

Eleutheros Newsletter

January 2018

News of Interest

A Spanish translation of The Ramifications of Our Salvation is now complete. The book cover and manuscript have been sent to a missionary in Argentina who will have the book printed and marketed throughout the Spanish-speaking world. Please pray for this outreach. Details about this will be forthcoming in future newsletters!

The needs for Christian literature are great!

Feel free to check out the Eleutheros Books Global Fund:

<https://www.purecharity.com/eleutheros-books-global-fund>

Christian books to very needy people: Africa, India, Russia, the Middle East, and Spanish *speaking countries!*

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Our Savior's Holiness

He had done no violence, neither was any deceit found in His mouth

[\(Isaiah 53:9\)](#).

One of the least emphasized perfections of Jesus is His holiness. It seems that teaching and preaching today would far sooner emphasize His love than His holiness.

It is important, however, that believers in Jesus Christ understand Who He is and what His attributes are *as the Scriptures present Him*.

Consider the cross, for instance. Nobody would question that both the Father and our Lord manifested incredible love when He suffered there to make salvation available to all who believe in Him! It was love that goes beyond our comprehension!

But just as surely, it was an act of holiness!

God the Father *demand*s perfection: *This then is the message which we have heard of Him and declare unto you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all* ([1 John 1:5](#); see also [Leviticus 11:45](#); [Psalm 99:5](#); [Revelation 4:8](#)). This means that a sacrifice that would be acceptable to God the Father had to be perfectly holy!

If Jesus had committed even one sin, His death would be that of another sinner and therefore not effective to secure salvation for anyone.

But praise Him, because He is holy and His sacrifice was perfect!

Here are prophecies pertaining to our Lord's sinlessness and absolute holiness:

[Isaiah 49:7](#): Thus saith the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel, and His Holy One, to Whom *man despiseth, to Him Whom the nation abhorreth, to a servant of rulers, Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship because of the Lord that is faithful, and the Holy One of Israel....*

[Zechariah 9:9](#): *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: BEHOLD, THY King cometh unto thee: He is just, and having salvation: lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt, the foal of an ass.*

[Jeremiah 23:5](#): *I will raise unto David a righteous branch.*

Not only was His righteousness prophesied in Old Testament times, but eyewitnesses found Him to be holy as well.

1. The Apostle John declared that He was *full of grace and truth* ([John 1:14](#)). His “grace” is an indication of His great love; His “truth” is an indication of holiness.
2. Pilate, the Roman official who washed his hands at the mock trial of Jesus ([Matthew 27:24](#)), questioned His wrongdoing ([Mark 15:14](#)) and ultimately found that there was “no fault” in Him ([Luke 23:4](#)).
3. Even demons recognized immediately that Jesus is holy: when He came into a synagogue on Sabbath, He encountered a man who was possessed with demons who *cried out with a loud voice, Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with Thee, Thou Jesus of Nazareth? Art Thou come to destroy us? I know Thee Who Thou art, the Holy One of God* ([Luke 4:33b-34](#)).

Jesus’ righteousness has important theological ramifications also. We do well to consider these clearly revealed facts.

1. His sinlessness is imputed to believers: *For He hath made Him to be sin for us, Who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him* ([II Corinthians 5:21](#)). Theologically, this is positional sanctification and justification.
2. His sinless blood is the basis of our redemption: *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ* ([I Peter 1:18](#)).
3. His sinless sacrifice reconciles believers to God that Father. *For Christ also hath one suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit* ([I Peter 3:18](#); see also [Romans 5:10](#); [II Corinthians 5:18-19](#); [Ephesians 2:15](#)).
4. His sinlessness made it possible for Him to be an effective High Priest on behalf of believers: *For we have not an High Priest which cannot be touched with the feelings of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin* ([Hebrews 4:15](#)).
5. The fact of His holiness made other sacrifices (performed in Old Testament times) unnecessary: *For such an High Priest became us, Who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people’s; for this He did once, when He offered up Himself* ([Hebrews 7:26-27](#)).

Here are some concluding thoughts on His holiness:

1. *If ye know that He is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of Him* ([I John 2:29](#)).

2. *Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord* ([Hebrews 12:14](#)).
3. Many seem to have the idea that holiness is simply abstinence from sin, simply understanding only a part of the truth as it is revealed in Scripture.

This idea is true, as far as it goes, but the reality of holiness is that it also involves *closeness to Jesus*.

But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin ([1 John 1:7](#)).

Note these relevant quotes from Paul's epistle to the Philippians:

Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ ([Philippians 1:6](#)).

According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether by life, or death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain ([Philippians 1:20-21](#)).

For it is God Which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure ([Philippians 2:13](#)).

Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for Whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I might win Christ, And be found in Him, not knowing my own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith ([Philippians 3:8-9](#)).

For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ ([Philippians 3:20](#)).

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus ([Philippians 4:7](#)).

These verses give us great insight into Paul's close walk with Jesus. We surely need to have confidence in how He is working in our lives; we need to make Him the focus of our lives; our holiness does involve work and effort, but it clearly is accomplished by God's grace and a faith that He honors in our lives; our thinking should be on Christ and heavenly things; we have much to rejoice over and should do constantly; we should enjoy the peace He provides us; and we need to appreciate the fact that God will supply our needs, particularly in difficult times.

These eternal truths, properly understood and applied, will draw us closer to Him every day, producing the holiness He has demonstrated to us and wants to see manifested in our lives! To Him be all the glory!

Holy, Holy, is What the Angels Sing

Johnson Oatman

*There is singing up in heaven
Such as we have never known;
Where the angels sing the praises*

*Of the Lamb upon the throne.
Their sweet harps are ever tuneful
And their voices always clear.
O that we might be more like them
While we serve the Master here!*

*So, although I'm not an angel,
Yet I know that over there
I will join a blessed chorus
That the angels cannot share;
I will sing about my Savior
Who upon dark Calvary
Freely pardoned my transgressions,
Died to set a sinner free!*