

## ***“The Holiness of God and the Mortification of Sin” Pt 1***

Colossians 3:1-17

Roger Myers

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**Roger:** Heavenly Father, we come before You today and ask Your blessing upon us all. We thank You for each and every one here. Lord, we certainly lift up Tab to you. We pray that You would just touch her body and continue to help her to strengthen, Lord, as she approaches the time for the next chemo. We pray that You'd be with her and Jeff and the family and the decision whether to continue or not<sup>4</sup>. Lord, You are sovereign over this, and we thank You that You are.

Lord, we also lift up Bruce to You, and we just continue to pray for him and Becky. Just bless them, Lord, and help them. Father, we just ask that You would bless our time here, and as we tackle this weighty subject, that You would remind us that we are the disciples that Jesus loved, and we have a new identity in Christ. We pray all these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Brave Men:** Amen.

**Roger:** So before we get started, if Jeff does listen we have something to sort of try to entice him to come back, because it's only fitting as Jeff sort of spoofs us that we're going to spoof him here a little bit. So many of you may not know that when Jeff talks about body building and weight lifting and stuff that he really was a body builder. And I googled it last night and I really couldn't find anything. But I did come across a little secret archive. A little music, Don?

**Don Maurer:** Yes.

**Transcriber's Note:** Don plays “Pump It Up” by Michael Small from an Arnold Schwarzenegger movie. *(Laughter)*

**Roger:** I don't know. You probably didn't know he was that big at one time. As you can see there, a lot of effort went into that. He's not one to boast about it, but he talks about body building and analogies related to how hard it is to work out and everything. There you go. When he comes back you'll have proof that indeed he knows what he's talking about as far as body building goes. *(Laughter)* So anyhow, Jeff, if you're listening, we took the Austrian oak up there with your head on it. Anyhow, all right. Thanks, Don.

**Don:** Thank you.

**Roger:** So wow! Who knew? *(Laughter)* So anyhow, with the topic today I don't think we're going to get through it all. When I make a presentation I usually put a lot of material together. So this talk is largely based on a men's breakfast I did at Grace. We were studying the attributes of God, and I taught on personal holiness and family holiness. I'm likely to forget it if I don't mention this. It's largely based on Colossians 3 and also John 17. And I would also commend this to you because I'll probably forget this too. There's a really great sermon that you can find on Ligonier by Sinclair Ferguson called “Set Apart.” It was from the 2019 National Conference called “He Is Holy.” And it's based loosely on John 17. I won't get that far. But as I prayed I was listening to that sermon on the way down again this morning. It's pretty powerful as far as our personal holiness and sanctification is concerned. Just to put it into the first-person perspective. You are the disciple that Jesus loved. You are a gift from the Father to the Son.

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I don't know about you, but that one kind of really impacted me. I could have used that for my presentation for the men's breakfast at Grace. So anyhow, a little introduction first. A lot of you may not know me and my background. I started out as a Methodist before I got saved. I got perfectionism wrong; I was far from it. (*Laughter*) I hadn't even really heard about it.

But then, as I progressed to where I am now, I was a Baptist for a while. Then I was in the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church. Then I went to Orchard Hill. They really had a great band there; it was really good.

And then, maybe because of my Methodist background, I was attracted to Christ Church at Grove Farm and the liturgy there. And then ultimately the Lord has led me here. Brave Men was very instrumental—(*Applause*)

**Transcriber's Note:** Jeff Stivason entered the room.

**Roger:** Wow! I can't believe it!

**Don:** Why did we clap?

**Roger:** Jeff is here.

**Ted Wood:** Jeff just came in.

**Roger:** Jeff just came in.

**Don:** Oh!

**Roger:** So we'll have to back up a slide. He missed it. There he is! (*Laughter*) You missed it, Jeff. I couldn't find any pictures of your body building days.

**Jeff Stivason:** There it is now. (*Laughter*)

**Roger:** Aren't you glad I didn't show the calves?

**Jeff:** Yeah. (*Laughter*)

**Roger:** One more thing, Jeff; it wasn't just the picture. Don played music from “Pumping Iron” while that was going on.

