

## Reminder: class goal and methodology

- The primary goal of this class is to equip you to become a more effective evangelist where God has already placed you.
- Teaching: You will gain a biblical understanding of evangelism through classroom instruction, Scripture memorization, and theological reading.
- Training: You will have opportunities to practice articulating the gospel in your own words.
- Class Project: Pray daily for three unbelievers in your life and evangelize at least one of them.

Holy holy Lord God Almighty
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee
Holy holy holy merciful and mighty
God in three Persons blessed Trinity

Holy holy all the saints adore Thee

Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea

Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee

Who were and art and evermore shalt be

Holy holy though the darkness hide Thee
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see
Only Thou art holy there is none beside Thee
Perfect in power in love and purity

Holy holy Lord God Almighty
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea
Holy holy holy merciful and mighty
God in three Persons blessed Trinity

### Truth 1: God is the holy Creator and Judge.

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

1 John 1:5 God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

Acts 17:31 He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness.

### **Evangelism Proclaims God**

- The gospel is a message from God about God. It is "the gospel of God" (Mark 1:14; Rom 1:1; 2 Cor 11:7; 1 Thess 2:2; 1 Thess 2:8; 1 Pet 4:17).
- The purpose of the gospel is to exalt God (Eph 1:6).
- Therefore, the evangelist is first and foremost a proclaimer of God and His perfections (aka "attributes").
- What did you learn about the character of God this week?

### **How God Proclaims Himself**

Ex 34:6 Then Yahweh passed by in front of him and called out, "Yahweh, Yahweh God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; 7 who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression, and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations."

## What's wrong with this?

"God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life."

- It caters to the unbeliever's natural pride. Gospel of self-esteem.
- It makes the gospel about fulfilling personal ambitions.
- It communicates nothing about the holiness of God.
- It communicates nothing about man's sinfulness.
- Biggest problem: man-centered, not God-centered (Rom 11:36).

#### **God** is the Creator

- Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
- Creator/Originator/Builder = Owner
  - Ex 19:5 "All the earth is Mine."
  - Lev 24:23 "The land is Mine."
  - Num 3:12 "The firstborn are Mine."
  - Psa 50:10 "Every beast of the forest is Mine."
  - Hag 2:8 "The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine."
  - Ezek 18:4 "Behold, all souls are Mine...The soul who sins will die."

### **God is the Creator**

- God has a rightful claim on the unbeliever's life.
- The gospel is an authoritative message from the Creator to the creature. People are expected to "obey the gospel" (2 Thess 1:8).
- Jesus has authorized you to proclaim this message with His authority to the unbelievers around you (Matt 28:18).
- Example: A boy relaying a command from his father to his brother.

# God is Holy, Holy, Holy (Isa 6:3; Rev 4:8)

- What does "God is holy" mean?
- My Definition: The holiness of God refers to the perfection of His moral purity that exalts Him above all created things and makes Him supremely worthy of our reverence and adoration.
- ESV Study Bible: Holiness implies absolute moral purity and separateness above the creation.
- MacArthur, ECD: He is morally and ethically perfect, abhorring sin and demanding purity in his moral creatures.

# God is Holy, Holy, Holy (Isa 6:3; Rev 4:8)

- Jonathan Edwards: Holiness is in a peculiar manner the beauty of the divine nature.
- Stephen Charnock: Holiness is His crown...the glory of every perfection in the Godhead.
- John Oswalt: Holiness is distinctness...What was distinct about this
  deity was not so much his origin, his essence, or his numinous power.
  Rather, it was his attitude toward ethical behavior...For Isaiah as a
  Hebrew, it meant that the terrifying otherness was not merely in
  essence but in character.

### **Biblical Pictures of Holiness**

- The Vision of Isaiah (Isa 6:1–7)
  - Emphasizes that God is supremely worthy of our worship.
  - Revealed against the backdrop of Israel's sinfulness.
  - Even the Seraphim (some kind of holy angels) are overwhelmed.
  - Leads Isaiah to pronounce doom upon himself.
  - Emphasizes fallen man's need of atonement.

#### **Biblical Pictures of Holiness**

- The Consuming Fire ("consume" = Heb. word for "eat, devour")
  - Deut 32:22 "For a fire is kindled in My anger,
     And it burns to the lowest part of Sheol,
     And it consumes the earth with its produce,
     And it sets on fire the foundations of the mountains."
  - Ex 24:17 The appearance of the glory of Yahweh was like a consuming fire on the mountain top.
  - Heb 12:29 Let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe, for OUR GOD IS A CONSUMING FIRE.

### **Biblical Pictures of Holiness**

- The Consuming Fire
  - The fire of the altar consumed the sacrifices (Lev 6:10).
  - God sent fire to consume <u>Nadab and Abihu</u> for not treating Him as holy while they were ministering as priests (Lev 10:1–3).
  - God sent fire to consume <u>250 rebels</u> in Korah's Rebellion (Num 16:35).
  - All unbelievers will be cast into the eternal fire of hell (Matt 25:41; Rev 20:14).
- Reflect: How should these truths affect our evangelism?



- Make a list of biblical illustrations and examples.
- Write a paragraph explaining the holiness of God in your own words.
- Read about the sinfulness of man.
- Keep praying for the 3 people. Start thinking about how you can start a gospel conversation with one of them.