

## *Disciple of Christ Study: Lesson 8 Holy is the Lord*

**Purpose of study:** *Live life as a disciple of Christ and intentionally make disciples for the glory of the triune God. A disciple is a “student” or “follower” who learns, studies, and acts in accordance to the teachings of Christ, the Master.*

### **Lesson 8: Holy is the Lord (Day One) *God is Holy***

We learned in *Lesson 7, Worship in Christ*, that worship is expressing in attitude or gesture our complete dependence or submission to God. He welcomes our worship in Christ Jesus, who made us holy by His death and resurrection. Holiness and worship are integrally (essential to completeness) related.

We studied God’s holiness in the *CLI Leadership Bible Study (Lesson 12)*. Holiness means that God is set apart on His heavenly throne and set apart from sin. He casts a vision of divine brilliance and majesty. He is pure. He is perfect. He is exalted above all.

The fact that God is pure and good leads us to praise and worship Him. We are thankful that God has no hint of sin or wrongdoing. He is faultless and morally perfect in every way.

1. How would it affect your trust in God if He did not mind telling a few “white” lies or bending the truth sometimes?

**\*\*See end of lesson for repeat of questions and blank spaces for you to write your answers.**

2. Would you like to fall down and worship God if He were selfish, cynical or bitter?  
Yes No (Circle One) Explain your answer:

God is truthful, perfectly good, merciful and compassionate. He is gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness. Therefore we can trust God and rest in His word.

**Definition:** Holiness is a divine attribute of God. It means that He is set apart from all that is impure or morally wrong. He is perfect and deserves adoration and reverence. Holiness is also used to describe persons, places and things which have been set apart by God and used for His purposes.

*This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. 1 John 1:5*

3. Read 1 John 1:5. Why should the fact that God is light (holy) and in Him there is no darkness (sin), cause your mouth to open in praise and thanksgiving?

God is the builder of everything (Hebrews 3:4) and has designed the world according to His holiness. It is an excellent system created from God's good and perfect nature (Genesis 1:31). Satan infiltrated (entered) the good earth and darkened it.

Without God, no love or goodness exists. Perhaps you have heard a nonbeliever joke that he would rather go to hell with his friends than be in the company of the religious in heaven. Or perhaps he is not joking and really believes that hell will be a more enjoyable place than heaven. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Hell is separation from God; it will be totally void of any goodness or comfort. Therefore a sinner will not have any friends, only enemies. Friendship will not exist. Laughter will not exist. Not a moment's peace will be possible.

Anyone who goes against God and His system or world structure is a sinner. This person brings damage and chaos into a good and ordered design. God does not want this unholy person in His heaven or in His presence. God went to great lengths to help us understand His holiness. We need to understand that He is sacred. He alone is worthy of worship, praise and veneration.

**4.** Suppose you owned a successful business. It provided a useful service for customers and jobs for many employees. Customers were happy and so were the employees who earned a good wage. You had designed your business to be a good and peaceful place to work. You set up rules to assure the workplace would remain that way. One day, you discovered that one of the employees was breaking your rules, stealing from the business, harassing (troubling) other workers and speaking badly about you and others. What would you do?

We break many of God's rules everyday. Our sinful thoughts, words and actions disrupt God's ideal workplace. God's rules can be thought of as His will revealed to us both in the Old and New Testaments.

The first five books of the Old Testament or Pentateuch contain the Law (rules, commandments, judgments, decrees or customs) that God gave Moses for the Israelites. You may be familiar with the Hebrew word *torah* that is regularly translated law in the Old Testament. The Israelites were to obey and follow God because He had freed them from slavery and led them out of Egypt.

“Later development in Israel's history gave an expanded meaning to *torah*. By New Testament times *torah* meant not only the Old Testament Scriptures (the written Law), but also the oral law (unwritten law) of Israel as well. The religious leaders developed in applying the written Law to new life situations. This oral law is sometimes referred to as 'the tradition of the elders' in the New Testament (compare Matthew 15:2; Mark 7:5; Galatians 1:14).”<sup>1</sup>

**Read Deuteronomy 11:26-28 and answer questions 5-8:**

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<sup>1</sup> Butler, Trent C., Holman Bible Dictionary, p.866.

