

May 2025

The Lighthouse

Holiness

On Sunday mornings we have been looking at Paul's letter to the Philippians where God's Word tells us: *"Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure."* (Philippians 2:12–13, ESV)

God's work in us is to conform us to the image of Jesus Christ. Since that is his goal for us and the work he is doing in us, then we should be striving to be like Jesus Christ as well. Jesus was always obedient, even unto death. Jesus was holy, and we should be holy.

Peter says the same thing, but in a slightly different way in his first letter. *"As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'"* (1 Peter 1:14–16, ESV)

For a Christian to not be holy is to remain in ignorance, controlled by passions or lusts (literally "over-desires"). Since a Christian is a child of God, and brother to Jesus Christ, then he/she should bear a "family resemblance." What is that family resemblance? Holiness.

What is holiness? R. C. Sproul describes it this way:

"The primary meaning of holy is 'separate.' It comes from an ancient word that means 'to cut,' or 'to separate.' To translate this basic meaning into contemporary language would be to use the phrase 'a cut apart.' Perhaps even more accurate would be the phrase 'a cut above something.' When we find a garment or another piece of merchandise that is outstanding, that has a superior excellence, we use the expression that it is 'a cut above the rest.' God's holiness is more than just separateness. His holiness is also transcendent. The word *transcendence* means literally 'to climb across.' It

is defined as "exceeding usual limits." To transcend is to 'rise above something, to go above and beyond a certain limit. When we speak of the transcendence of God, we are talking about that sense in which God is above and beyond us. Transcendence describes His supreme and absolute greatness. The word is used to describe God's relationship to the world. He is higher than the world. He has absolute power over the world. The world has no power over Him. Transcendence describes God in His consuming majesty, His exalted loftiness. It points to the infinite distance that separates Him from every creature. He is an infinite cut above everything else. When the Bible calls God holy, it means primarily that God is transcendentally separate. He is so far above and beyond us that He seems almost totally foreign to us. To be holy is to be "other," to be different in a special way."

Holiness is God's crowning characteristics. All of his character traits are holy. His love is holy, his mercy is holy. His justice, righteousness, goodness, etc. are all holy. God is infinitely a cut above in all of his characteristics and person.

When Isaiah encountered God in the temple, the seraphim described God as being "Holy, Holy, Holy!" The Hebrew language uses repetition to express either a superlative or totality. So, if you wanted to express that the gold you have is purest gold, you would simply repeat the word "gold." (This occurs in 2 Kings 25:15). But here for the only time in the Hebrew Bible a quality is raised to the power of three, as if to say that the divine holiness is so far beyond anything the human mind can grasp that a 'super superlative' had to be invented to express it.

Christians are to be holy in all our conduct. Certainly this is an appropriate response to the God who has loved us by giving his only begotten Son to die on the cross so that anyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. To love him in return means obedience to his holy commands. Without gospel based holiness, we will be nothing more than moralists.

I occasionally read news articles from writers who are not Christians and are critical of the Christian position. When you read these articles online and the comments section that follows, it is clear that the greatest criticism of Christians is that they are too often hypocrites. Because of the gross hypocrisy these people have witnessed, they want nothing to do with Christianity. I cannot say that I blame them. We talk much about how we can impact our community for Christ and his kingdom. My suggestion is that living a life of holiness would go a long way to repairing the image of the church and Christians in our day.

When the English puritan preacher Richard Rogers was lecturing at Wethersfield, Essex, someone told him, "Mr. Rogers, I like you and your company very well, but you are so precise." To which Rogers replied, "O Sir, I serve a precise God."

May we serve our precise God, precisely. May we serve our holy God with holy conduct. May we be like Jesus Christ.

Grace & Peace,

Tim



First a letter from the student we support at Grace Academy India. Her parents are missionaries in a remote area, and Grace Academy uses our support to augment her tuition.

After that is a letter from our long time aviation missionaries, Jon and Karen Schmidt.

Dear Friends at first Presbyterian church,
Greetings in the name of the Lord and
Saviour Jesus Christ. How are you? I hope
you are fine. How is the weather there?

Here the summers have just begun. It's not
too hot but hot at the same time.

Recently, in the month of March I had
successfully finished my 11th class which

I am very happy about. After my class

11th exams, I had got a short break to
spend with my family. I had a lot of fun
and visited various places. I really cherished the
moments I had with my family. Now, that

I'm back to school. The new academic year
has begun and I'm currently in class 12th. Please
continue to pray for my studies as I have
to write my board exams next year.

