



HOLINESS

A Divine Way of Living



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LESSON 8

HELL, HEAVEN & HOLINESS: PART 1 of Lesson 8

We have noted in our previous studies that positional holiness is in reference to our position in Christ. All in Christ are Heaven bound. All outside of Christ are bound for Hell. Without Holiness, no man shall see God.

Dave Hunt says: "Most parents have been frustrated (or amused) by a small child's persistent question, "Why?" repeated almost endlessly. Every attempted answer brings yet another inevitable, "But why?" Even young children recognize that there must be a reason for everything. The relentless "Why?" reflects the instinctive search for an ultimate answer beyond which there are no more questions. For some, this natural curiosity begins a search for God, the One who promised, in **Jer 29:13** below:

*Jer 29:13: "Ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall _____ for me with _____
_____".*

Too often, however, the search is never with the whole heart; and what may have begun as honest seeking soon sours for one invalid excuse or another. As children grow older and disappointment turns into cynicism, many lose interest in vital questions and their lives centre around worldly trivia. **The God-implanted spiritual thirst** of the soul for the One who "is love" (1 Jn 4:8) and who **made man for Himself**, and for the spiritual "water of life" that only Christ can give (Jn 4:14; 7:37-39; Rev 22:17), is misunderstood as a thirst of the body for something physical. The material needs oppress spiritual need.

ABSOLUTE TRUTH:

Impressionable students are taught that there is no truth, there are no absolutes, no ultimate answers, everything is relative—so what is the point of anything? (Everyone, they say, has his/her own truth). The gate to eternal life is too narrow for their taste ("O taste and see that the LORD is good" [Ps 34:8] seems mystical, foolish), so they join the multitudes on the broad road "that leads to destruction" (Mat 7:13-14). Life becomes a vain pursuit of fleshly enjoyment for the moment—and many churches, tragically, pander to this deadly obsession with pleasure and fun. They offer shallow, unchallenging teaching to attract the young "to Christ."

OUR HOPE:

There are, however, many unsaved people who cannot escape the **sober realization** that this brief life ends all too soon—and who fear what lies beyond. They **crave** sound answers to serious questions that haunt them in moments of reflection. It's not more trivia that fills daily life that they seek, but the **ultimate answers** to life's

most important questions. It is to these persons that Peter tells us we must be ready *always* to give a "reason" for the hope we have in Christ (1 Pet 3:15). The Lord has led me to many such persons, often the one sitting next to me on an airplane, or an Uber driver, or...who knows?

IS DEATH THE END OR THE BEGINNING?

Most people who have thought seriously about life and death know that God exists. Most people have no real hope of heaven, so would prefer to believe that death is the end. That delusion is easily dispelled. To wait until after death is obviously too late, for "it is appointed unto men once to die, but **after this** the judgment..." (Heb 9:27). For those who recognize that the grave doesn't end one's existence, Satan has other lies such as spirit survival and reincarnation—again easily refuted. It is the thought of judgment and *eternal* punishment that most non-Christians (and even many who claim to be Christians) find **most difficult to accept**. And closely related is the troubling question of why a good God would allow sin and suffering.

Of course, the simple answer is that **God is not** the cause of evil. **Man is**. Yes, but God *allows* evil. Is that any better than causing it? Obviously, there is a huge difference. Only one explanation of the horrible state of this world rings true to conscience and is declared in the Bible. God gave man a free will so that we could willingly and with understanding love Him and each other and not be brutes ruled by instinct; or worse, mere puppets with God pulling the strings. Thus, the only way to eliminate evil from this world would be to annihilate the human race because, as Jesus said, "Out of the heart [of man] proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries..." (Mat 15:19).

1 Tim 4:1-2 "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their _____ with a hot iron;

The damning truth that we are inherently wicked is **not easy to face**. We love to blame everyone else—a trait psychology encourages by teaching that it is never my fault but the fault of parents, society, circumstances, "tough breaks," etc. The first step toward a cure is to take the blame ourselves and willingly face the consequences.

GOD'S JUSTICE DEMANDS PUNISHMENT:

So, man is a sinner, and sin must be punished. What the Bible declares makes sense and every conscience knows it: whatever the penalty prescribed by the law; it must be paid. If God did not punish sin, He would be condoning it. A major problem in our society today is that lack of punishment results in revolving doors on prisons, marriage vows that have become meaningless and are broken with scarcely a twinge of guilt or remorse, no dread of consequences, and little sympathy for others because consciences have been calloused.

1 Tim 4:1-2 "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their _____ with a hot iron;

2 Tim 3:3-4 (NKJV) "Without natural affection, truce breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good. Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God."

This is the world man has made. *It is not the world God created.*

Man was created in the image of God to reflect the very character of God in every thought, word, and deed. **But he was to do so knowingly and willingly, not as a robot or wind-up toy. He had to have a free will so that he could voluntarily and in love fulfil God's purpose for his existence.**

So, until the next lesson, consider the discussion quotes that follow.

Don't miss Part 2 of Lesson 8 of this study in which we find out more about God's love, how to live this love and share it with others.

DISCUSSION:

1. Give an example of what material pursuits oppress the spiritual need in man?
2. Is God the cause of evil? If not, then who is?
3. Highlight and memorise some of the Scriptures we have used in this study.
4. Do you want your life as a Christian to count?
5. What is your purpose in life?
6. What motivates you?

2 Timothy 3:3 & 4
Jeremiah 17:9