*See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse--<sup>27</sup> the blessing if you obey the commands of the LORD your God that I am giving you today;<sup>28</sup> the curse if you disobey the commands of the LORD your God and turn from the way that I command you today by following other gods, which you have not known. Deuteronomy 11:26-28*

5. What did God say would happen if the Israelites obeyed His commands (v. 27)?

6. How would you define a blessing (v. 27)?

God's blessing on humankind begins with His felt presence. A blessing from God means that He is near and has not withdrawn His presence. We may know God is close when He meets our physical and emotional needs. Through His blessing, we experience God's goodness.

As a believer and disciple of Christ, we are assured of God's continual blessing as His Spirit, Christ's Spirit, lives within us. We have faith, no matter the circumstance, He is with us. God works out all things for our good, molding us into the image of His Son (Romans 8:28-29). And that is truly a blessed life!

7. What did God say would happen if the Israelites disobeyed His commands (v. 28)?

8. How would you define a curse (v. 28)?

Humans curse others by asking God or false gods to send injury or catastrophe to them. When God pronounces a curse, it is a condemnation of sin. He is judging sin. He might also state the consequences and suffering that one might suffer as a result of a particular sin or sin in general.

Our sins are a direct assault on God's holiness. If we do not grasp the importance of holiness, we might miss the gravity of our wrongful actions. We need to understand God's holiness in order to understand why Jesus had to die for our sins and the incredible beauty of being "in Christ."

**Read Leviticus, chapters 17-26 and answer questions 9-13:**

9. Why do you think biblical scholars have named these chapters the holiness codes?

10. Choose and list the key verse in these chapters that summarize the main thought.

11. What did God say or impress upon you as you were reading the holiness codes?

*For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life. Leviticus 17:11 (Atonement - the reconciliation (bringing together) between God and humanity)*

12. Meditate on Leviticus 17:11 and memorize it.

13. Whose blood made atonement for your life and makes you holy?

**Lesson 8: Holy is the Lord (Day Two) Righteous is the LORD**

*Righteous are you, O LORD, and your laws are right.* Psalm 119:137

**14.** Read Psalm 119:137. Whose laws are right (correct and true)?

**Definition:** The Hebrew word that we translate righteous in English is *tsaddiyq* (צַדִּיק). It is the standard for what is correct and just. *Tsaddiyq* also means doing what is ethically right and administering justice and punishment.<sup>2</sup> The Bible tells us that it is not right for the guilty to go unpunished (Nahum 1:3).

**Read Psalm 145:17. Answer questions 15–18:**

*The LORD is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made.* Psalm 145:17

**15.** Who is righteous?

**16.** In what ways is the LORD righteous?

**17.** Who is the LORD righteous and loving toward?

**18.** Write a definition of righteous in your own words:

God is righteous. He is morally perfect. He is separate from all defilement (corruption). He loves justice and the righteous will see His face (Psalm 11:7).

*There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins.*  
Ecclesiastes 7:20

**19.** Read Ecclesiastes 7:20. Is there or has there ever been a righteous human being on earth who has never sinned? Yes No Maybe (Circle One)

Remember: Jesus was not *just* a human being. He was fully man *and* fully God. Therefore Ecclesiastes is not referring to Jesus but to mankind. Although Jesus was tempted and could have sinned in His human nature, He never did (Matthew 4:1-11 and Hebrews 4:15).

**Read 1 Corinthians 1:30-31 and answer questions 20-24:**

*It is because of him (God) that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God-- that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.<sup>31</sup> Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord." 1 Corinthians 1:30-31 (Parentheses by author for clarification)*

**20.** How do we get our right and holy standing before God (v. 30)?

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<sup>2</sup> Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew & English Lexicon, p. 841

21. Can you take credit for your own salvation or anyone else's (v. 30a)? Yes No (Circle One)

22. Who should get credit for a person's being in Christ Jesus (v. 30a)?

**Definition:** To boast is to speak pridefully of or call attention to something impressive that someone has or has done.

23. What is the only proper way to boast?

We cannot brag on anyone or anything, including ourselves. Everything good comes from God and it is He who deserves the credit. He has given us the most precious gift in the universe: His Son, Jesus Christ.