Also, please pray for my parents who
are working in their mission
field. Thankyou for the love and care
that you've showered us with.

Yours truly,
Saviour Paul Maseh



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Peru Internship Update

"And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also." 2 Timothy 2:2

We apologize that this internship update is long overdue, as we hit the ground running after our trip!

However, we really thought we had already done a post trip update until a friend wrote and asked me when they were going to get one! Looking back, we realized we hadn't actually done it! Please forgive us for the belated update, but I hope this helps you to get a glimpse into what we did while we were there.



TWO TEAMS IN ONE

Our team consisted of seven adults and two kiddos, but it was broken up into two main teams. The first team in the photo to the left consisted of two 5th year students (graduating in June), one young instructor family with two small children and the two of us. After two weeks, one student returned to Brazil, where he grew up, to spend two more weeks with a mission flying

organization there. The instructor family flew home and then the wife of the remaining student joined us - as shown in the picture on the right. We marvel at how God orchestrated the travel, the timing, the people, the events, etc. that each group needed to be able to see God working in and through them, the ministry of SAMAIR and the people of Peru! In spite of travel delays, the discomforts of heat, humidity and bugs that they were not used to, each person demonstrated an attitude of servanthood and a true desire to learn about the culture and people they were visiting. This was a blessing to us as team leaders and helped everything to go quite smoothly.



Our goals for this trip were to allow the students to experience Peruvian culture and language, as well as team dynamics and a firsthand look at the different ministries that mission aviation supports. Plus, we wanted to encourage the SAMAIR team in any way we could by helping out with whatever they needed us to do. This ranged from washing planes, trimming trees to rebuilding the water well manifold, etc.

A highlight for all the guys was the chance to travel by riverboat 5 hours south - upriver - to a small village where there is a recently developed Bible Institute. The



purpose was three-fold: 1) to help construct a roof over the existing bathroom/shower area, 2) to observe the "storying" method of Bible training and 3) to be able to sense the value of mission aviation up close and personal. After two nights and two days of swatting bugs and working in 95+ temps, the guys heard the floatplane arriving overhead to pick them up. What a joyful sound and then they understood in a new way the real significance of mission aviation! You can see by their smiles in the photo as they boarded the plane headed

for the SAMAIR base!

Of course, a real highlight for us was to be able to reconnect with our dear Peruvian friends and former co-workers while we were in Peru. It had been nearly 10 years since we have been there and it was so good to see these dear people once again!



We want to thank all of you for the your faithful support and your prayers as we led this internship trip. It was a blessing to be a part of it and we pray it was a blessing to all those we came in

contact with with as well. Lord willing, we hope to return with another group next January! We will keep you posted.

PRAYER ITEMS FOR THIS SEMESTER

1. This semester is well under way and our 5th year students are on the final stretch! Jon is working with three 5th year students this semester as they earn their Complex endorsement and their Commercial license. Please pray for these students as they are working so hard to complete their training and at the same time, trying to figure out what their next steps will be following graduation.
2. April 26th is our final Food and Field Foundations for this semester. Please pray that God will bring the students and spouses He wants to be here and that the information presented will be practical and encouraging.
3. Please pray that God will help us to be sensitive to the spiritual needs of our students.

Well, this has turned out to be a long update! Thank you for hanging in there to read this update. We appreciate each of you and really love it when you respond and let us know how to pray for you too.

Under His Wings,

Jonathan & Karen Schmidt

Serving with Proclaim Aviation Ministries on loan to: Moody Aviation.

Financial gifts can be sent to:

Proclaim Aviation Ministries.
PO Box 356 Worthington, MN 5618

Or online at:
proclaimaviation.org/donate



BIRTHDAYS for MAY

Dean Rydbeck 7th

Jeff Harrison 10th

Hannah Blakeney 11th

Scott Malthaner 12th

Evelyn Smith 13th

Eli Venning 26th

Dates to Remember for May

May 1 National Day of Prayer

May 3 Work Day at the Church at 8:00am

May 4 Communion

May 5 Men's Bible Study at 6:30pm. in the church parlor

May 7 Women in the Church Circle Meeting at 9:30am

May 11 Mother's Day

May 11 Start of the Women's Resource Center Baby Bottle Campaign

May 18 Monthly Luncheon, please bring a dish to share. We will be celebrating two graduates at the luncheon, Peter & Matthew Blakeney

May 19 Deacons meeting at 5:45pm in the church

May 19 Men's Bible Study at 6:30pm in the church parlor

May 26 Memorial Day Holiday, the Church office will be closed

May 27 Session Meeting at 6:00pm in the church