believer sees Him as God!
 - What you see as the god of your life is what you measure your thoughts and your actions against.
 - What we see as our god of our life sets the standard for what we say, where we go, how we react.
- Of course I see God as the god of my life then listen to what our God says that should look like:
 - **44 For I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. And you shall not make yourselves unclean with any of the swarming things that swarm on the earth.** Leviticus 11:44
 - God is Lord and His people see Him as their God and that directs us in His Holy character.

Transition: People whose Lord is their God are directed to be holy as he is holy need to follow His instruction.

- A. Some would say that we now live in Grace, the New Covenant and we are no longer bound to live according to the principles of God but simply believe that he is God. This Grace does not change God's character and his call to live in it!
 1. His instruction is to consecrate yourself or don't go along with the world.
- **13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace [f]to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 14 As [g]obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were**

yours in your ignorance, 15 but [i]like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; 16 because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." 1 Peter 13-16

II. **Set Yourself Apart.** Verse 44

A. In context the instruction is not to eat thing that swarms or anything else that would make them unclean.

1. The phrase "do not make yourself unclean" although in context is concerning the Levitical priest it continues to be the cry from all scripture to those who belong to God.
2. So how does oneself stay clean, the answer is simple but it is quite frankly it is answer that we don't always want to hear!

■ The command is actually to be Holy as God is Holy.

B. The Command!

1. God instruction is not only to be pure, set apart Holy but to be holy like Him!
- We can't be God so what is it that we are supposed to emulate how about simply living a clean life!

= Keep oneself from unclean things!

- **For I am the Lord your God Consecrate yourself** Leviticus 11:44a
- **And you shall not make yourself unclean with any things that swarm on the earth** Leviticus 11:45b

2. If we examine our lives, take inventory what do we see?

- Do we separation, do we see anything different then rest of the world
- Dare I say even ask do we see the holiness of God in our lives?

C. It is time that believers took a stand lived according to the principles of God's Word!

1. We live in a culture and community where Christianity has be dumbbed down to an event that happens when we decides that we can get out of bed in time to go get inspired that we are ok so we can get through the week!
- Church listen to these words: For I am the Lord Your God, Consecrate yourselves and be holy for I am holy!

Transition: There were some sailors sitting on a ship in a port in the south of Great Britain sometime in the early 1800's and a pastor was sharing this thought about living holy and they told the pastor that is easy for you. Pastor we are faced with temptation that you can't even imagine we are around sin all the time it would be impossible to live that like others that are not exposed to the things that we are.

- To which the pastor responded you see those ships coming and going they are going two different directions but they are in the same wind.
- You see it's not about your circumstances it's about how you set your sails!
- Listen closely We are Free, Free from the Bondage of sin!
- **45 For I am the Lord who brought you up from the land of Egypt to be your God; thus you shall be holy, for I am holy.”** Leviticus 11:45
 - You see what God is telling them I have free you from the bondage of the world and He has done the same for the believer!

III. **We are Free from Bondage of Sin** verse 45

- A. This He tells them that He brought them out of bondage for a reason!
 1. He delivered out of Egypt so they could always be happy and never struggle no that is not what He said He said He delivered them out of bondage to be there God!
 - Church God delivered us from or bondage of sin for His glory!
 - Wow we get this so confused He did not deliver us so that we could prosper in this world!

- He did not deliver us so that we would never struggle or face difficult situations!
- He delivered us from our bondage to be our God!
 - B. I sometimes think that Christianity has forgotten that has forgotten that we have a God!
 - 1. We put so much emphasis on everything else that we forget that everything that we do is for the purpose of His holiness!
 - God did not free us from the bondage of sin for us to sin without repercussion but look around does it look like that is what Christianity is becoming!
 - I'm in I live any way I want because I said a prayer, I believed a word from the preacher but church we have been redeemed, we have been freed from the bondage of sin for Him to be our God!
- If He is not the God of your life then you are not free from your sin!
- **13 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 15 But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. 16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. 17 For the flesh [g]sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you [h]please. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. 19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, [j]factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,**

goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 Now those who [k]belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. 26 Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.

Galatians 5:13-26

2. God said to them I have free you from the land of Egypt to be your God you shall be holy for I am holy!
- Listen to these words 13 Therefore, [d]prepare your minds for action, [e]keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace [f]to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 14 As [g]obedient children, do not [h]be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, 15 but [i]like the Holy One who called you, [j]be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; 16 because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." 1 Peter 1:13-16
 - Yea Pastor but that was under the old Covenant that is old law things are different now!
 - Church that is Peter's word's to the New testament Church!
 - That's us!

Close: Let me close with these thoughts:

- A. It's been said many times from this platform God is God and we are not!
 1. And that is entirely true.
 - God's command is not to be God but to be like Him not in His attributes but in His purity and example given to us in His son Jesus:
- 21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, 22 who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; 23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; 24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His

wounds you were healed. 25 For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls. 1 Peter 2:21-25

- Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, 2 make my joy complete [b]by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. 3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ **Jesus**, Philippians 2:1-5
 - Church leave here today knowing that God is Holy and He calls us to holiness!
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