24. Write your own boast in the Lord:

### **Lesson 8: Holy is the Lord** (Day Three) *Unrighteousness*

God is honorable, fair and impartial in all of his dealings and actions toward mankind. He is consistently righteous and His laws are perfect. For justice to prevail, men and women must be made to conform to His moral rightness in conduct and attitude. If we fail to live up to God's standards God must judge us and hold us accountable. If He let the guilty go unpunished, He would not be just and honorable. He would be weak and ineffective in ruling and ordering the universe according to a holy standard.

*The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness,<sup>19</sup> since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. Romans 1:18-19*

25. According to Romans 1:18-19 what is plain to all men and women, even those who suppress the truth (v. 19)? Why is knowledge about God plain (v. 19b)?

*Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them. Romans 1:32*

26. Read Romans 1:32. What do people who do not follow God's righteous decree deserve?

**Definition:** Wrath is the emotional response to perceived wrong and injustice. It includes adjectives such as anger, fury, rage, irritation and indignation. The wrath of God is the righteous response to sin and injustice and it should be viewed with fear and dread.

*Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Ephesians 5:6*

27. Read Ephesians 5:6. What is God's righteous response to those who are disobedient?

**Read Romans 5:8-10 and answer questions 28-29:**

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.<sup>9</sup> Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! Romans 5:8-9*

**28.** How does God demonstrate His love for us (v. 8)?

**29.** How are we saved from God's wrath (v. 9)?

*"Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life." Matthew 25:46*

**30.** Read Matthew 25:46. Where will the unrighteous go? But where will the righteous go?

**Read John 16:8-11 and answer questions 31-33:**

*When he (Counselor, Holy Spirit) comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment:<sup>9</sup> in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me;<sup>10</sup> in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer;<sup>11</sup> and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. John 16:8-11 (Parentheses by author for clarification)*

**31.** Who convicts the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment (v. 8)?

**32.** Who is the prince of this world that now stands condemned (v. 11)?

**33.** What people will be judged in regard to their sin (v. 9)?

*He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. <sup>9</sup> They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power<sup>10</sup> on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you. 2 Thessalonians 1:8-10*

**34.** Review this day's lesson and read 2 Thessalonians 1:8-10. Why must God punish sin?

**35.** How would you answer someone who said they did not think God was good or fair?

### **Sin is Unrighteousness**

All people are conceived in sin (Psalm 51:5). We inherited sin and our sin nature from Adam and Eve, who disobeyed God and broke His law by eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:16-17 and Romans 3:23, 5:12-21). This was man's first betrayal but it was not his last.

Before we start blaming Adam and Eve for the first sin and what it did to the human race, we should examine our own lives. We would have done no better. In fact, as Christians with the fullness of the Holy Spirit guiding and leading us, we still fall short.

Sin is a betrayal against God. It is violating (breaking) His trust. When we sin against God we become traitors and guilty of treason against God's holy system, against His kingdom. Our wrong-doing is a personal attack on God and His righteous, holy and just character. In talking about God's character let us not forget that God is a Person. He created us for relationship. He walked in the Garden with Adam and Eve in the cool of the day. They and all mankind have a unique relationship with YHWH. He is our Creator, our Maker. He is more than a parent, spouse or child. He is more precious and more worthy than any person on earth or in heaven.

**36.** Have you ever been betrayed by a family member or close friend? How did it feel?

Question 36 might have reminded you of a person that has or is still sinning against you. You might be thinking about the nasty betrayal; the lies, deceit, rejection and misery. That is just a tiny glimpse of our unfaithfulness to our Maker. We are guilty of ultimate betrayal. Yet, God in the flesh, was willing to die for us. He accepted our treason into His body on a cross. He made atonement for our life (Leviticus 17:11) and died for the wretched and the unworthy. He died for you and me.

*The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain.*  
Genesis 6:6

**37.** Read Genesis 6:6. What does the LORD experience when man betrays or sins against Him?

The closer the relationship, the deeper the pain of betrayal. Betrayal consists of disloyal and unfaithful words and actions. Here is a person that you are supposed to be able to trust, but it is just not happening.

God used the prophet Hosea in his marriage to Gomer to get the Israelite's attention and help them understand their own betrayal of Him. Hosea was a prophet in the middle of the eighth century B.C., the final years of the northern kingdom. It was a time when the Israelites were unfaithful to God. Instead of praising the one, true living God, they credited their source of life and abundance to Canaanite gods (idols).

The LORD told Hosea to marry Gomer, a woman who would become an adulterous wife. She went after other men and credited them with giving her good things like food and clothing. It was a difficult and painful time for Hosea, but he continued to trust God.

Then the LORD told Hosea to show his love to this unfaithful wife. *Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes* (Hosea 3:1). At this time Gomer had become a slave, and Hosea had to buy her back with fifteen shekels of silver.

Hosea told Gomer that she must not be a prostitute nor be intimate with any man and he would live with her again. Through this relationship God showed Israel that He still loves her and will take her back into relationship. However, Israel must put away the idols and recognize God as her only provider.

38. How might God be using an earthly experience of betrayal to impress upon you a spiritual truth or lesson?

39. How has your own sin and betrayal towards God caused Him grief and pain?

40. How has God forgiven you and restored you to a holy and joyful relationship?

**Lesson 8: Holy is the Lord** (Day Four) *Holy Power*

**Definition:** Power is defined in three ways. *First*, it is the ability or capacity to do something or act in a particular way; *second*, it means to direct or influence the behavior of others or events; and *third*, power is the ability to exert physical strength or force by something or someone.

The Greek word *dunamis* (δύναμις,) is translated power in most English translations. In addition to meaning power, it also means strength; miracle, miracle worker, supernatural power(s), the power of God; ability, capacity, means and significance.

Holy power is supernatural. It comes from God and is used for God's purposes. When we are given the ability or capacity to do something, we should always reflect its source back to God. Even if the ability seems small or insignificant, it is not for our self-satisfaction or honor, but for the glory of God.

In the same way, we do not receive influence or physical strength for people's admiration, love or fear. We can even take this principle further and say that our natural talents, personality or physical attributes are not given to us for approval, respect or popularity. They are to be used for God's plans and glory. In addition, we should thank God every day for the abilities, talents and physical traits that He has given to us.

In the prophetic book of Revelation, seven angels praise God through the song of Moses and the Lamb. It reminds us that God's righteous acts will be revealed and He will be worshipped for them. Yes, great and marvelous are His deeds.

*and sang the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb: "Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages.<sup>4</sup> Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed." Revelation 15:3-4*

41. Read Revelation 15:3-4. Join God's holy angels in praising Him through this song and write out one sentence of praise:

**Read Luke 1:35 and answer questions 42-44:**

*The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you (Mary), and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God." Luke 1:35 (Parentheses by author for clarification)*

**Definition:** Overshadow means to cast a shadow over or fall upon.

42. Who is the angel Gabriel talking to?
43. How was Jesus, the Son of God, conceived in Mary's womb?
44. Why do you think Gabriel referred to Jesus as the holy one?

**Read Acts 10:38 and answer questions 45-48:**

*how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.*  
Acts 10:38 (anoint - set apart and empowered)

45. In what way did God anoint Jesus?
46. What did Jesus do with His anointing of the Holy Spirit and power?
47. Who was with Jesus?
48. Who is with you and what will you do with your anointing of the Holy Spirit and power (Reference: Acts 1:5, 8 and 2 Corinthians 1:20-22)?

**Read Ephesians 3:16-19 and answer questions 49-52:**

*I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,<sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,<sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,<sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-- that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

Ephesians 3:16-19

49. The apostle Paul is praying for the saints at Ephesus. How does he ask God the Father to strengthen them (v. 16)?
50. What is the reason Paul is praying for the Ephesians to be strengthened with power through God's Spirit in their inner being (mind and will) (v. 17)?
51. What does Paul pray in vs. 18-19?
52. Your CLI discipler will pray Ephesians 3:16-19 for you. Please pray it for the men or women that you are discipling. How is this an effective prayer for power?

**Lesson 8: Holy is the Lord (Day Five) *Be Holy***

*But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; <sup>16</sup> for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." 1 Peter 1:15-16*

**53.** Read 1 Peter 1:15-16. What does it mean for *you* to be holy?

The Apostle Peter commands believers to be holy in all that we do. The reason he gives this command is because God is holy and calls His people to be holy also (Leviticus 11:44, 19:2, 20:7). God is separated and set apart from the common sphere. He is pure and perfect.

God may call anything or anyone into His service and for His purposes. Recall, the ground where Moses was standing was called holy and the Sabbath was set aside as a holy day (Exodus 3:5, 16:23). When we consecrate or separate ourselves for God's use, we undertake a different life, an uncommon and holy one.

