



## MONDAY 11 APRIL 2016

SERIES: BEHOLD OUR GOD

Read: Psalm 99 & 1 Peter 1:15-16

### **Plug In...**

This week we continue our short series designed to lift our awe and wonder; to behold our God. This week we look at God describing Himself as *holy*. God reveals that *holiness* is at the heart of who He is. *Holiness* is one of the biblical terms that speaks of the very essence of who God is.

Notice those little verbs used in today's readings: 'is' & 'be'. [Grammarians call these 'verbs of being/identity']. 1 Peter 1:15-16 shows there is an interconnection for the Christian between God's identity and our identity; plus an interconnection between our identity and our actions.

### **Chew It Over...**

We're all on a quest to figure out our identity ('who am I?'). People hang all sorts of labels off the statement "I am ..." (the singular of the verb 'is/be'). How do you conceive of yourself? What labels come up? If unsure, mentally list a few actions undertaken in the past 24 hours; now trace them back. What labels emerge? How would identifying as holy like God change actions up?

## **Prayer Suggestion**

Father, you have given us new identities in Christ: a city on a hill, a light, fishers of mankind. Help us to grasp you as holy; transform our identity to image you in all that we undertake. Make us perfect like you are, our Heavenly Father.



The Lakes

TUESDAY 12 APRIL 2016

SERIES: BEHOLD OUR GOD

Read: Isaiah 57:15 & Hebrews 1:3

### **Plug In...**

'God is holy' is repeated over and over in the Bible. Many images and metaphors are used to teach us what holiness entails. There are two main things that mark out what it means to be holy. The first is seen in today's passage: separation or uniqueness/otherness.

'High & lofty' throughout the Bible is not communicating separation in terms of distance but that God is so far above us on a majestic scale, a ruling status, and vale of worth. God is utterly unique and other. Isaiah 57:15 shows that God is transcendent (highest status), but immanent (near and present).

### **Chew It Over...**

What pressure is occurring right now has clamped-down your picture of God. If you have time, read Psalm 139 to have your mind blown to the hugeness and comprehensiveness of God.

## **Prayer Suggestion**

Ask God to enable you to keep faith when reality seems to depict that God is small. Thank God for speaking to you of the currently unseen realities of His holiness. Ask the Lord Jesus to help you preserve by faith as these pressures push in.



The Lakes

WEDNESDAY 13 APRIL 2016

SERIES: BEHOLD OUR GOD

Read: Habakkuk 1:12-13 & Ephesians 4:20-24

### **Plug In...**

The first aspect to God being holy is that He is completely unique to us and far above us in worth. The second thing God's holiness denotes is: absolute moral purity. God is the absolute standard of moral right, and He is morally perfect. He does not tolerate sin and evil (the unholy). God's holiness will judge and remove them.

The wonderful message of grace to unholy sinners is that God does a work to allow sinners to participate in His holiness. This involvement comes about via forgiveness through Jesus' purifying work on the cross (Ephesians 1-3).

### **Chew It Over...**

Take stock now. Are you progressing with radical change in your life given that Jesus' forgiveness has been applied? Compare some recent months or years; month-on-month, year-on-year. Has the purity of the holy God overhauled areas of your life? What area next?

## **Prayer Suggestion**

Thank God for the assurance of one day being fully in His holy pure presence. Petition Jesus to purify that unholy part of your life. Pray for this regularly. Come back in a few months and praise Jesus for answering this prayer.



The Lakes

THURSDAY 14 APRIL 2016

SERIES: BEHOLD OUR GOD

Read: Isaiah 43:1-7 & Philippian 3:7-11

### **Plug In...**

This passage teaches that the Holy One of Israel (v.3) is a saviour that does a powerful work in order that a people can be called by God's name (his holy name) and give Him glory (v.7).

### **Chew It Over...**

A well-known question with response amongst Christians: "*What is the chief end of man?*" "*To glorify God and enjoy him forever*". John Piper (Desiring God) wants to change one word in the answer: 'and' to 'by'. What is the significance of the change?

### **Prayer Suggestion**

God, you are my God; I eagerly seek you; thirst for you, for you satisfy me. Lord Jesus help me hold you with surpassing value as I enjoy life with you forever. May my enjoyment start now as I look forward to resurrection from the dead.



The Lakes

FRIDAY 15 APRIL 2016

SERIES: BEHOLD OUR GOD

## Read: Revelation 4:1-11

### Plug In...

In the book of Revelation, John is given a vision of the reality of things from the vantage of God's throne room. It reads strangely at first because the apocalyptic style is not common today. [Apocalyptic genre draws on lots of images and symbols from the Old Testament and mashes them up as it makes a point.] You have the throne of the Holy one in the centre and whenever the *holy, holy, holy* song is spoken the 24 elders fall down and worship.

This picture shows that meditating on and recognising the holiness of God drives us to worship.

### Chew It Over...

Do you say such things to God? About God to others? Sing and speak these big things with other Christians? If not, where are you going to carve out time to meditate on the majesty and awe of our God?

## **Prayer Suggestion**

Ask the LORD to cultivate worship across your life as you know who He is and see Him as holy. May God inspire you to tell others.



The Lakes

# WEEKEND 16-17 APRIL 2016

SERIES: BEHOLD OUR GOD

Read: Psalm 96 & Hebrews 10:19-25

## Plug In...

This psalm captures the holiness of God. He is far above us in terms of worth, glory, and rule (vv.4-6). As judge He is righteous (absolute moral purity) and will judge the world (v.13). We are offered salvation from His judgement to enter His pure sanctuary (vv.2; 8-9 – *cf.* Hebrews 10:19-25).

## Chew It Over...

What things does the psalm say the person who 'gets' that God is holy will go on to do?

## Prayer Suggestion

Ask the Lord that he will draw you near to God. Ask Jesus to cause you to hold on to these truths. Ask God to give you opportunity this weekend and next week to declare the wonderful work of the gospel to other people.