**Don:** Believe it or not.

**Roger:** He memorized it' he played it. So as I was saying before Jeff came in, I was talking a little bit about my background. So I was getting to the part where Brave Men was very instrumental in my journey with the Lord. Ligonier was too with R. C. Sproul and “Renewing Your Mind.” In my job I'd drive around a lot and I'd listen to “Renewing Your Mind.” There was something really different about the Reformed theology that really struck true with me. I know many of you may be just whiskey Calvinists—one-fifth or something. (*Laughter*) It doesn't matter where we are; we're all brothers in Christ. Anyhow this presentation will be largely from a Reformed theological point of view. So feel free to speak up; that's kind of where I am in my theology.

So first of all, like I did at the breakfast, does anybody know who that is? I have a copy of *Luther and the Reformation* by R. C. Sproul for who can guess who that man is in the picture there.

**Ted:** The Puritan on the right?

**Roger:** Yeah, the Puritan on the right, not the angel.

**Ted:** Is that John Owen?

**Roger:** Yes, it is John Owen. (*Laughter and applause*) This presentation will be based a lot on John Owen when we get there. But the path that we're going to take today—and we may not get through it; that's why I kind of signed up maybe for Part 2 in September—so this will be the outline for today.

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I’m going to talk briefly about the attributes of God. During the men’s breakfast we went all through the attributes of God, and as I mentioned, I got holiness. So this is it. We’re going to talk about the holiness of God in the attributes. And then we’re going to talk about the Fall just briefly, and the problem of sin. And then we’ll move towards redemption and sanctification, and then the mortification of sin. Oh, not spin! *(Laughter)* “The Mortification of Sin” is something from Grove City College and Dr. Truman; that’s his podcast. But we’ll talk about the mortification of sin towards the end if we get there.

So let’s start out with Scripture. And as Sinclair says in his book *In Christ Alone*, if you have your Bibles turn to Colossians 3, and we’ll read verses 1-17. In Part 6 and chapter 48 of the book *In Christ Alone*, “The Mortification of Sin,” this was Sinclair’s chosen passage to start with.

So the word of the Lord. *“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on the earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.*

*“Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked when you were living in them.*

*“But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices, and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its Creator. Here there is not Greek or Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, Barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all and in all.*

*“Put on, then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Bear with one another, and if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other. As the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.*

*“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”* The word of the Lord.

**Brave Men:** Thanks be to God.

**Roger:** Okay, let’s see here. I put this up front. Even though it sort of hints at the mortification of sin, I just want to say that it’s going to take a little bit of time to get to the mortification of sin, because we’re first going to look at the attributes of God. This is funny that Jeff showed up, because the only systematic theology book I have is Grudham. He lists wrath as an attribute. And yet at the men’s breakfast in January Jeff said that wrath is not an attribute.

So anyhow there are the incommunicable attributes and the communicable attributes of God. Grudham has five categories for the communicable, describing God’s being, mental, moral, for purposes of summary. And all that is to say that holiness is a moral

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attribute of God. So it’s communicable; it’s something that we as believers in Christ can emulate as we seek to reflect His glory. Yes, Don?

**Don:** In one sense I think it’s communicable. In another sense it’s incommunicable.

**Roger:** Okay.

**Don:** That’s because His holiness not only points to His moral purity but His uniqueness, His transcendence. This could be a heresy: wholly other. In other words, there is no one else like Him.

**Roger:** Yes.

**Don:** So I think in that sense that it’s incommunicable. But His moral holiness is certainly communicable, for what that’s worth.

**Roger:** Yeah, right. Okay, does anybody have a comment on that? No? Okay. So the next slide actually borrows a little bit from what Jeff taught in January. So what is holiness? A lot of people would say this. And I was reading through *The Holiness of God* this morning at quarter till five, or whenever it was.

You know, a lot of people say that it’s being separate, right?—separate from sin, purity, like Don was saying; completely devoted to seeking His own honor and glory. But what’s interesting about this—and I’ll draw this contras; I was going to say it anyhow but because Jeff is here—during his presentation he talked about devotion in the Godhead. Actually before creation, in order to be an attribute of God, it would actually have to be before creation. In other words, there couldn’t be any wrath in the Godhead because it was perfect love, right? So it was with Go the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

So as I thought about that I was looking at Grudham’s list last night. I saw that wrath was on the list of moral attributes. I was thinking, well, you know, those ring true. I suppose as theologians it might be splitting hairs to define it before creation. But it does make sense to me that that would be the case. So there couldn’t be any wrath with God until after creation. And then it’s the same thing as a far as being separate. There is no separation in the Godhead. Again there is perfect love amongst the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. So anyhow, that’s kind of interesting. I don’t know if anybody wants to add anything to that or has a question at this point.