**Read Hebrews 2:9-11 and answer questions 54-57:**

*But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. <sup>10</sup> In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. <sup>11</sup> Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. Hebrews 2:9-11*

**54.** Who is crowned with glory and honor because He suffered death so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone (v. 9)?

**55.** Who is the author of our salvation (v. 10)?

**56.** Who makes men and women holy (v. 11)?

**57.** Is Jesus ashamed to call you brother or sister (v. 11)? Yes No Maybe (Circle One) Explain your answer:

**Read Colossians 1:22-23 and answer questions 58-61:**

*But now he (God) has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation--<sup>23</sup> if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant. Colossians 1:22-23 (Parentheses by author for clarification)*

**Definition:** Reconcile means to restore friendship or harmony between two parties.

**Definition:** Free from accusation means without fault or wrongdoing.

**58.** How are you presented holy, pure and free from accusation in God's sight?

**59.** What is the condition for being presented before God holy, pure and without fault (v. 23a)?

**60.** How does one continue in his or her faith? (References Hebrews 12:1-3 and 2 Peter 1:3-11)

**61.** What are you doing to become a servant of the gospel like the apostle Paul (v. 23c)?

A holy life is one that is distinct from the common sphere. As soon as we trust Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we are separating ourselves from the world and dedicating our lives to God. We are accepting Jesus' sacrifice for payment for all of our wrongdoing. Positionally, we are made holy and perfect in God's sight. In other words, God looks upon us as holy.

Although we have been justified (declared righteous), there is still a holy process going on in our hearts and minds. This process is called progressive sanctification (make holy). It is progressive in that it happens or develops gradually or in stages. We proceed step by step to become more like Jesus both in our thoughts and actions.

The disciple recognizes God's purity and perfection and cooperates with the Holy Spirit in the sanctification process. The Holy Spirit convicts of sin and helps us to confess with godly sorrow. He intercedes for us in accordance with God's will and helps us to conform to the holy image of God, the Son.

Remember how we studied the New Covenant (DOC Lesson 6) and the great and precious promises that we have in Christ. Hopefully, you are reviewing those on a regular basis as well as God's terms. It is through faith in God and His promises that we get all the help we need to be transformed into the image of Jesus Christ.

**Read 2 Corinthians 7:1 and answer questions 62-63:**

*Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.*

2 Corinthians 7:1 (Contaminate - make impure; corrupt)

**62.** Examine your own heart. Are there things that you are doing or thinking that are contaminating your body and spirit? How can your CLI Discipler pray for you in this regard?

**63.** Why do we want to perfect holiness?

Holiness is being set apart to do what God has willed. His Word, the Bible, tells us a lot about this. It also gives us examples of saints who followed God even under seemingly strange and difficult circumstances.

God has an individual calling on our lives. We are gifted and called in unique ways. I have been called to make Christian materials and discipleship studies available for men and women in prison. It started simply by God using Christian books in my own walk with Him. Then God planted the desire in my heart to see others helped through these materials. I did not set out to be in prison ministry.

CLI started with a hundred books at a local YMCA. Step by step, or by increments, God moved us along to where we are today. You might call this an "incremental calling." As we obeyed and followed God in the small things, He increased and expanded our work.

Not that it is always easy. Even the small things can be difficult. There is tragedy in this world. But no matter how hard and painful our life journey may seem, we are still assured of having the grace to flourish in every good work. While God is working on our inner lives, He is also working through us so that others will give Him thanks and praise.

About 460 B.C., Esther was chosen by King Xerxes of Persia to be his queen. Almost like a fairy tale, an edict had gone out for the king's commissioners to go into his provinces to gather all the beautiful maidens to be presented to him. He would then choose one of these virgins to be his wife. They were taken to the palace where they were given beauty treatments for twelve months.

Esther was descended from the Jewish people exiled (banished, sent away) from Judah at the end of the 6th century B.C. God had used Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, to scatter the Jews for their unfaithfulness. Although they learned the language and customs of their new country, a faithful remnant did not forget God.

**Definition:** Remnant is defined as a remainder or something left over. The biblical definition for remnant refers to the righteous people of God remaining after divine judgment.

Esther's cousin, Mordecai, had taken her as his own daughter after her parents had died. Although he could do nothing to stop the king's commissioner from taking Esther, he was concerned for her welfare. He told her not to reveal her Jewish heritage and she willingly followed his instruction.

