

The Way Church.

11/2/25 sermon notes, “recovering awe” ;

sermon

“God is Holy”

Psalm 33:8

“Let the whole earth fear the Lord;
let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.”

PRAY

Well today we are kick starting our new 4 week series that we’re titling “recovering awe”!

In this series we want to acknowledge that sometimes along the way our view of God can become simple, ordinary, small or mundane, but we know that God is anything but ordinary small and mundane! In this series we want to try to recover the breath taking beauty and majesty of who God is! We’ll look at how; God is Holy, God is Jealous, God is Generous, and God is incomprehensible! We want to get back to the heart of worship by allowing what we understand about God to allow for fresh wonder and recover awe

(Conversation with the guys) recovering certain truths that other religions/world has taken;
The Sabbath, orthodox church, catholic, benediction, partying, clothing, etc

We’re always talking about recovering what belongs to God, which is important in sometimes in someplace’s, but what we want to do is not embark on a journey to recover not just truth propositions but we want to recover the God who is Himself, truth!

Some of you might be saying to yourself “I already know God”

While others may be saying “I want to learn about something more practical”

Still some of you, this is exactly what you need! A realignment of your heart, a recalibration of your mind, a renewing of your soul, a recovery of the awe of God!

Listen ;

“Life has a way of kicking you in the soul, when It does, the anchor for your soul will be what you understand about God”

(SLIDE)

When it does, there is no vice (drinking, smoking, pill, vape pen) no self help book (how to deal with a broken heart, how to fix my marriage, how to be happy while being bankrupt) no motivational speech (Andrew Tate, David goggins, Oprah, Tony Robbins)

In the times when life kicks you in the soul, nothing will suffice to bring you peace, calm, & comfort like a proper understanding of the who God is!

There is nothing more important, there is nothing more practical, there’s is nothing more applicable than what you understand about God!

So in this series we want to sit back, bow down, cry out and recover awe

1 - “God is Holy”

A.A hodge - “God’s Holiness is not just an attribute of God, but the very essence of His being. It represents His complete perfection and total glory, setting Him apart from all creation.”

Thomas Watson - “Holiness is the most sparkling jewel of Gods crown, it is the name by which He is known”

In scripture, God is called many things ;

God is love 1 John 4:8

God is light 1 John 1:5

God is merciful psa 103:8
God is a consuming fire heb 12:9

But there is only one attribute in scripture that is taken to the superlative degree, that is to say repeated 3 times, that is Holy! (Holy, Holier, Holiest!)

Isaiah 6:3

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

Revelation 4:8

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come!"

God is not being ascribed to as "love love love, or mercy mercy mercy, but Holy, Holy Holy! Although God is love and god is merciful, (Holy love, Holy mercy, Holy justice) heavens host' are crying out the essence of Gods being!

The Holiness of God has 2 primary meanings ;

a - His majesty

(sovereignty, authority, othersness, separatedness, beauty, magnificence, supremacy)
This speaks to God being high and lifted up, exalted above everyone and everything!

Exodus 15:11

Who is like You among the gods, Lord?
Who is like You, majestic in holiness,
Awesome in praises, working wonders?

In Isaiah chapter 6 (possibly the pinnacle chapter of Gods Holiness) God is described as sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, symbolizing that He is of a higher authority than all other beings, He's described with the train of His robe filling the temple (the longer the robe, the Higher the royalty) the angelic beings are described with 6 wings (2 wings covered the face, symbolizing that they could not look at Him, 2 covered their feet symbolizing that they were on Holy ground, 2 they flew, symbolizing that they flew on ready, to do the bidding of this majestic Being) at His voice the thresholds of the temple shook (symbolizing His power)

The literal meaning of Holiness is ; "to be separated, to cut from, to be apart"

Gods is powerful in majesty! Holiness is but a quality in other beings, Holiness is simply the essence of God!

b - His moral perfection

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

Duet 32:4
The Rock! His work is perfect,
For all His ways are just;
A God of faithfulness and without injustice,
Righteous and just is He.

Psalms 18:30
As for God, His way is blameless"

Everything about God is Holy!
His Son is called the Holy one
His Spirit is the Holy Spirit
His word is the Holy Bible

His land is called the Holy land
His mount is called the Holy mount of Zion

Everything about God is perfect!
His Will is perfect
His Word is perfect
His Ways are perfect

"That means we can trust His will! (Eph 1:11 says He works all things according to the counsel of His will) we believe that everything that comes to pass is part of Gods will, God is not a God of chance, no one can thwart His plan, no one can surprise God, His will is perfect!

His word is perfect, that means we can find comfort in It (psalm 1:2 says we find delight in the law of God) we meditate on it, we rest in it, we are comforted by the promises in it, we've tasted and seen the the Lord is Good.

His ways are perfect, that means we find solace in understanding, however God chooses to accomplish His will, by whatever means, we can have a assurance that it is not in vain! Its not a waste! (Duet 29:29 says "the secret things below to God, but the revealed things belong to us and our children) we can fully trust that God is working all things out for our God and His glory,

But why?

