



# Lighthouse of Iowa

*Keeping in touch with Iowa's Churches of Christ*

March 2018

## “HOLINESS”

Isaiah 6:3

“Aslan is a lion – the lion, the great lion.” “Oh” said Susan “I’d thought he was a man. Is he quite safe? I should feel rather nervous meeting a lion.”

“Safe?” Said Mr. Beaver “Who said anything about safe? ‘Course he isn’t safe. But he’s good. He’s the king, I tell you.”

This exchange between Susan and Mr. Beaver takes place in C.S. Lewis’s classic children’s book “*The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*.” In this conversation between Susan and Mr. Beaver, C.S Lewis captures the essence of God’s being: greatness and goodness.

### God is great and God is good.

These two virtues, greatness and goodness, can be captured by one biblical word, Holy. Holy has two distinct meanings. The first meaning is otherness or apartness and means that God is totally other than the world and man.

In Hosea 11:9 God says “...for I am God and not man, the Holy One in your midst.”

Otherness means that God is not in any way to be identified with anything else in all of creation. When we say God is Holy, we call attention to the profound difference between Him and all creatures.

Holy signifies God’s total apartness from all that is common and profane, from everything that is unclean or evil.

The second meaning of holy refers to God’s pure and righteous actions. God does what is right, he never does what is wrong. God always acts in a righteous manner because his nature is Holy.

His holiness refers to his moral perfection, righteousness and purity.

Isaiah 5:16 says “*But the LORD of hosts is exalted in justice, and the Holy God shows himself Holy in righteousness.*”

God is morally spotless in character and action, upright, pure, and untainted with

evil desires, motives, thoughts, words, or acts. He is the source and standard of what is right. God is free from all evil, he loves truth and goodness. He detests impurity and inauthenticity. God cannot approve of evil, has no pleasure in evil and cannot tolerate evil.

Because God is Holy, he always hates sin and is repulsed by all evil.

When the Bible calls God Holy, it means he is so far above and beyond us that he seems almost totally foreign to us.

In Isaiah 6:3 the seraphim “...were calling to one another ‘Holy, Holy, Holy is the LORD Almighty;”

The word holy is repeated three times -Why?

In English we might underline or capitalize to emphasize important words or ideas. Or we might type them in bold or italicize them or highlight them with a marker. In Hebrew literature repetition is used to emphasize importance. For example when Jesus says “*Truly, truly I say to you...*” he is telling his listeners to ‘pay attention, what I’m about to say is important.’

Very few times does the Bible repeat something to the third degree. To mention something three times is to assign it “super-importance.”

Only once in all of sacred scripture is an attribute of God elevated to the third degree. Only once is a characteristic of God mentioned three times in succession.

The Bible doesn't say that God is merely holy, or even holy, holy. The Bible says that God is *holy, holy, holy*. The Bible never says that God is justice, justice, justice; or wrath, wrath, wrath; or love, love, love; or mercy, mercy, mercy.

The importance of God’s holiness cannot be overstated. Justice, wrath, love and mercy flow from his holiness.

Let’s look at just one example of God’s Holy Justice. His Righteousness. God’s total apartness from all that is common, profane, unclean or evil.

In Genesis Abraham pleads with God about Sodom and Gomorrah:

Abraham: “*Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city.*”

God: “*If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake.*”

Abraham: “*Suppose forty are found there.*”

God: “*For the sake of forty I will not do it.*”

Abraham: “*Suppose thirty are found there.*”

God: “*I will not do it, if I find thirty there.*”

Abraham: “*Suppose twenty are found there.*”

God: “*For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.*”

Abraham: “*Suppose ten are found there.*”

God: “*For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.*”

Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the LORD out of heaven.

As I read these stories I find myself conflicted. I find myself questioning God’s fairness. I, like Abraham, question God’s justice, his righteousness, yes, by default, I am questioning his very character—His Holiness.

When I read of God’s justice I realize that I don’t fully understand what it means to be holy. I don’t fully understand justice, or sin, or grace.

I do understand that God’s justice is according to righteousness. There’s no such thing as justice according to unrighteousness. The justice of God is always an expression of his holy character.

The word justice in the Bible refers to a conformity to a rule or a norm. God plays by the rules. The ultimate norm of justice

is His own holy character. What God does is always consistent with who God is. He always acts according to his holy character. God's righteousness is rooted in his absolute purity. As a holy God, he is utterly incapable of an unholy, unrighteous, unjust act."