**Don:** So on the cross, what happened when Jesus said, “*My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?*”

**Roger:** Yes, what is the answer? (*Laughter*) Did you hear that? Don asked what happened on the cross when Jesus said, “*My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?*” Well that’s a good question. My answer would be that just for that time in Jesus’ humanity God turned His back on Him and poured out His wrath on Him, right?

**Don:** Right.

**Roger:** Yes.

**Don:** It’s a mystery.

**Roger:** So here are a couple of other really quick quotes. Watson talks about holiness as “*the intrinsic purity of His essence.*” A guy named Shedd says that “*He is right in all His actions.*” And Hodge: “*absolute moral perfection.*”

So it’s interesting that in his book *The Holiness of God*, that Sproul doesn’t even really address the definition till he gets to chapter 3. And then he says that it comes out of an ancient word that means “to cut or separate.” Again, the typical thing that we think about is being separate, right?

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I guess that maybe we could look at it differently. As an attribute we could debate that. But I think that after creation we are to be set apart; we are to be holy with that definition, right?

**Ted:** I’m wondering with holiness, if “holy” and “whole” sound alike. Is that just a coincidence?

**Roger:** Yeah.

**Ted:** Because I’ve always struggled with holiness. One part of it is that God is whole and He has no contradictions.

**Roger:** Right.

**Ted:** There is nothing fragmented about God.

**Roger:** No.

**Ted:** He’s whole. He’s holy—wholly whole.

**Roger:** Yeah.

**Ted:** Versus me, who is full of contradictions.

**Roger:** Right. And again—

**Ted:** That may not be accurate.

**Roger:** Right. And the whole purpose of going through the attribute of holiness—and I didn’t say it up front—is to show us who God is. Again, we’re going to talk about sin; we’re going to talk about our fallenness, ultimately leading to our command to be holy. And how do we do that, right? We may not get to the application part till next time. But that’s okay; I think it would be good to continue down this path.

**David Miller:** Hey, Roger?

**Roger:** Yes.

**David:** I was thinking about what was said about before creation. I think we kind of need to be careful to realize that God is eternal and had no need to separate Himself before creation. Separate from sin acknowledges the existence of sin. But even without creation there’s always the possibility of sin. So I think He had the attribute of being separate from sin even before creation. (*Unclear*)

**Roger:** Yeah. I think that was the distinction that Jeff was making in January. That can’t be, right? He had perfection. We need to talk about perfection in all of God’s attributes, right? There’s just no room for that. Thank you.

Okay. Next, I couldn’t help myself. As I was preparing I had all sorts of books at my disposal. I have a quote. You probably won’t hear this kind of preaching at your church any time soon. So I’ll read this quote from “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” because before God’s holiness, and knowing who we are and what the penalty is, it’s pretty powerful and motivating, or it should be, right? So this is right out of his sermon.

*“They deserve to be cast into hell so that divine justice never stands in the way. It makes no objection against God using His power at any moment to destroy them,”* speaking of the unbelievers. *“Yea, on the contrary, justice calls aloud for an infinite punishment of their sins. Divine justice says of the tree that brings forth such grapes as Sodom”—interesting!—“cut it down; why cumbereth the ground?”* From Luke 13:7.

*“The sword of divine justice is every moment brandished over their heads. And it is nothing but the hand of arbitrary mercy and God’s mere will that holds it back.”* So you’re probably not going to hear that this coming Sunday. Yes?

**David:** Before God saved me I was completely deserving of eternal punishment.

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**Roger:** Yes; that’s right. Nobody gets injustice, right? Everybody gets justice. Some of you may remember this too; I heard it on “Renewing Your Mind.” R. C. was with his students, preparing for their education in seminary. If you haven’t heard that story, the students come in with their late papers. And they ask for forgiveness on their exams or tests or papers that were due, and he forgives them. But it comes to the final. And the students hem and haw and say, “We didn’t do this.” And to make a long story short, the one student asks for justice. Well, R. C. gives it to him and he flunks the guy. “Okay then, you get an F.” The point is that nobody gets injustice, right? Yes, Don?

