

MOTIVATING CHRISTIANS TO BE HOLY

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Last week we read how Christians, as elect exiles are called to be holy in all their conduct in life.

- Peter gives to us one of three motivations for striving to such different lives:
- That God's is holy, since he made you one of his children you are to reflect Him & his holiness.
- Since it is written, it's the Word of God, biblical, THIS IS THE TRUTH OF YOUR LIFE to be like God

READ 1 Peter 1:17-19

ILL – Story about the man eaten by the polar bear after breaking into the San Diego Zoo. He was stone out of his mind on drugs and thought that the bear wanted to be his friend. So he climbed in.

- The drugs made him perceive the bear wrongly. How should he have perceived the bear? Why?
- It would have been healthy for the man to properly fear the bear... respect, dread, careful

Peter giving to Christians of the other two motivations for striving to living holy lives

- **They both stem from our living in fear of God, This is how Christians differ from the world.**

What does it mean to fear God? Isn't God loving, and caring, always forgiving... He's so nice & kind?

- Peter is calling Christians to the OT command to fear God... It is the beginning of knowledge
- To have great respect, reverence & awe of his power, wrath, & holiness. Able to easily destroy
- This is how Christians rightly reflect God in our life by fearing him
- This also why people who are not Christians are living so dangerously
 - They don't fear God... act like he is Santa – Jolly, nice, always giving, never condemning.
 - It is sin that has their minds act like they are high on drugs causing them to wrongly perceive God... So they live as one climbing into the polar bear area.

Why are we to fear God? What we read here is that God is the Judge over the entire universe?

- DO NOT forget this... it is your motivation and path to holiness.
- God is an impartial judge... meaning that none are overlooked, all are judged, judged by the same standard according to what they have done.

How do you think God will judge you when you die? What is the standard he compares you to?

The standard that God uses according to the Bible (truth) compares you against has two parts:

- 1. Holiness (Completely good & righteous) 2. Sin
- Have you done good always and always done what was right? Have you ever sinned?

The way you answer this question reveals if you are a Christians, one who calls on him as father.

- Some say, God will see the good things I have done and that & tried real hard. Plus I never did anything real horrible like kill someone, or robbed a bank.
- This statement is a confession that you do not trust God, and that he is not your salvation.
- You are saying that my good works count and that I can fix my own sin problems.
- Your trust is in your self and your own works and you do not fear God's wrath – he's nice.
- You continue to live a life not fearing God, and humbly obeying him, you live as you want because God is nice and just wants to be my friend.

In reality, all have fallen short of God's standard to pass through judgment.

- Only one has satisfied God's standard of holiness – Jesus, the Son of God sent by God
- Who ever believes in Him, confesses their need for him, and humbly submits to him will be saved.
- Jesus is the ransom payment made for those who believe. To those who believe in him will have Jesus' perfect life pass through judgment for them – so God will see his son.

BELIEVE TODAY AND LIVE RIGHTLY BEFORE IN FEAR AND FOREVER IN HIM EMBRACE IN HEAVEN.