**So What? Why does Holiness matter?**

- 1) If God is Holy then his acts of wrath, like Sodom and Gomorrah, are righteous actions, they are divine justice.
- 2) If God is Holy, I should fear him. Not because he is mean, but because he is separate, other than, alien, pure, righteous, glorious. His righteousness demands justice. I should fear him because I'm a sinner, and all sin demands punishment.
- 3) "God is to be feared because we have all rebelled against Him. We are his enemies. We are all guilty before Him because of our sins." (TT Jan 2018, p. 21)
- 4) If God is Holy I should fear him because of what Paul writes in Romans chapter 3: "All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."

Why have we become worthless? Because, Paul tells us, "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

**The Good News**

Let's go back to the conversation between Susan and Mr. Beaver. Susan asks if the Great Lion is safe...

Mr. Beaver says "Safe? Who said anything about safe? "Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the king, I tell you."

God is Great and God is Good.

Love and justice, mercy and righteousness meet at the cross. Sin demands a payment. God is Just. He must act according to his character.

It is here, at the cross, that God pours out his wrath and anger upon Jesus Christ. This wrath and anger is meant for me. I've earned it. I deserve it.

Knowing that Jesus took my punishment for my sins and took my place reminds me that God is to be feared because he takes sin seriously. He hates evil, he hates impurity, he is not like me, he is other, he is great, he is Holy.

"Were it not for the cross, we too would be consumed by the wrath of God. The very thought of life apart from Christ's cross stirs fear, terror, and awe. While we fear God because of who he is, we need never fear His approach because his wrath and anger toward us have been turned aside at Calvary."

Knowing that "the one who created us in his image is the One who pursued us, lived for us, died for us, rose for us, intercedes for us, and will return for us if we are resting in him" shows me that he is good.

We are members of a New Covenant. "Our inability to obey his commands once condemned us. Now these same commands are written on our hearts. Jeremiah 31:33 says "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts."

We now have a full and final forgiveness of sin. We, who were once God's enemies, are now his friends.

**Now What?**

God's greatness and goodness, his holiness, gets us here. We have been called, we have answered His call. We are here. Now what?

Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 7:1 to cleanse ourselves and bring holiness to completion: "Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God."

In Romans 12:2 Paul tells us to be transformed by renewing our minds: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Burk Parsons says the gospel is the difference between being afraid of God and fearing God. It's only when we come to fear the Lord that the Lord tells us to fear not. For when we know the love of God in Christ, the Spirit casts out all fear and instills in us love and adoration, that we might work out our salvation with fear and trembling and worship the Lord before his face with reverence and awe.

**Trust**

On September 14, 1860, Charles Blondin became the first person to cross a tightrope stretched 11,000 feet across the mighty Niagara Falls.

He walked across, 160 feet above the falls, many times... each time with a different daring feat - once in a sack, on stilts, on a bicycle, even blindfolded.

Each time he walked across he asked the crowd, "Do you believe I can make it across?"

The crowd would answer by shouting in unison: "Yes, we believe, we believe!"

Excitement ran along both sides of the river bank. The crowd "Oohed and Aahed!" as Blondin carefully walked across—one dangerous step after another—pushing a wheelbarrow holding a sack of potatoes.

The applause was deafening.

Blondin held up his hand to quiet the crowd then asked: "Do you believe I can carry a person across in this wheelbarrow?"

The crowd enthusiastically yelled, "Yes! Yes! We believe!"

Blondin grinned, slapped his hands together and said, "Great! Who wants to go first?"

**Finally**

In Luke 12:32 Jesus says this: "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

Wow! The Holy God that we meet in scripture—and only that God—is the Shepherd who seeks us, the Father who adopts us, and the King who loves us."

To paraphrase Mr. Beaver:

"Aslan is a lion – the lion, the great lion. Yes he's good, he's the King I tell you."

**Dave Henderson** – Martensdale Church of Christ  
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**References**

Elwell, W. A. (1984). *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*. Baker Book.  
 Sproul, R. (1987). *The holiness of God*. Tyndale House.  
 Sproul, R. C., & Mathison, K. A. (2008). *The Reformation study Bible: English Standard version, containing the Old and New Testaments*. Ligonier Ministries.  
 Inspire21.com  
 Tabletalk magazine January 2018

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## Chariton

**Meeting times:** Sundays: 10:00 a.m. (no evening services)

**Location:** 15<sup>th</sup> & Roland, Chariton, Iowa

**For information call:** Albert Schreck (641) 535-2381 or Brian Schreck (641) 535-2931

- Delores VanEgdom has been having some side effects from medication so they are trying a different one and working on getting it regulated.
- Jeanette Schreck is scheduled to have lithotripsy on a kidney stone on March 7th.
- Evelyn Bennett's son, Duane, has been diagnosed with cancer and is not doing well.