At the king's palace, Esther won the favor of all who saw her. When she finally met King Xerxes, she won His favor also. He was very attracted to her and set a royal crown on her head.

However, the Jews had an enemy close to the king. His name was Haman, and he was enraged that Mordecai would not kneel before him and pay him honor. Haman lied to the king and told him the Jews did not obey the laws and therefore they should be destroyed. He manipulated the king into sending out orders that all the Jews were to be killed on a single day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month.

While the Jews were in great mourning over this tragic turn of events, Mordecai sent a message to Esther explaining what had happened. He urged her to go into the king's presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people. She sent a message stating the fact that anyone, including the Queen, who approached the king without being summoned would be put to death. The only exception for that life to be spared would be for the king to extend his gold scepter.

**Read Esther 4:12-14 and answer questions 64-68:**

*When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, <sup>13</sup> he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. <sup>14</sup> For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"* Esther 4:12-14

**64.** Can anyone ever attain a position of power, wealth or social standing that insulates (protects) them from world or disastrous events (v. 13)? Yes No (Circle One)

**65.** What does Mordecai believe about God's ability to save (v. 14a)?

**66.** What might happen if Esther does not risk her life and go before the king (v.14b)?

**67.** Write Mordecai's words that encourage Esther in her unique calling (v. 14c):

**68.** How is God uniquely calling you?

**Read Esther 4:15-17 and answer questions 68-70:**

*Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: <sup>16</sup> "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish." <sup>17</sup> So Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther's instructions.* Esther 4:15-17

**69.** How does Esther rely or depend on God (v.16)?

**70.** As Esther accepts her holy calling, how is her attitude and character transformed?

**71.** What has to change in you as you accept your holy calling?

**Definition:** Mantel is an important role or responsibility that passes from one person to another:

Esther takes up her mantel and seeks God's advice and favor through fasting. Mordecai had been used by God to raise Esther in a holy manner, notify her of the Jews' death sentence and to encourage her to use her royal position for good. Now it was time for Esther to take over.

Esther acts decisively and instructs Mordecai and her people what they are to do. She is no longer concerned for her safety or her life. She accepts her unique calling and is willing to die if necessary.

When Esther enters the inner court of the palace, the king holds out the gold scepter. Having spent three days with God in fasting, Esther has a plan. She invites the king and Haman to a special banquet that has been prepared.

A series of events occur but at the God-appointed time, Esther makes her petition for her people. She reveals her heritage and that because of Haman, even her life would be taken. The king was

furious and had Haman hanged. He also gave the Jews the right to assemble and protect themselves against their enemies. Thus, the lives of the Jews were saved and they give God praise even to this day through the holiday or festival known as Purim.

**Read 2 Timothy 2:20 and answer questions 72-73:**

*In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble.<sup>21</sup> If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.* 2 Timothy 2:20-21 (Noble - righteous and good; ignoble - unrighteous and immoral)

**72.** How can you prepare yourself to be an instrument for noble purposes (v. 21)?

**73.** How can you prepare yourself for good works (v. 21)?

*The high priest carries the blood of animals into the Most Holy Place as a sin offering, but the bodies are burned outside the camp.<sup>12</sup> And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood.<sup>13</sup> Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore.* Hebrews 13:11-13 (Disgrace - shame, abuse and insult)

**74.** Read Hebrews 13:11-13. Now that you have been made holy through Christ's blood, how are you bearing the disgrace He bore?

As we end this lesson, please remember that believers have been made holy by Christ's sacrifice on the cross. This is our position before God. But that does not mean that our responsibilities are over or that our choices do not matter. Christ's death and resurrection does not change us into robots.

God is honored by our willingness to follow. The more we give ourselves over to God and allow the Holy Spirit free rein in our lives, the more we will grow spiritually. And spiritual maturity equals holiness.

