

PREACHING THE OLD PATHS PT 1

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“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein. 17 Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken. 18 Therefore hear, ye nations, and know, O congregation, what is among them. 19 Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it.” Jer 6:16-19

I would like to speak on the subject of, “Preaching the Old Paths.” I will take a week or two from our studies on, “What Doth the Lord Require of Thee.” The reason I want to preach on this subject is that on this day 24 years ago I was voted in as pastor of this church. In the evening of December 29, 1989 I was voted in as pastor of this church. Thus, I would love to preach this morning those truths I have preached with joy.

I cannot believe it's been 24 years and may God by His grace and goodness give me another 24 years. I do hope to plan something for my 25th anniversary next year and ask some pastors and men who have had an influence on my ministry to come and celebrate with us. The only thing I would change from 24 years ago is that I wish I knew then what I know now. I knew nothing of the ministry and everything that came with it, but God did and He has carried me these past 24 years. It has pass in the blink of an eye and I have 2 things to say: God is Good and God is Great! Not only do I thank God for His faithfulness in sustaining me though out these 24 years, but I also thank my wife and our children for their support. I also thank Brother Ben for his faithfulness to God, to this church and to me these 24 years; I couldn't have asked for a more faithful co-laborer than you, thank you my dear brother and your family. I also thank your wife Lalay for her faithful playing of the guitar in our services for these 24 years and your children also for their support of me. Then of course those you who have been faithful members of this church for many years and those who have joined recently I thank you also. There's much more to say, but I must also preach this morning. There are 2 books that had a great impact at the commencement of my ministry:

- Regardless of the Cost by W.F. Bell
- Today's Gospel: Authentic or Synthetic by Walter Chantry.

These 2 books really set forth the foundation for my ministry as they both challenged my heart as to how I was going to shape my ministry in its preaching and in its methodology. These 2 books so convicted my heart in that I knew I was in a straight as to what I must do, because I knew that this type of preaching would not bring in the crowds and I had to

feed my family. Thus, I worked two jobs to sustain our family needs and pastored full time. But beyond the convictions of men and their writings, God had already pricked my heart and conscience and these 2 books just confirmed what I knew God meant when He clearly embedded in the depths of my soul, Gal.1:10, *“For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.”* I felt like a man on an isolated island and I knew it was going to be a long journey, to which I have no regrets except my own short comings and sins. This verse in Gal.1:10 shaped my ministry because I knew I only had 2 choices: Preach to please men or preach to please God and I knew that the two were diametrically opposed one to the other. I knew if I preached to please men, I wouldn't please God and I knew if I preached to please God I wouldn't please men. Thus, I knew, regardless of the cost I would cast my lot with God and therefore, my preaching would be to glorify and please God and to humble the hearts of men. Man does not enjoy being humbled because pride kicks like a mean donkey. I knew also that one day, I would face God and all the praises and accolades of men would mean nothing and on the other hand no matter how awful and hurtful the onslaughts and assaults of man and Satan in their wounding of my spirit would be I thank my God because I knew it wouldn't be mortally! Amen and Amen and thus, I have cast my lot with God and so I must finish my course by the grace, goodness and strength of God! I want to face God without any regrets! If I stay the course I must by all means preach the old paths.

Preaching the Old Paths means that I will not please men, because man is always interested in something new. By God's grace I have sought to preach the old paths for the past 24 years and by His grace I will seek to preach the old paths until Christ comes back or until I die.

Notice our text again in Jer.6:16-19 again, *“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein. 17 Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken. 18 Therefore hear, ye nations, and know, O congregation, what is among them. 19 Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it.”* Jer. 6:16-19

Thus saith the LORD is a phrase used 415 times. Of those 415 uses of those it is used 159 times in Jeremiah alone with Ezekiel following close behind at 129, in these 2 books this phrase is used more than half of all its usage!

Thus saith the LORD, basically means, God has spoken, God has said. This phrase is immersed and employed in the authority and power of God, when it says “thus saith the LORD,” we better take heed how we hear and what we hear in true spiritual application!

Now, if what is said and meant by this phrase is true, that is; “thus saith the LORD” comes with the authority and power of God, then; it must beyond all means be the minister’s message! Thus saith the LORD, means in big bold letters: GOD SAID! So when Jeremiah uses it here in Jer.16:6, it is fixed and rooted in the power and authority of God and therefore we must hear and accept what Jeremiah is saying to us: “*Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways...*” The word stand in the Hebrew means to remain, to stay and to endure to stand forth and present oneself before God. It gives the connotation to attend upon by holding on to one’s ground. It basically means, taking a stand. The word ways means the way, a road, a manner, the path or direction in a journey. Thus, I must take a stand in my path or if you wish journey, that is; I must take a stand for God by proclaiming with heaven’s authority; “Thus saith the LORD!” “...*stand ye in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls.*” This is so powerful and so true, that is; we must be in the business of preaching the OLD PATHS, where in no doubt is the good way and therefore we must walk in those truths where we shall find rest for our souls. It’s in verses 17 - 19 that breaks the heart: “*But they said, We will not walk therein. 17 Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Harken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken. 18 Therefore hear, ye nations, and know, O congregation, what is among them. 19 Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it.” This no doubt describes the heart and attitude in our day, America has made it very clear that they will not walk in the ways of God and will not hearken to the God’s Word, God’s Law, but will fully and yea consciously reject it. The sad thing is that many churches follow a close second. Regardless of the response of the people I must STAND in the way and proclaim: THUS SAITH THE LORD with all authority and conviction.*

To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about God and what He has been pleased to reveal to us in His Word. No doubt that there are many truths set forth in the Bible, but I’ve rounded these into 6 specifics. It doesn’t mean we cannot add more, yes we can for there are many glorious truths in the Bible, but in regards to man’s eternal state we must I believe preach on these 6 important truths! I have in the past 24 years preached constantly on these 6 important truths:

- 1. To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about God.**
- 2. To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about Man.**
- 3. To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about Salvation.**
- 4. To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about Christ.**
- 5. To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about Word of God.**
- 6. To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about Doctrine.**

I must preach these truths without wavering and in heavenly authority and settled in a sobering conviction, by DECLARING THUS SAITH THE LORD!

There are several things that I must preach if I am to preach the OLD PATHS but for now we shall consider these 6!

1. The first thing I must preach if I am to preach the Old Paths I must preach the truth and old paths about GOD! We have in the past 24 years put much emphasis on the attributes of God which is so desperately needed in our day. On the other side of the coin please don't be surprised if you happen to hear things that I have preached on before. Now, if I am to preach the Old Paths I must preach the truth and old paths about GOD and thus we preach without apology about the Living and True God which is the God of ETERNAL EXISTENCE! Not some God of our own imagination, but about the Living and True God! We preach a God who is self-existing and self-sufficient, that is the Aseity of God! The word Aseity derives from the Latin which means: a = from and se = oneself and therefore means from one-self, that is; being from oneself having existence derived from itself and having no other source. This is the God we preach.

How does that Bible you hold in your hands begin? What are the first 4 words in the Bible, "In the beginning God..." When Moses asked God in Exodus 3, "*whom shall I say hath sent me?*" God REPLIED, "***I AM that I AM...***" Not I was, will be or try to be, but I AM the eternal God, that is, I am the self-sufficient God, I am the self-existing God! When we preach the Old Paths we preach about the SOVEREIGN God, not some weak or failing God, but an Omnipotent and SOVEREIGN GOD! We preach a SUPREME and ABSOLUTE God who is Sovereign in SALVATION as He declares assertively and affirmatively in Romans 9:15 & 16, "*...I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. 16 So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.*" Verse 18 – 21, "*Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth. 19 Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will? 20 Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? 21 Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?"* This is the God of the Bible and this is why men don't like to think about God or talk about Him, because He will in no wise bow down to the whim and will of any man, but will execute His purpose without man's input for He saith to Isaiah 46:9-11, "*Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: 11 Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far*

country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.” We preach and stand firmly on a God who is an immutable and unchanging Almighty!

We will spend the rest of our time on this next point. We preach a God who is a righteous and just God. When we speak about a God who is righteous and a just God, we are speaking about the HOLINESS of God. To preach the Old Paths is to preach the truth about God’s Holiness! Now, because God is a Holy God He must execute justice, else He would not be God. Again in Exodus 3 when Moses saw the burning bush that would not be consumed he turned aside to see and check it out and God responded in Exodus 3:5, where God told Moses, “...Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is **holy ground**.” Don’t ever forget my dear brethren when you stand behind this pulpit, please remember that it is holy ground, not because it’s a special pulpit anointed with holy water or something of man, no but because we are speaking and teaching: **THUS SAITH THE LORD** in the presence of God! It’s holy ground not because of man or because of this church, but because of the God we represent! Interesting that the first time the word holiness is found in the Bible is found in our precious chapter of Exodus 15, where the song of the redeemed is sung. Exodus 15:11-13, “Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? **who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?** 12 Thou stretchedst out thy right hand, the earth swallowed them. 13 Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people which thou hast redeemed: thou hast guided them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation.” In the New Testament, consider these two verses, Revelation 3:7, “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith **he that is holy**, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth.” Revelation 4:8, “And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty**, which was, and is, and is to come.”

No question that of all the attributes that are set forth in the Bible, the one emphasized the most is the holiness of God which is gloriously and powerfully set forth. Again, you don’t have to agree with me in my assessment. Now, by no means am I saying or indicating that all the rest of God’s attributes are less in quality or inferior, no, but that every attribute of God is, for lack of a better word or description, enhance or intensified by His Holiness, that is, if we speak of God’s love, it is a HOLY LOVE, if we speak of the justice of God, we speak of a JUST HOLY God, if we speak on the wrath of God, it is a HOLY WRATH! The attributes of God are like the spokes in a wheel, the hub is His Holiness which affects each of the attributes of God. Ps.145:17, “The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy **in all his works**.” If God saves a sinner, it is a holy work, if He damns a sinner in hell it is a holy work, everything He does is Holy, Righteous and JUST! This is why He has to judge sin, because He is a HOLY GOD, Hab.1: 13, “Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity...” This is the God of the Old Paths that must need to be preached. But after listening to the teaching and preaching of our

day you would think that the love of God is the chief attribute of God. Case in point, I was reading an article on the subject last night on; "What does the Bible teach about Eternal torment." Notice the answer as I quote in complete disagreement, *"We will consider first scriptures which are used to teach God's consignment of evil men to eternal torment as a punishment for not repenting and turning to him. Do not think that a study of such scriptures is an elemental one. Although convinced that eternal torment is a false, God-dishonoring doctrine, many mature Bible Students cannot readily explain away the scriptures which are used to support the doctrine. One scripture 'used very often by 'fundamentalists' to 'prove' the doctrine of eternal torment is Revelation 14:10,11: "He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb; and the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever, and ever; and they have no rest day nor night." The very first question we must answer is this: Does the doctrine of eternal torment harmonize with the stated character of God? No, DECIDEDLY it does not. Therefore there must be another way of interpreting this scripture other than as a literal statement of fact. There are innumerable scriptures which teach that love is one of the principal characteristics of God's character—the essence of his very being, but we will cite only one: I John 4:8,18: "God is love. ... There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear, because fear hath torment." So, because God is love, he is incapable of tormenting his creatures. To torment anyone, good or evil, is entirely foreign to God's character. It is contrary to his thoughts. He simply would never think of it. It is an abomination to him."* How sad that many believe this lie out of the pit hell, as Satan asked Eve, "Hath God said..." He pipes into the ears of many self-deceived and self-deluded people, "Has God really said that there is a hell and eternal torment?" We must preach a God of Holiness to man, we must be faithful in proclaiming this precious attribute of the holiness of God, yea we must preach the true and holy gospel.

We preach the holiness of God, because a sinner cannot experience the consolation or love of God without first experiencing his condemnation before God. When a sinner sees the holiness of God he will see his awful sinfulness. We preach a God who cannot show His love at the expense of His holiness and we preach a God who cannot show mercy at the expense of His truth and therefore only AT CALVARY can mercy and truth meet and righteousness and peace kiss one another!

The problem with our generation is that there is no fear of God before their eyes because they have heard preached a weak and defeated God. They have heard preached a failing God and a false God. Paul Crouch on TBN would laugh and make light in speaking on God being the greatest failure of all, he found out a few weeks ago that the weak and false god he preached was not the God of the Bible and that the Living and True had not failed in anything! So sad that many have heard about a defeated and disappointed God, a god whose hands have been tied who has no eyes except your eyes and no hands except your hands has no feet except your feet, this is such an injustice to God. Man has heard a god preached who cannot do anything unless you allow him to have his way. The problem is because man has not heard about the OLD PATHS which preaches about a Holy, Omnipotent and Sovereign GOD!

Lest I be misunderstood about the love of God let me just say this about God's love, His love is one of the most blessed attributes found in the word of God. Without the love of God, no sinner would be saved, for it was His love that

motivated Him to save sinners. In His decree of predestination, the love of God is set forth in the work of salvation. Eph.1:3-5, "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: 4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.*" I believe that in the Greek verse 4 ends with the word him and then in verse 5 it begins, 'in love having predestinated us.' Thus, the love of God is seen in the giving of His only begotten Son on the cross for sinners. We do not deny the importance of the attribute of God's love, but as much as we enjoy the blessing and assurance of God's love for His people, the Scriptures emphasizes the holiness of God above and beyond the love of God. The Bible is God's revelation of Himself to us and He reveals Himself in His holiness. Do you know that the first and last song sung in the Bible speaks of the holiness of God, not His love? I don't think that there is a song in the Bible of God's love. I am just making a point regarding the holiness of God and not attacking the love of God. When the Apostle John got a glimpse of God, what did He see and hear the Angels proclaim regarding God? He saw the same thing Isaiah saw in Isaiah 6, and Revelation 4. On two separate occasions we see the Seraphim's in heaven singing, HOLY, HOLY, HOLY. Not, Almighty, Almighty, Almighty, nor Merciful, Merciful, Merciful, or Powerful, Powerful, Powerful or Glory, Glory, Glory or LOVE, LOVE, LOVE, no, but instead we read HOLY, HOLY, HOLY!!! This is the only attribute of God spoken like this, 3 times in a row. It is repeated for emphasis not just to take up space. Some believe that it is repeated 3 times to make emphasis on the glorious Godhead, of the Father, son and Holy Ghost! Not only this, but the Holiness of God, that is, that truth that our God is HOLY, is used more often as a prefix to God's name than any other attribute.

When God speaks of His Spirit, it's the HOLY Spirit or HOLY Ghost and when speaking of His Son, He is called the HOLY ONE! God is called the Holy one 48 times in the Bible, 29 of those are alone in the book of Isaiah. God is called the Mighty one 4 times in the Bible, interesting to note that not once do you find the phrase, the LOVING ONE or the LOVING GOD in the Bible. Now, do not misconstrue my words, I am not trying to make light of the love of God, my point is, that when emphasis is always on the LOVE of God without acknowledging or mentioning the Holiness of God something is wrong with that person's theology. Now, I understand clearly if the subject is the Love of God, but when sinners are only told about the love of God and never once told about the holiness of God, you have an unbalance gospel. In other words, I'm just saying that there is something wrong with a gospel which chiefly espouses the love of God and never is something mentioned about the holiness of God. God salvation is based on His love, but my dear brethren, God's salvation is also based on the HOLINESS of God! I'll get back to this in a moment, but let me define the holiness of God; I'll give you my definition of holiness and then quote some others: God holiness is

His nature, it is His character and He could not be God unless He is HOLY. Holiness is but the perfection of deity. God is infinitely Holy; there never was a time He was not Holy, nor, will there ever be a time that He is not Holy. God is so holy that He describes Himself as a consuming fire, Deut.4:24 & 9:3 and Hebrews 12:29. God is essentially and morally holy, for in Him there is no darkness at all, this is why He is also called light. Out of all His attributes this is the only one in which He swears by, Ps.89:35, “Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David.” God holiness is far above any of His created being whether they are angels or man. The Holiness of God makes man uncomfortable because it exposes their sinfulness. When you consider the glory and brightness of the Sun at high noon, it is nothing compared to the intrinsic Holiness of GOD! If the created sun can blind you, what can you say about God holiness? Yes to preach the old paths is to preach the truth about God and this truth includes His glorious HOLINESS!

Listen to others as they share on the holiness of God. First, A.W. Pink says, “*God only is independently, infinitely, immutably holy...God’s holiness is manifested in His **works**...in His **law**...**at the Cross**...Because God is holy He **hates all sin**. He loves everything which is in conformity to His law, and loathes everything which is contrary to it...Unregenerate sinners cannot conceive of God’s holiness, much less begin to believe in it. Many, then, presume that God’s character is one-sided, that His merciful disposition will override everything else, and thus there is no cause for much alarm....They think only of a “god” patterned after their own evil hearts. Hence their continuance in a course of mad folly...The “god” which the vast majority of professing Christians “love” is looked upon very much like an indulgent old man, who himself has no relish for folly, but leniently winks at the “indiscretions” of youth...Because God is holy, acceptance with Him on the ground of creature doings is utterly impossible...But blessed be His name, that which His holiness demanded His grace has provided in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* Secondly, Thomas Watson says, “*God is holy transcendentally. ‘There is none holy as the Lord.’ I Samuel 2:2. No angel in heaven can take the just dimensions of God’s holiness. The highest seraphim is too low of stature to measure...holiness in God is far above holiness in saints or angels.*”

Back to our statement that there is something wrong with a gospel which chiefly espouses the love of God and never is something mentioned about the holiness of God. The nature and character of God necessitates a certain kind of salvation which is centered around and in harmony with God’s moral character. This is why Paul makes that powerful point regarding the gospel in Romans 1:16 & 17, “*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17 **For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.***” In the gospel is proclaimed the righteousness and holiness of God, which is why, we must be careful to maintain an unadulterated gospel, because when you lower the standard of the gospel you lower the standard of who God is. Salvation is a work of God based also on His Holiness. This is why when preachers sugar coat the gospel they water down the gospel and whether they realize it or not they are

basically lowering the standard of the righteousness of God in the gospel. This is also known as an easy believism gospel. As salvation is also based on God's holiness, His justice is equally based on His holiness. Deut.32:4, "*He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment (or just): a God of truth and without iniquity (or injustice), just and right is he.*" This is why Paul is so bold in declaring the gospel there in Romans 1:16 & 17, then in Romans 3:26 he hits the nail on the head for he says, "*To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness (His justice): that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.*" Because of His holiness and righteousness, God is the just and justifier of those who believe in Jesus. Because God is holy He must act in justice, this is why He sent His Son to die on the cruel cross of Calvary, that is, sin had to be judge on Christ, in behalf of all those whom He has saved and will save, so that God the Father would be free to forgive sinners and still maintain His holiness, His righteousness and His justice, because Christ satisfied all the holy demands of the Father and thus, God can be the JUST and JUSTIFIER of all those who believe in Christ Jesus.

It is not that God just arbitrarily forgives sins, because He is some giant Santa Claus in heaven, NO SIN MUST BE JUDGE, because of His Holiness and therefore SIN WAS JUDGED AT THE CROSS! Not one speck of His Holiness was affected, because sin was dealt with, justice was satisfied. That is the whole issue between you and God this morning if you are outside the Lord Jesus Christ, your sins and if you die in that condition, that is, die in your sins without Christ, HIS HOLINESS demands, His RIGHTEOUSNESS proclaims and His JUSTICE declares that you should be punish without mercy or grace in the awful darkness of the pit of hell. In John 8:24 Jesus Christ told those religious Jews, "*I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.*" This is the worst thing that can happen to you, dying in your sins. How awful is that, to die in you sins, in all your sins, every single one of your sins? Dying in your sins and then facing an IMPECCABLE HOLY GOD! This is why we must preach an old paths unadulterated and pure gospel and in doing so we proclaim and set forth the righteousness and holiness of God. Again, we must understand something of the holiness of God. God is essentially and inherently HOLY! That is His nature because He cannot but be HOLY. When the Bible sets forth the holiness of God it means that He is completely free from all sin. God totally and perfectly hates all that is sin. Ps.5:4 - 6, "*For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee. 5 The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity. 6 Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing: the LORD will abhor the bloody and deceitful man.*" God loves all that is right and good. Ps.11:7, "*For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright.*" Both of these aspects of His holiness are set forth in Scripture, that is, hating sin and loving righteousness. We also see this in Ps.45:7, "*Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness ...*" If you die without Christ you will be met with God's Holy WRATH and with God's Holy HATRED! We saw a few weeks ago that Paul preaching at Mars Hill warned his hearers to repent so that they would not

fall into the judgment of God, Acts 17:30 & 31, "...but now commandeth all men every where to repent: 31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness ...". God is perfectly holy in every aspect of His being, I love what the Puritan Thomas Brooks said, "God's holiness and His nature are not two things, they are but one. God's holiness is His nature and God's nature is His holiness." Hanna praying in 1 Samuel 2:2 make this blessed truth known, "There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God." No one can be compared to God, not his angels, not any human being for there is none holy as the LORD! We are all sinful and God is all holy. This is why both in the Old Testament and New Testament we are told, "Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy." 1 Peter 1:16.

Now this is the blessing of salvation, you see God makes us righteous at salvation because He imputes the righteousness of Christ to us, not because we have any righteousness of our own. Any holiness we have, that is, those whom God has saved, is by the imputation of His righteousness. Therefore man is only holy in a relative sense, because God alone is holy in the absolute sense.

We saw earlier that in Exodus 3, when Moses met with God in the backside of the desert, he experienced the awesome glory of God's holiness. Moses was instructed to remove his shoes because God's presence was there and His holiness affected that bush and the ground around it, Ex.3:5, "...Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is **holy ground**." God did not try to make Moses feel comfortable, God did not try to make Moses to feel at ease or relaxed or to feel happy and giddy, oh no. God cause Moses to know and realize His Holiness! In other words it made Moses UNCOMFORTABLE! Most people don't want to approach a God that makes them feel uncomfortable. I purposely left off reading earlier in order to make the impact here in Ex.3:6, "Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And **Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God**." Think about that for a moment. We live in a time and day when many religious preachers try to make church a place for people to feel comfortable with God.

When God came in contact with His people, whether it was Moses, Daniel, Joshua, David, Isaiah or even the Apostle John in the island of Patmos, they all felt uncomfortable and were afraid being in the presence of God. Remember what would happen if a person entered in the holy of holies in the temple, they would immediately be struck dead. But in our day, preachers want to make people comfortable to hang out with Jesus; you know Jesus He is a good old boy. Even the worship services are set forth with the style of music and vocabulary about God to increase a comforting feeling about God. Dim the lights a little bit, make the atmosphere right, make everyone feel good. How contrary to what happened with Moses at the burning bush. God did not seek to make Moses comfortable or

have a happy feeling; no God wanted Moses to be in awe and in reverence to Him, to His holiness.

When God meets with His people He is not interested in making them feel good and comfortable, no, no, no, but to have a holy reverence for Him. Look at Joshua 5:13-15, “*And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? 14 And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant? 15 And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.” What shall we say about Isaiah 6:1-6. Can you imagine Isaiah saying something like, cool Lord, wow this is neat, but this is the mentality of our day because we have lost something of The Holiness of God, God help us. You see when you get in the presence of God and see and feel His holiness you will see your SINFULNESS, this is what Isaiah felt and said, woe is me! Oh to God that you would get a glimpse of His holiness so that you can see your sinfulness. Oh to God that you would see something of the holiness of God. None of the judgments of God upon wicked man like the fire and brimstone that fell upon Sodom and Gomorrah or like the plagues that fell upon Egypt, or the awful flood of Noah’s day can demonstrate the holiness of God like the death of His Son upon the cross. Turn to Matthew 27:34-46; 47-54. It was the holiness of God that came between the separation of the Father and the Son. God is Holy and when sin was laid upon His Son, He had to separate Himself from His Son. This is why God again is the just and justifier of all those who believe in Jesus Christ because judgment and righteousness met at the cross, in Psalms 97:2, it says, “*Clouds and darkness are round about him: righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne.*” When Christ died at Calvary justice and mercy met at the cross.*

Therefore, if you are outside Christ, if you are lost, this is your only hope this morning, laying hold the Son of God, Jesus Christ. Acts 4:12, “*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*” You do not want to die in your sins and meet an Immutable Holy GOD!

To preach the OLD Paths is to PREACH the TRUTH about God which includes His Holiness!

Oh my dear ones you do not want God to be fair with you, oh no my dear ones if God dealt with fairness He would put us all in hell, no you want God to deal with you in SOVEREIGN MERCY!

Oh dear sinner friend, come in repentance towards God and in faith towards the Lord Jesus Christ. Let’s Pray. Sing Isa 6:1-6