- Visitors this past month were Travis and Jenika Schreck and Chantelle and Aquila Jackson.

### March Birthdays

- ★ Evelyn Bennett -- March 23

### March Anniversaries

- ★ Albert & Jeanette Schreck - March 19
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## Dean Avenue

**Meeting times:** Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.

**Location:** 2907 Dean Ave., Des Moines, Iowa / P.O. Box 57398, Pleasant Hill, IA 50327

**For information call:** John McNeece (515) 263-9428

- Mike and Tracy Penick from Martensdale met with us, and Mike gave us an excellent lesson.
- Neal and Peg Warren have moved into their new condo. Their new address is 695 E. Army Post Rd., Apt. 410 Des Moines, IA, 50315.
- Frances Hawthorne's brother passed away. He lived in Missouri.
- Earl Allen is doing better and has moved to assisted living. His new address is Valley Assisted Living 2555 Guthrie Ave., #206 Des Moines, IA, 50317
- Mary Lou Allen fell twice, but is ok. She has had some problems with a rash and an eye infection.
- Glenn Meacham has been confined to home for several weeks with the flu.

- Pam Climpson fell at home, and has a cut below her eye and soreness in her shoulder and hip.
- We have had some travelers this month. Risa and Skip Schamel spent time in Florida visiting Risa's son, Jamie Hayes. Yvonne Coe spent a week in Florida with her sister. Roberta Milinsky traveled to Costa Rica.
- Visitors: Paxon Boozell, Tom Warren, Bill, Bryan Max and Tally Charlier and Valerie Hawthorne.

### March Birthdays

- ★ 14 - Peter Hawthorne
- ★ 16 - Neal Warren
- ★ 29 - Greg Head
- ★ 30 - Roberta Milinsky

### March Anniversaries

- ★ 11 – Larry and Jan Sellers
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## Fairview

**Meeting times:** Sundays: 10:00 a.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.

**Location:** 1001 S. 22<sup>nd</sup> St, Clarinda, Iowa 51632

**For information call:** Richard Negley (712)542-3728 or Marvin Negley (712)542-2792

- On Sunday, Feb 11<sup>th</sup>, **we enjoyed having John & Donna Lee with us.** As always, John gave us words of encouragement and the afternoon session was a question and answer forum.
- Among visitors this month were:  
Van, Molly, Zoey, Bo & Kemper Gilmore;  
Paul, Dasha, Timber, Minka & Race Negley; and  
Hadley Miller

### March Birthdays

- **None**

### March Anniversaries

- **None**

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## Martensdale

**Meeting Times:** Sundays: 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.

**Location:** 10985 44th Lane, Prole, Iowa (1.5 miles east of Martensdale, Iowa on Hwy. 92)

**For information call:** Duane Proudfit (515) 961-4470 or Mike Penick (515) 681-0279

- **Thank you** to everyone who attended our meeting with Tad Morris. It was good to have the building full!
- Just a reminder of our **meeting with Jeremy Morris March 3 and 4.** Jeremy will be speaking on the subject of evolution at 7:00 p.m. Saturday evening and 10:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Sunday with a basket dinner in between services.
- Pam Deckler traveled to Nebraska to spend time with family.
- Finn Wheeler had tubes put in his ears.
- Bethany Ford and Jordan Bown have both been home to visit family this month.
- Al and Marlene Bown traveled to Lee's Summit, Missouri, to visit with brethren.
- Tanner George and Tiffany Parker traveled to Missouri to visit family.

- Brenda Bown had her hip replaced on February 20. She is home and doing well.
- Dick and Phyllis Bown traveled to Springfield, Missouri, to help their granddaughter, Savanna, celebrate her 2nd birthday.
- Tyler Schreck worshipped with us while visiting friends.

