

Financial Giving at Crossway

it might not
be obvious

- Expectation of all Christians:
Generously give money to support ministry
 - Give first where we experience spiritual care and oversight
 - A good guide: 10% of income (“tithe” from “tenth”)
 - “First fruits”: give from what you receive, rather than from what is left
 - Giving is a sacrifice / an expression of God’s value to us
 - And a joy: One important way to be a part of God’s work
- How to give to Crossway
 - Box on back table: cash or check
 - Bank transfer (ask Jim Eddy jeddy55@gmail.com for details)
 - Giving on the website (we pay a fee)

Progress and Setbacks

Progress: getting closer to a goal

Setbacks: slipping back farther from a goal

When do we experience a mixture of progress and setbacks?

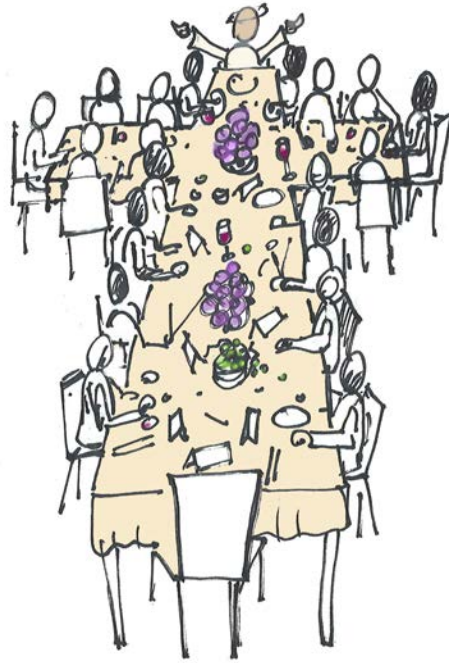
How might this happen in trying to know and please God?

What can happen in our souls when we experience this mixture of progress and setbacks?

Pray: God would bring assurance of the work of Christ

Once for All!

Hebrews 10:1-18



Chinese: page 1950
 Spanish: page 1534
 Brown: page 1211
 Green: page 822

Leading up to Easter

- **Palm Sunday:** Jesus entered Jerusalem with great praise, yet He knew He was going to die
- **Maundy Thursday:** Jesus' last supper with His disciples, when He washed their feet as a model
- **Good Friday:** When Jesus was crucified
- **Easter Sunday:** When Jesus came to life again
 - April 21 (April 28 for the Orthodox church)

The Letter to the Hebrews

- Written to Jewish Christians
- It seems that Christianity was more challenging than they thought it would be
- They were tempted to go back to Jewish religious actions, especially the regular offering of sacrifices
- The author shows how Jesus Christ and His work is the fulfillment of the “Old Covenant” practices
 - They were a foreshadow of the reality in Christ

Our problem is worse than we realize...

1. What is holy ‘consumes’ (swallows up) what is unclean
 - What happens to darkness when you turn on a light?
 - What happens to paper when it enters a flame?

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken (or consumed), let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our ‘God is a consuming fire.’” *Hebrews 12:28-29*

Our problem is worse than we realize...

1. What is holy 'consumes' (swallows up) what is unclean
2. God is perfectly (intensely) holy
 - God is far holier than the heat and light of the sun

“...I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. [The angels] were calling to one another:

‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory.’

At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.” *Isaiah 6:1-4*

Our problem is worse than we realize...

1. What is holy 'consumes' (swallows up) what is unclean
2. God is perfectly (intensely) holy
3. Uncleanness is the brokenness in ALL our hearts
 - Temptations **reveal** our inner inclination, not **create** it

“Jesus said: ‘What comes out of a person is what defiles them. For it is **from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come**—sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils **come from inside** and defile a person.’”

Mark 7:20-23

lewdness = crude, offensive

defile = make unclean

Our problem is worse than we realize...

1. What is holy 'consumes' (swallows up) what is unclean
2. God is perfectly (intensely) holy
3. Uncleanness is the brokenness in ALL our hearts
4. We often hope to keep a "safe" distance from God

"When Simon Peter saw [Jesus do a miracle],
he fell at Jesus' knees and said,

'Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!'" *Luke 5:8*

– Adam and Eve, Israelites, curtains in the temple, ...

Yet God is life and light. Sacrifices to wash away sin

Apart from Him is only death and darkness

Being distant from God is to begin to die

Our problem is worse than we realize...