**75.** How are your disciples (learners) progressing in their relationship with Christ?

**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS Lesson 8**

**CLI Disciple of Christ Study: Holy is the Lord**

**Return your answers to your Discipler for discussion and review.** Include a personal letter with your answers. This study is designed to forge a close, yet professional, friendship between you and your Discipler. Even short notes help bridge the distance and connect hearts in Christ.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Institution: \_\_\_\_\_ Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

1. How would it affect your trust in God if He did not mind telling a few “white” lies or bending the truth sometimes?\_\_\_\_\_

2. Would you like to fall down and worship God if He were selfish, cynical or bitter?

Yes No (Circle One) Explain your answer:\_\_\_\_\_

3. Read 1 John 1:5. Why should the fact that God is light (holy) and in Him there is no darkness (sin), cause your mouth to open in praise and thanksgiving?\_\_\_\_\_

4. Suppose you owned a successful business. It provided a useful service for customers and jobs for many employees. Customers were happy and so were the employees who earned a good wage. You had designed your business to be a good and peaceful place to work. You set up rules to assure the workplace would remain that way. One day, you discovered that one of the employees was breaking your rules, stealing from the business, harassing (troubling) other workers and speaking badly about you and others. What would you do?

5. What did God say would happen if the Israelites obeyed His commands (v. 27)?\_\_\_\_\_

6. How would you define a blessing (v. 27)?\_\_\_\_\_

7. What did God say would happen if the Israelites disobeyed His commands (v. 28)?\_\_\_\_\_

8. How would you define a curse (v. 28)?\_\_\_\_\_

9. Why do you think biblical scholars have named these chapters the holiness codes?

10. Choose and list the key verse in these chapters that summarize the main thought:

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11. What did God say or impress upon you as you were reading the holiness codes?

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12. Write Leviticus 17:11 from memory without looking at notes:\_\_\_\_\_

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13. Whose blood made atonement for your life and makes you holy?\_\_\_\_\_

14. Read Psalm 119:137. Whose laws are right (correct and true)?\_\_\_\_\_

15. Who is righteous?\_\_\_\_\_

16. In what ways is the LORD righteous?\_\_\_\_\_

17. Who is the LORD righteous and loving toward?\_\_\_\_\_

18. Write a definition of righteous in your own words:\_\_\_\_\_

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19. Read Ecclesiastes 7:20. Is there or has there ever been a righteous human being on earth who has never sinned? Yes No Maybe (Circle One)

Remember: Jesus was not *just* a human being. He was fully God and fully man. Therefore Ecclesiastes is not referring to Jesus but to mankind. Although Jesus was tempted and could have sinned in His human nature, He never did (Matthew 4:1-11 and Hebrews 4:15).

20. How do we get our right and holy standing before God (v. 30)?\_\_\_\_\_

21. Can you take credit for your own salvation or anyone else's (v. 30a)? Yes No (Circle One)

22. Who should get credit for a person's being in Christ Jesus (v. 30a)? \_\_\_\_\_

23. What is the only proper way to boast? \_\_\_\_\_

24. Write your own boast in the Lord: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

25. According to Romans 1:18-19 what is plain to all men and women, even those who suppress the truth (v. 19)? Why is knowledge about God plain (v. 19b)?

(a.) \_\_\_\_\_

(b.) \_\_\_\_\_

26. Read Romans 1:32. What do people who do not follow God's righteous decree deserve?

\_\_\_\_\_

27. Read Ephesians 5:6. What is God's righteous response to those who are disobedient? \_\_\_\_\_

28. How does God demonstrate His love for us (v. 8)? \_\_\_\_\_

29. How are we saved from God's wrath (v. 9)? \_\_\_\_\_

30. Read Matthew 25:46. Where will the unrighteous go? But where will the righteous go?

\_\_\_\_\_

31. Have you ever been betrayed by a family member or close friend? How did it feel?

\_\_\_\_\_

32. Read Genesis 6:6. What does the LORD experience when man betrays or sins against Him?

\_\_\_\_\_

33. How might God be using your earthly experience of betrayal to impress upon you a spiritual truth or lesson? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**34.** Review this day's lesson and read 2 Thessalonians 1:8-10. Why must God punish sin?

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**35.** How would you answer someone who said they did not think God was good or fair?

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**36.** Have you ever been betrayed by a family member or close friend? How did it feel?

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**37.** Read Genesis 6:6. What does the LORD experience when man betrays or sins against Him?

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**38.** How might God be using an earthly experience of betrayal to impress upon you a spiritual truth or lesson?\_\_\_\_\_

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**39.** How has your own sin and betrayal towards God caused Him grief and pain?

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**40.** How has God forgiven you and restored you to a holy and joyful relationship?