### March Birthdays

- ★ March 7 – Courtney Teghtmeyer
- ★ March 10 – Tom Collier
- ★ March 18 – Dave Henderson
- ★ March 23 – Charlie Deckler

### March Anniversaries

- ★ March 14 – Dave & Christy Henderson
- ★ March 27 – Dick & Phyllis Bown

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## Pleasant Hill

**Meeting Times:** Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.

**Location:** 5091 E. University, Pleasant Hill, Iowa

**Website:** [pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org](http://pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org)

**For information call:** Bob Flack (515) 262-7329, Lowell Hermon (515) 989-0727, Mike Warner (515) 967-4529.

- **We are sorry to report that Carroll Warren has departed from us in early February.** He will be missed by many of us here at Pleasant Hill. Funeral was Feb 9th. Also on a sad note Marian Parrish also departed from this life. She was in Florida with daughter Della. Her funeral was Feb. 16th. She had been with daughters during the last few years. We will miss this brother and sister in Christ.
- **Connie Price has been diagnosed with cancer.** She is having a biopsy on Monday Feb 25th to determine the type of cancer and treatment options. Keith Price is still working through the effects of his cancer treatment last year and is now going to physical therapy 3 times a week. Keith also fell and cut up his face. Please keep them in your prayers.
- Marty Williamson's dad passed away Saturday and funeral was held Feb. 27th in Springfield, Ill.
- **Randy Ingle was in a semi accident on Feb.5th around Grinnell.** He has a broken collar bone and bruises.
- Margaret Franklin, Pritchard family have all been sick. Nora Lee Ingle, Melba Tingle and Kayley Zimmerman have all been sick. Jane Morgan, Steve Thompson, Suzanne Harvey, Kathy King and Jamie Ingle.
- Joyce Ingle brother Darrell has gone.

- The Marc Hermon family, Dave, Joyce, Nora Lee, Randy, Theresa Ingle and family attended Martensdale to hear Tad Morris.
- Niko Felice left Feb. 12th for a year in Thailand and New Zealand to play rugby. Niko has arrived in Thailand safely. Please keep him in prayers.
- Jason Brady fell on the causing a minor concussion. He's doing fine now.
- Larry and Bev Brady have spent the month of February in Florida. They will be heading home Feb. 26th.
- Marty and Lisa Williamson are vacationing in Las Vegas.
- Bob and Marge Flack visited with Bob's sister in Florida.

### March Birthdays

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| ★ 3 Jennifer Albright | ★ 4 Tim Brady      |
| ★ 5 Erica Conner      | ★ 7 Carly Felice   |
| ★ 10 Susan Conner     | ★ 11 Henry Conner  |
| ★ 17 Miles Wood       | ★ 19 Mike Brady    |
| ★ 20 Bud Fillman      | ★ 23 Lowell Hermon |
| ★ 24 Megan Stevens    | ★ 30 Theresa Brady |
| ★ 31 Allison George   |                    |

### March Anniversaries

- ★ 11 Bruce and Suzanne

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## Vandalia

**Meeting Times:** Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:30 p.m.

**Location:** 2.5 miles east of Runnells, Iowa on F70, then 1 mile north on 131st St.

**Website:** [vandaliacoc.com](http://vandaliacoc.com)

**For information call:** Greg Ingle (515) 994-2824 or Charles Ingle (515) 966-2537



- Lynnette Dowdy and James and Laura Dowdy and children visited family in Missouri.
- Trent and Leah Fiorentin visited family in Missouri.
- Jason and Staci Miller and children visited family in Missouri.
- Justin and Brittney Dowdy and children visited family in Indiana.
- Richard Goode has been suffering from pneumonia along with a recent fall.
- Bobbi Duckstein is recuperating from her recent cornea transplant.
- We sang with the residents of Mitchellville Care Center on a recent Sunday evening..

- Bobbi Duckstein is scheduled to have a cornea transplant on Monday January 29th.
- Among our visitors were: Valerie Burkman, Miriam McDonough, and Jason and Autumn Dowdy and family.

#### March Birthdays

- ★ 4 Devon Ingle
- ★ 15 Marvin Ingle
- ★ 19 Mariha Henle
- ★ 21 Nick Guthrie
- ★ 22 Mason Burkman
- ★ 23 Sharon Cummings
- ★ 29 Michael Cummings
- ★ 29 Abbi Henlie
- ★ 29 Alan Klein

#### March Anniversaries

- ★ 23 James & Laura Dowdy



*Aslan* is the main character in C. S. Lewis's *The Chronicles of Narnia* series. He is "the Great Lion" of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and his role in Narnia is developed throughout the remaining books. He is also the only character to appear in all seven books of the series. *Aslan* is Turkish for "lion". Lewis often capitalizes the word *lion* in reference to *Aslan*, since he represents Jesus Christ in his stories.

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