1. What is holy 'consumes' (swallows up) what is unclean
2. God is perfectly (intensely) holy
3. Uncleanness is the brokenness in ALL our hearts
4. We often hope to keep a "safe" distance from God

5. Our efforts to become clean are NEVER enough

– **Hebrews 10:1-4**: sacrifices offered repeatedly didn't help

– For us today: **Actually, they make our sin clearer to us**

- Try to be a better person (New Year's resolutions)
- Say, "I'm sorry." Do more good. Feel bad or guilty. ...
- Try to stop feeling guilty and ashamed
- Pray more. Read the Bible. Get an accountability partner. ...

Our problem is worse than we realize...

5. Our efforts to become clean are NEVER enough
 – Many of our efforts are good in themselves

But they cannot clear our consciences 10:11

& they cannot make us holy enough to approach God

Hebrews 10:5-10: Jesus came to do (by God's will) **10:12-14**

what nothing else could do: Made us holy already! Once for all

Jesus Christ fully did what nothing else

could ever do:

10:15-18

- **Full forgiveness: No memory of sin and shame**
 - Washed as white as snow! As far as east is from west!
 - **A transformed heart:**
- The holy presence of God in us**

Our problem is worse than we realize...

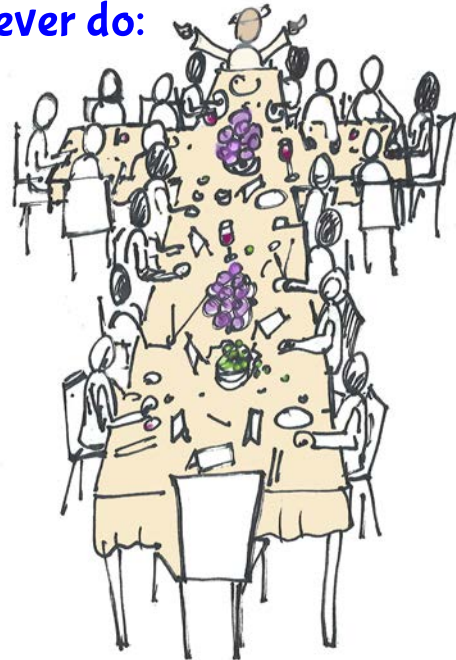
1. What is holy 'consumes' (swallows up) what is unclean
2. God is perfectly (intensely) holy
3. Uncleanness is the brokenness in ALL our hearts
4. We often hope to keep a "safe" distance from God
5. Our efforts to become clean are NEVER enough

The Big Idea

Jesus' death and resurrection
has entirely completed the 'impossible' work
of salvation for those who trust in Him

Jesus Christ did what nothing else could ever do:

- He provided a welcome into God's holy presence
- that is perfectly secure and filled with God's love
- entirely as a gift to those who trust in Christ



Application

- **Have a holy fear of the holiness of God**
 - If you are in Christ, bow in awe at His greatness, and at the wonder of our welcome into His presence
 - If you have not yet put your trust in Christ, please turn to Him
 - God alone is light and life
 - But we can **only** come through Jesus Christ

Application

- **Have a holy fear of the holiness of God**
- **Delight in our deep and perfect rest in Christ**
 - If you are in Christ, **stop trying** to earn God's approval or love or acceptance
 - Know that God **delights** in His people in Christ, because of His love through Jesus Christ
 - When you feel unworthy of God's love, say:
 - Of course I'm unworthy!**
 - But I'm covered by the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ**
 - He is more than worthy enough, and He has rescued me**

Application

- **Have a holy fear of the holiness of God**
- **Delight in our deep and perfect rest in Christ**
- **Joyfully pursue God-likeness**
 - Like loved children who want to become more like their parents as a way to delight in their goodness
 - His guaranteed love and transformation of our hearts motivate us to grow within that love
 - Jesus' work is completely done.
We have not yet fully experienced it. That day will come!

The Big Idea

Jesus' death and resurrection
has entirely completed the 'impossible' work
of salvation for those who trust in Him

Have a holy fear of the holiness of God

Delight in our deep and perfect rest in Christ

Joyfully pursue God-likeness

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, **to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.**

Ephesians 3:14-19

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? **If God is for us, who can be against us?** He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? **Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen?** It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Romans 8:31-39