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**Lesson 8: Holy is the Lord** (Day Four) *Holy Power*

41. Read Revelation 15:3-4. Join God's holy angels in praising Him through this song and write out one sentence of praise: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

42. Who is the angel Gabriel talking to? \_\_\_\_\_

43. How was Jesus, the Son of God, conceived in Mary's womb? \_\_\_\_\_

44. Why do you think Gabriel referred to Jesus as the holy one? \_\_\_\_\_

45. In what way did God anoint Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

46. What did Jesus do with His anointing of the Holy Spirit and power? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

47. Who was with Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

48. Who is with you and what will you do with your anointing of the Holy Spirit and power (Reference: Acts 1:5, 8 and 2 Corinthians 1:20-22)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

49. The apostle Paul is praying for the saints at Ephesus. How does he ask God the Father to strengthen them (v. 16)? \_\_\_\_\_

50. What is the reason Paul is praying for the Ephesians to be strengthened with power through God's Spirit in their inner being (mind and will) (v. 17)? \_\_\_\_\_

51. What does Paul pray in vs. 18-19? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

52. Your CLI discipler will pray Ephesians 3:16-19 for you. Please pray it for the men or women that you are discipling. How is this an effective prayer for power?\_\_\_\_\_

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**Lesson 8: Holy is the Lord** (Day Five) *Be Holy*

53. Read 1 Peter 1:15-16. What does it mean for *you* to be holy?\_\_\_\_\_

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54. Who is crowned with glory and honor because He suffered death so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone (v. 9)?\_\_\_\_\_

55. Who is the author of our salvation (v. 10)?\_\_\_\_\_

56. Who makes men and women holy (v. 11)?\_\_\_\_\_

57. Is Jesus ashamed to call you brother or sister (v. 11)? Yes No Maybe (Circle One) Explain your answer:\_\_\_\_\_

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58. How are you presented holy, pure and free from accusation in God's sight?\_\_\_\_\_

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59. What is the condition for being presented before God holy, pure and without fault (v. 23a)?

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60. How does one continue in his or her faith? (References Hebrews 12:1-3 and 2 Peter 1:3-11)

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61. What are you doing to become a servant of the gospel like the apostle Paul (v. 23c)?

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62. Examine your own heart. Are there things that you are doing or thinking that are contaminating your body and spirit? How can your CLI Discipler pray for you in this regard?

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63. Why do we want to perfect holiness?\_\_\_\_\_

64. Can anyone ever attain a position of power, wealth or social standing that insulates (protects) them from world or disastrous events (v. 13)? Yes No (Circle One)

65. What does Mordecai believe about God's ability to save (v. 14a)?\_\_\_\_\_

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66. What might happen if Esther does not risk her life and go before the king (v.14b)?

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67. Write Mordecai's words that encourage Esther in her unique calling (v. 14c):

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68. How is God uniquely calling you?\_\_\_\_\_

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69. How does Esther rely or depend on God (v.16)?\_\_\_\_\_

70. As Esther accepts her holy calling, how is her attitude and character transformed?

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71. What has to change in you as you accept your holy calling?\_\_\_\_\_

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72. How can you prepare yourself to be an instrument for noble purposes (v. 21)?

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73. How can you prepare yourself for good works (v. 21)?

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74. Read Hebrews 13:11-13. Now that you have been made holy through Christ's blood, how are you bearing the disgrace He bore?\_\_\_\_\_

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75. How are your disciples (learners) progressing in their relationship with Christ?

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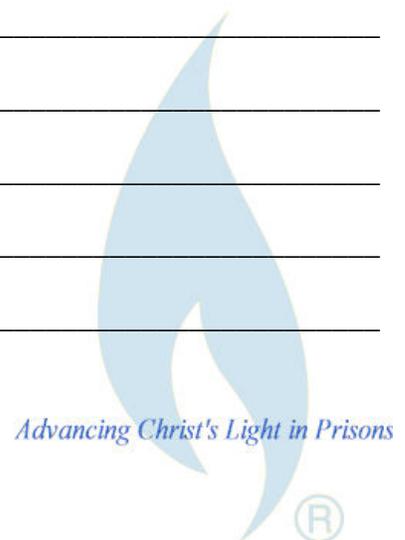
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**Next: Lesson 9: Sharing Christ**



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