



The Holiness of God—Part 4
Holy Truth vs. Wholly Wrong
From Sermon 9.11.22

Read *Exodus 33:18-20* & *John 6:46*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: In the study of holiness, the issue of experience and vision must be addressed. So many contemporary books, shows, and movies have been presented, claiming to be genuine experiences of seeing heaven and/or God. Like all categories of discernment, these must be held next to Scripture and not accepted by results, emotion, or sincerity alone. When they are compared to the biblical experience, they are easily identified as false. This is a great danger going forward—where the devil will be convincing the lost through signs, miracles, wonders, prophecy, and visions.

1. According to the Bible, how many pre-glorified people have seen heaven? Very very few = about 5
Who are/were they? Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Paul, & John
2. In these biblical accounts, what was the common reaction in each of those experiences? Absolute terror. A full realization of their utter unworthiness and sin exposed in the Presence of the Holy.
See *Isaiah 6:5*
3. Read the famous account of Adam and Even in *Genesis 3:7-10*. Once they fell and were now sinful, corrupted creatures, what was their state before holy God? They now felt exposed, shame, and fear. They were fully aware of their new nature and were now in conflict with the very same God of yesterday's intimate fellowship. [review Skip's reminder about the veil that now separates us]
4. What is the common false experience by those in the culture who claim to see heaven, have talked to God, and have had some near-death experiences? Peace, love, safety, warm, fanciful descriptions of Jesus, utterly inconsistent narratives of heaven. A welcoming light that gave them assurance.
- 4a. What's wrong with these? What if, by reading them, others came to Christ? They are fully inconsistent with the biblical narrative. You cannot accept or condone them just due to results. That is exactly the problem with seeker-centered churches today.
5. What must happen before we can look upon the holy God and His holy dwelling? We must be transformed from corrupted, fallen, sinful to holy, incorruptible. See also *1 Corinthians 15:50-54*
6. If God really were to grant further human experiences in heaven, who would be the most likely candidates? Those with the best, most accurate doctrine = faithful to relay only truth (as evidenced in the biblical account). In our generation, the ones claiming inside knowledge of heaven are the most blatantly false teachers. Bad doctrine on the Holy Spirit, Christology (nature of Christ), Soteriology (doctrine on salvation), & Ecclesiology (structure and make up of the Church). Discuss
- 6a. Who, in history or today, would be the best candidate with the best doctrine? Various answers. Augustine, Luther, Calvin, Edwards, Spurgeon, Sproul, MacArthur.