





## Obedience

- ❖ What has God always wanted?
  - An obedience that arises out of our faith in God!
- ❖ When the Jews got it right, they understood that God saved them (the Exodus) as an act of grace. The OT law showed them how to live in relationship with God.
  - Grace precedes the Law!
- ❖ Jesus did not abolish the Law (Matt 5:17-18). He called his disciples to a deeper and true understanding of the law and the Kingdom of God.
  - Jesus called his disciples to obedience. Paul constantly fought against those who said that God's grace meant that "anything goes." We are called to be holy – to live in right relationship with God, which is true peace.

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## Holy God as Righteous Judge

- ❖ God is the lawmaker and the one who judges whether conform their lives to God's moral law.
- ❖ God is the righteous judge – who applies justice fairly, across the board.
- ❖ Jesus as judge
  - The Jews expected the Messiah to be a righteous judge (Jeremiah 33:15-16). Thus, Jesus says the Father gave him authority to judge (John 5:22-23,27,30). In Revelation, it is Jesus who judges (19:11).
  - But Jesus is also our Advocate and Counselor! (1 John 2:1)
- ❖ In this portrait, salvation means being declared innocent in the law-courts of God. The wages of sin is death and Jesus paid the penalty.

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## What do we really mean by God's love?

- ❖ God's love is bound up with God's holiness.
  - Exodus 15:11,13 – "steadfast love" translates the Hebrew word, *hesed*
    - A very rich covenant word; steadfast love, faithful love, loving kindness, mercy
- ❖ Love in the New Testament
  - *Agape* in the Greek – expresses the unconditional self-giving love of God
    - Not *eros*, romantic or physical love; not *phileo*, friendship or family love
- ❖ God's love is faithfulness rooted in self-sacrifice; it is action, never sentimentality

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## Holy God as Loving Father

- ❖ God is the Father of his people; the husband to his bride (Isaiah 54:5-8; Hosea 2:16, 18-20)
- ❖ The NT is a fuller expression of God as Father, emphasizing covenantal intimacy
  - *Abba* = "daddy" Jesus refers to the Father as *Abba*, as does Paul, speaking for the early church (Rom 8:25; Gal 4:16)
- ❖ Encompasses two key tasks of fathers
  - righteousness/standards/instruction/discipline
  - love/affection/encouragement/support
- ❖ In this portrait, salvation means being born again, becoming children of God, being adopted, being heirs

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## The Power to Redeem

- ❖ In the OT, there were kinsmen redeemers, who would "buy back" property or houses that had been sold, or relatives who had fallen into slavery (Lev 25-34; see Ruth 4:3-6)
- ❖ God is the Lord Almighty, majestic and powerful, able to redeem Israel, though Israel would sometimes forget this (Psalm 78:41-42)
  - *El Shaddai* means the Almighty One (Exodus 6:2-6)
  - God is the Lord God Almighty all the way to the end of the Bible (Rev 4:8 – "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty")
  - "I will help you, says the Lord; your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel" (Isaiah 41:14)

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## Holy God as Powerful Redeemer

- ❖ Here we find the language of slavery and freedom, bondage and deliverance.
  - To whom will we belong? The forces of evil and sin OR the Lord God Almighty?
  - God is the redeemer of Israel (e.g. Ex 20:2) and of individual persons (Job 19:25)
- ❖ Though Jesus is never referred to as our Redeemer, he is the means of our redemption and our Savior (Titus 2:13-14).
- ❖ The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Power (Acts 1:8; Romans 15:13)
- ❖ When using this portrait, we speak of salvation as redemption and ransom – but emphasizing deliverance and the price paid on the cross, rather than to whom.

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## *Holy God as the Good Shepherd*

- ❖ Goodness is an expression of God's holy being. (See Exodus 33:18-19)
  - > "Good" is defined by the character of God. A search for what is good and true and excellent is a search for God.
  - > God hates sin and is repulsed by evil. Evil is what diminishes the good.
- ❖ God is the Good Shepherd – Psalm 23. Jesus is the Good Shepherd – John 10.
  - > The emphasis is on leading and caring.
- ❖ In this portrait, salvation is (1) being found by God and (2) following the Lord. Jesus is an example of suffering and giving one's life for others.

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