**Don:** And related to that, Ted, you brought this up nine years ago when we did a series on holiness. It’s the reaction of people related to that when they see their sin. Who was it, Rudolph Otto?

**Roger:** Yes.

**Don:** You’re probably going to bring that out too.

**Roger:** No, I didn’t. I could’ve come up with a slide for that.

**Don:** But the reactions of people toward holiness is a combination of dread and terror.

**Ted:** (*A Latin phrase*)

**Don:** Yes. The *mysterium tremendum*, or something like that. And also fascination at the same time. Peter said, “*Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!*” Job, after he complains to God and God really gives it to him, says, “*Now I repent in dust and ashes.*” And that’s kind of what you were saying, too. If we realize how sinful we are and what we deserve, then we know God’s holiness.

**Roger:** Right. Thanks, Don.

**Ted:** Thanks for remembering that.

**Roger:** I read that this morning, Don about Otto. But I was past the point of no return; I couldn’t really put any more in here.

**Don:** Right.

**Roger:** Now let’s look at how the holiness of God is revealed. This is taken from a book called *The Identity and Attributes of God* by Terry Johnson. “*Through His holy law, through His attitude toward good and evil,*” which we just heard in that quote from Edwards’ sermon. “*Certainly through His Son Jesus and through His people, by obeying His holy law and imitating His holy character.*”

Anyhow God is perfect in all of His attributes. And really, for the sake of time, we can’t touch on all of this today. But it’s really important to set the groundwork for us as sinners, and to turn from those sins and then continue to put sin to death, to consider the holiness of God.

So here are some other quotes from that book; I’ll just read them quickly here. Packer said, “*All other attributes are a comment on His holiness.*” Another quote from Jonathan Edwards: “*The excellency and beauty of God’s nature, whereby His heart is disposed to and delights in everything that is morally good and excellent.*”

Here’s a quote by Berkhof. “*That perfection of God in virtue of which He eternally wills and maintains His own moral excellence, abhors sin, and demands purity in His moral creatures.*” And the last one by Mueller: “*Holiness is in a sense the foundation of all His other virtues or excellencies, insofar as God must be characterized by this sacred self-regard or reflexive purity. If He is to be perfect in wisdom, power, justice and mercy,*

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*and if He is to be properly regarded by His creation.”* So with that, the holiness of God, hopefully you kind of feel the weight of that.

We’re going to turn to the problem of sin and the Fall. For sin entered the world through Adam. And the consequences for us as unbelievers, as we already heard about it from Edwards, is eternal punishment.

Anyhow, just a couple of things that I missed that I’ll add quickly on holiness. Romans 7:12 says: *“The law of God is holy, and the commandment holy, righteous and good.”*

Psalm 33:5:

*“He loves righteousness and justice;  
The earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.”*

Psalm 99:9:

*“Exalt the LORD our God,  
And worship at His holy mountain,  
For the LORD our God is holy.”*

Johnson says that *“The strongest language in the Bible is used for God’s hatred of sin.”* Psalm 7:11:

*“God is a righteous Judge,  
And a God who feels indignation every day.”*

And this is a quote from Johnson from his book in chapter 7. *“God hates all who do iniquity—the bloodthirsty, the deceitful, evil and perjury, idolatry. He hated Judah’s unrighteous festivals and feasts. Pride, a lying tongue, murder, false witness, trouble makers and those who hurry towards evil, divorce, sins declared to be abominations.”*

Johnson says that *“sin is compared to the most nauseating, the most revolting, the most offensive things in human experience. It is compared to the smell of the open grave, to a snake’s poison, to the vomit of a dog, and to the mire in which a sow wallows.”* And of course you know that R. C. Sproul calls sin *“cosmic treason.”* So I thought I’d add that before we go on.

Since Jeff is here, he can pronounce the Greek there in Matthew 5: 26 and 27. I’m just kidding. But I wanted to start out, as we start moving into looking at sin and talking about our own sins and the ones that maybe we deal with, that there is probably no one here who escapes sexual sin to some degree, whether even in your mind or outwardly. With the Internet and everything it’s so prevalent with what you can get to with one click. I don’t know about you, but I’m constantly reminded. If you have the Fox News app, I don’t know why it is. But if you scroll down through, sooner or later there’s going to be a picture of some woman in some form of undress, let’s say. It’s titillating, right?

And in that moment, what do you do with that? I’m skipping ahead a little bit to mortification, right? This is a very real situation that happens every day. And that’s the purpose of this slide. It’s not just the act, right? It’s the mental part; it’s the lust part, you know. And where is that line?

Anyhow, in that moment or two, are you going to continue to linger? Or are you going to scroll down and get to the next article? There’s just no escaping it. Yes?

**Ted:** How long are we allowed to linger?

**Roger:** Well, that’s a really good question, because our eyes want to feast on it, right?

**Ted:** When something falls to the floor, there’s the three-second rule. *(Laughter)*

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**Roger:** Yes. I don't know. I don't think that's found in the Bible. I think we know when we're past the three-second rule, right? It's ever before us.

And the other thing that I have learned and that has really been convicting to me is all the other sins, not just sexual sins. Here's a list of them. I don't know if you can see them in the back. But believe it or not, sometimes I can be excessive in putting a presentation together. It took me a little bit of time to type all this out. *(Laughter)* There's a website that you can go to. I don't have it, but it listed 120 different sins. And they're even in alphabetical order for you. *(Laughter)* Most of them. So you know, I don't spend a lot of time looking at them. But just scrolling down through: arrogance, bitterness. And I also forgot to mention, as far as my workout for the presentation, I finally read one of the books I bought at Ligonier. It was called *Respectable Sins* by Jerry Bridges. And the last "Table Talk" had "Sins We Tolerate," which was a complement to that book.

Anyhow, if it's not lust for women, there are plenty of others that we have to deal with. And in fact the thing that struck me is that we don't even ever think about some of them. If you start to think about what is bitterness, for example, or even unholiness or worldliness, in reading Bridges' book you could really start to despair when you go through this list. You think, "I don't even think about these." Yes; go ahead.

**David:** I was thinking that I'm ashamed that I'm so proud of my humility. *(Laughter)*

**Roger:** Yeah. Who is humble enough to say that none of this stuff really comes to mind? And I think there's a danger there. We'll get into sanctification and progressiveness and try to put these things together. But part of the purpose here is just to make ourselves aware of what sins there are, right? Not that we need to despair. I'll lighten it up a little bit and say that positionally all of our sins are forgiven in Christ. So that's our starting point. Yet on the other hand we're commanded to be holy. So we can't just sit idly by and linger for more than three seconds. If you happen to be watching something on TV that's a little bit racey, you know,-- Go ahead, Michael.

**Michael Rush:** In reading those I have a question. I never heard this one.

**Roger:** Yeah.

**Michael:** What is jangling?

**Brave Man:** That's the one I looked at.

**Roger:** Jangling. I don't know. Does anybody have a phone? Do you want to look that up? We can pause it. Jangling? To me it's like jangling coins in your pocket. Does that mean that you have money burning a hole?

**Michael:** Maybe it's vanity.

**Don:** It's like where the Larger Catechism says that what is forbidden in the Seventh Commandment is "*the keeping of stews.*" We can't have beef stew anymore. Is that what that means? It's brothels.

**Roger:** Yeah. But the ones I've been troubled by and knew it and have had to work on more recently are sins of the tongue. If you don't go in and actually look and see the definition of gossip and everything that constitutes that, it really caused me to pause because I think it's so easy for us to do it every day when somebody isn't here and we're talking about them in a negative way. It's best just not to say anything, right? Sometimes you think you're not doing it. "I'm just going to tell you the facts?", right? *(Laughter)* Maybe you shouldn't state the facts if it's in a negative light, right?

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It comes up all the time in my work. I’m with a couple of engineers. I worked on a gas drill and I would deal with people all the time, with other consultants. And when you do I compete with some other people, and you find out all this negative stuff about somebody. Well, maybe this guy gets some work from you. Do you go back to that guy whose your client and say, “Hey, did you know this about this guy?” No, I can’t do that, right? So anyhow, there’s a lot here for sure. Let’s move on. Yes?

**Ted:** I mean, the list is so great that if you really sat and meditated on that list, it’s so overwhelming as just not to do anything.

**Roger:** Yes, it is. You’re almost frozen by “I can’t possibly do all that.” But I look at it this way. That list and the commandments are there to bring attention to our sin, right? And you have to do something about it through Christ. And the next step is to work on it, right?

**David:** I’ve been working on this since the last time Jeff told us to recognize that temptation is the gateway to sin. And if you can recognize temptation, as soon as you do, that’s the time to invoke the power of God. And how I do that is that I thank God for His good power to resist temptation, giving me the capacity against evil thoughts and the desires of the flesh.

**Roger:** Yeah.

**David:** So I’ve found that whenever I recognize temptation occurring today, I look to Christ today.

**Roger:** Yes, that’s good. Yes, that’s a good point. We’re starting to run out of time with the clock on the wall. We’ll skip ahead, and we’ll get back to this sometime in September. But anyhow, your mind is tempted by these things, right? So how do you displace it? You have to replace it with something. And as Chalmers would say, you’re going to expulse that, and you’re going to replace it with an affection for Christ. I’m kind of skipping ahead to the mortification part. So yes, you follow your desires, right? Somehow you’ve got to flip the switch.

And we don’t always do it; I think that’s the thing. It also needs to be said that we’re not going to be perfect in this life, right? But we’re working that way. And there will be ups and downs and everything. We can trip and stumble and fall.

So again, this is interesting. And this is more of a Reformed thing for myself. I don’t know; some of you may not appreciate this, for lack of another way of putting it. These are some quotes from *The Holiness of God*.

R. C. says, “*What are we saved from? We are saved from God’s wrath.*” This is a pretty powerful way to phrase it. And these quotes are pretty powerful, too. “*If we hate the wrath of God, it is because we hate God Himself.*” You’re not going to hear that this coming Sunday in church. “*The unconverted hate God.*”

And then the beauty of something like Romans 5:10: “*But if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son.*” So there’s kind of the antidote, or the start of it, right? Again, Sinclair said in his sermon “Set Apart,” “*We are the disciples that Christ loved. We are a gift from God the Father to the Son.*” And He paid the price and took our wrath, right? To me it’s on an emotional level, if you really stop and think about it.

I’m kind of obsessing here. But lastly, another book I picked up at Ligonier and actually started to read a couple chapters from is *The Evil of Evils*. Has anybody heard of

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it? It’s by Jeremiah Burrows, another Puritan. Like Luther, you may want to flagellate yourself. It’s 67 chapters, 354 pages. It has titles like “This Thou Hast Chosen for Thine Affliction from Job 36-41. The rest of the title of the book is *The Exceeding Sinfulness of Sin.*” In a couple of chapters it says: “*The servants of God have chosen the most dreadful afflictions rather than the least sin.*”

So it’s basically that. He’s going to go through 67 chapters to tell you that you should choose affliction over sin. And that really hit me just even thinking about that, right? And again you see where we’re headed, right? There’s a lot of work involved in putting sin to death in our lives. And with the Puritans it’s almost overwhelming to me as I think about it.

**Ted:** It is overwhelming. It’s not almost overwhelming; it is overwhelming.

**Roger:** It is overwhelming. Yes?

**David:** It’s a monster of the flesh. That’s why you have to work at it.

**Roger:** Yes. It’s just amazing, though, how they came up with stuff. I guess they didn’t have distractions like YouTube and NetFlicks, or whatever. They were always thinking about these things.

So this is starting to get to the good point; it kind of sets up things. *Redemption.* And again I recommend that sermon. And I would also say that if you haven’t listened to Sinclair’s podcast “Things Unseen,” that is really good too. It’s five or six minutes of good stuff. I mean, Sinclair really packs a lot of good solid teaching into five or six minutes.

As Michelle and I do devotions, we’ve run into a bad habit. Sometimes we do it later in the evening. And sometimes I’m just coming off of a cold. We’ll just play maybe two or three episodes of “Things Unseen” and pray because it’s so good. And so if you don’t have a lot of time I would heartily recommend that.

But anyhow these are a couple of quotes right out of his sermon that I chose because it helps us after we’ve wallowed through the sin to look at the redemption side. So in John 17—the High Priestly Prayer—and we’ll read that next time. I was going to read it today, but we’re running out of time. But here are a couple verses. “*I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. All Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.*”

And then verses 17-19: “*Sanctify them in truth; Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate Myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.*”

I don’t know. After thinking about sin I think we need to hear the refreshing words of John about our redemption. Yes, Don?

**Don:** Robert Murray McCheyne said that once you look at your sin, look ten times at Christ.

**Roger:** Yeah. That certainly is the antidote for sin; it’s Christ. Yes?

**Ted:** Roger, I’m just looking there at verse 10.

**Roger:** Yeah.

**Ted:** “*All Mine are Yours.*” That’s His statement. “*And Yours are Mine.*” That’s a statement. “*And I am glorified in them.*” Does that mean that Christ is glorified in us only when we’re putting sin to death, and when we’re living a whole new life?

## ***“The Holiness of God and the Mortification of Sin” Pt 1***

**Roger:** That’s a good point. Jeff’s on sabbatical, so maybe he won’t comment. But I think it’s more positional in my mind. It’s once and for all. And just the act of the Father giving each of us personally to the Son as a love gift; he really donates them in a way. I think the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are all glorified. I think that Jesus is talking about being glorified in them.

**Ted:** Roger, you don’t have to rush through this. If you want to you can pick it up next time you teach and finish it, rather than rush it.

**Roger:** Yeah. I have a tendency to rush. That’s partly because there’s plenty more to come, and I know that. I don’t think I can really get past this part because we usually have pretty good discussion here. So we could talk about this a little bit more about Sinclair’s message on being set apart. Go ahead, Don.

**Don:** I remember several years ago that I read a couple books back to back. It kind of illustrates what you were saying. First of all I read *The Almost Christian Discovered* by Matthew Meade. Don’t read that before you go to bed. (*Laughter*) You will despair. It’s about all the things that people think are the marks of a Christian that may not be. It’s pretty convicting. Then I read another book by Jeremiah Burrows. I forget the exact title: *The Anxious Christian?* But it talked about the comfort that Christ brings. So there’s a balance there.

**Roger:** Yes. We’re not going to rush; we’ll save these for next time. We’ll revisit this and do a little review. I was going to read 1 John 2:15-17, 1 Peter 4:1-11, and 1 John 2:28 through 3.

Let’s focus. I have a few notes that we can add as we close on from Sinclair’s message from “He Is Holy.” He talked about that we need a new identity that leads to a new holiness, and these things go together, which I found very interesting.

Again, I can’t emphasize this enough. Put it in the first person for you. You’re just saying, “I am the disciple Jesus loved. I am a gift the Holy Father gave to the Holy Son.” I don’t know; that really speaks a lot to me, and really at an emotional level.

“Without holiness no one will see the Lord.” Only the sanctified will see the Lord.

And this is kind of neat too. “God focuses all His energies on us to see His glory.” Think about that. All of what Christ did was all for us, to bring us to Him. And we do have a new identity and it does come with new privileges, right? And again, ultimately, as we all know, we don’t only belong to this world, right? We are like pilgrims. We are like Christian passing through on the way to the Eternal City. Our home isn’t here. Wherever we are on the journey, if we’ve taken one of the side paths, whether we’re in the dungeon or in the mire, we need to get out of it, right? We need to use the means of grace and pray. It’s hard work wrestling with sin.

We’re not going to go around the room with confession. But all of us have had a time when we struggle with some kind of sin, whether it’s sexual sin or anything else, or multiple sins, right? But praise be to God that because of Christ and all that God has done for us, we get out of the mire, right? We get out of the Slough of Despond and move on. We have to keep our eyes focused on that straight and narrow path.

**David:** (*Unclear*)

**Roger:** Yes of, because you can get overwhelmed with all of this, right? The unbeliever doesn’t see that. Even though we want holiness and righteousness, despite all our efforts, their3 still filthy rags, right? It’s Christ’s righteousness and not ours. I find

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that comforting, and I think we need to come back to our assurance, right? It's easy to beat ourselves up, because we're going to continue to sin' there's no doubt about it.

Are we making progress? Only each of us here know if we're making progress. Sinclair also talks about that if you want to become holy, God wants to sweep up the room. You've got to clean things up. You've got to take that broom and sweep things up. And it may take a while because that room is really big. If it's dirty you've got to clean it up, right? Anyhow, that's a good place to stop. It's 7:30.

So let's close in prayer. Heavenly Father, we thank You so much that indeed You are a God who loves us. And You sent Your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to pay the penalty, Lord that is due us. And not only that, but because of what Christ did, living a perfect life, Lord, we don't have to stand in our filthy robes before You. You see the robes of Christ and His righteousness. Lord, we are so thankful for that this morning. I pray that You would bless us as we go from this place. Help each of us to put sin to death in our lives. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Brave Men:** Amen. (*Applause*) that's what we need to remind ourselves