"Because it is in His essence, the fiber of His being, that He Is Holy!

2 - Gods Holiness made known in Christ

What are some attributes that we know Jesus possessed?

We know He was without sin (rich younger ruler "good master")
We know He was given divine authority (all authority in heaven and on earth, no one takes my life)
We know that He was of perfect moral character (tempted in every way but never sinned)

The evil spirits called him "the Holy one of God!"
Pontius pilate pronounce him sinless
Pilates wife said "have nothing to do with this just man"

Hebrews 1:3

And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high

Col 2:9

For in Him all the fullness of deity dwellings in bodily form

Col 1:15

He is the image of the invisible God

What does this mean?

"Big whoop, Jesus was perfect, good for Him"

May we never think of Jesus' holiness in that way!

Listen ;

"Jesus was holy and righteous on our behalf!"

Yes Jesus died for the sin of the world but what good is a sacrifice covered in blemishes?

He lived a perfect life, not for Himself, but for His sheep!

He tore the veil in 2, not merely to say He has the power, but for you!

He opened the ancient doors, not just for Himself, but to usher us in with Him!

He is the only One! Gods only Son!

Dies on cross, as He hangs there, Holy! Harmless!, Undefined!

He Makes propitiation for our sin!

Not for mere game playing, but to trade our filthy rags, in exchange for His royal robe!

Punishment for our peace, was laid upon Him!

"Amazing grace how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me"

We needed someone to take our place, someone Holy, without blemish, to please the Father, that man, was the man Jesus Christ, The Holy one Of God!

"Alas and did my savior bleed, and did my sovereign die
Would He devote that scared Head, for such a worm as I?"

"The fullness of God dwelt in Him bodily, the fullness of God, the essence of God, The Holiness of God"

3 - The Holy Spirit's work in believers

Let us consider as quickly as we can, God, the Holy Spirits work in us.

1 - The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin

Initially and continually.

John 16:8 "when He comes, he will convict the world of Sin"

God the Holy Spirit is the one who convicts us of our sin initially, remember God is Light, and when He convicts us, He shines that light on the darkness of our hearts, exposing all the wicked thoughts within us and deeds we've done against Him

John 3:3 Jesus tells nicodemus "unless someone is born of God they cannot see the kingdom of heaven, v6 He says, "that which is born of flesh is flesh but that which is born of the Spirit is spirit"

2 - The Holy Spirit makes us alive in Christ

Titus 3:5

He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we did in righteousness, but in accordance with His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

Romans 8:11 "But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies [a]through His Spirit who dwells in you.

I've said it before and ill say it again, the greatest miracle we have ever seen is when a wicked wretched rebel sinner is born of God, when God the Holy Spirit makes alive in Christ, he literally changes the desires of our Hearts, who can change the desires? We can adjust our actions, but God changes our desires

3 - the holy spirit guides us

1 Peter 1:2 "says by the sanctifying work of The Spirit"

2 cor 3:18 says "we are being transformed fro one degree of glory to another, for this come from the Lord Who is The Holy Spirit"

The Holy Spirit who is guiding us in growing in Holiness, day by day.

Listen ; "the work of growing in holiness is exhausting & impossible if you try to do it under your own power, but with the Holy Spirit, it is possible & flows naturally"

Thomas Watson: "Till sin be bitter, Christ will not be sweet."

Heres what we need to cling to ;

The Holy God of the universe dwells inside of us! He's convicting us, guiding us, comforting us, teaching us, working through us, and working in us.

That should be enough to make the strongest of men crumble.

Lastly

4 - you are Called to be Holy

Hebrew 12:14 "without Holiness no one will see the Lord"

1 Peter 1:16 "be Holy, for I am Holy"

2 cor 7:1 "let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God

1 John 5:3 "this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments and His commandments ARE NOT BURDENSOME!

Hear me, i'm not saying you need a holiness of your own, you don't have any of that.
What i'm saying is, if you call Christ Lord (show of hands) than you must push forward in killing sin! Warning after warning
to flee from sin, to mortify sin, to kill sin, to avoid sin!

Im here to tell you, you can do it! ;
You really can kill that sin,
you really can drop the bottle,
you really can forgive in your heart,
you really can beat that addiction,
You really can stop watching porn
You really can forget what is behind and look forward to what's a head
You really can stop cussing
You really can stop gossiping
You really can kill that sin!

Im here to tell you!

You won't be perfect, but you can push forward!

Not because you are strong enough, But because He is Holy, and we are seen as Holy in Christ, and the Holy Spirit dwells
inside you! That's why we can be called a royal priest, a holy people, a people for His own possession!

CLOSING

We need a ;
knee bending
Heart breaking
Life shaking
Soul awakening
Mind melting
View of God

Rev 4:8

'HOLY HOLY HOLY IS THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME