

“The Humbling Need for Ongoing Cleansing”

Sermon Notes: Leviticus 11--15

Review:

- What is the main point of the book of Leviticus? God is _____; you are _____.
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Today’s Study:

Allen Ross “From the old covenant, the temple, sacrifices, purifications, feasts, and priests were all part of the Levitical law that was fulfilled in Christ... (specifically) The ritual law came to an end in Christ—but not what the law was revealing. The regulations were particularly for Israel and were temporary, but the revelation of God’s holiness and what it demands remains applicable for all.”

Survey of Chs. 1—10 (especially Nadab and Abihu)

→Leviticus 10:11 *“You are to distinguish between the **holy** and the **common**, and between the **unclean** and the **clean**, and you are to teach the people of Israel all the statutes that the Lord has spoken to them by Moses.”* (Note: “unclean” does not equal “sinful,” it merely indicates “insufficient to be in God’s presence”)

Chs. 11—15 The Purification Laws (aka “Holiness Code”)

1. Ch. 11 Distinctions for Mammals, Birds, Sea Creatures, Insects, Reptiles, Amphibians

Q: Why such odd laws?

A: 11:44-45 Not be like _____, but be like _____.

2. Ch. 12 Birth

a. Leviticus: Birth is _____

b. New Testament: we need _____ re-birth.

3. Chs. 13—14 Skin disease, mold, contamination: analogy for how sin works

4. Ch. 15 Humanness and the functions of gender make us routinely unclean before God

Applying God’s Word:

→God’s laws were not arbitrary: they were specifically designed to separate Israel from their pagan neighbors and mark them as the people of God.

→ The Laws were designed to associate God with life, cleanliness, health, and holiness.

→They were a daily reminder that we can’t make ourselves holy (but we can contaminate)

→They were a daily reminder that it was “impossible to stay clean;” We need ongoing cleansing.

→God is lord of everything, all of life is lived before Him: taxes, social media, work, eating, sicknesses, hygiene, pro-creation, etc...

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Leviticus 11—15

cul-ture 'kəlCHər/ *noun*

1. The arts and other manifestations of human intellectual achievement regarded collectively.

"20th century popular culture"

synonyms: the arts, the humanities, intellectual achievement;

literature, music, painting, philosophy, the performing arts

"exposing their children to culture"

Getting Acquainted (15 minutes)

What region of the country/world were you born in? What were some distinctive marks of that culture (food, art, music, figures of speech, religion, political views)?

Talking It Through (20)

One of the major reasons Leviticus is packed with procedures on cleansing, eating, hygiene, work, and feasts is that God was creating a brand new *culture*. The focus of this culture was loving and serving God. Every element of culture, as prescribed by Leviticus, was designed to create worshippers of the true God.

- Peruse ch. 11 noting several of the animals that were clean and unclean. What rationale does God give for making these distinctions (11:45)? Have you heard of any other reasons for these distinctions?
- Orthodox Jews, 7th Day Adventists, Muslims, and Messianic Jews still argue that there is something intrinsically unhealthy or evil about eating the animals God specified here (especially bacon). What New Testament texts would you use to argue otherwise (use your iphone if needed)?

Going Deeper (15 minutes)

- Read 13:45-46. Discuss what it must have felt like to be a “leprous person.” How is this a picture of sin and God’s holiness? See also Heb. 13:10-16.
- Browse Leviticus 14:33-48. What parallels can be drawn between cleansing a house from mold and guarding your soul from sin (see esp. vs 35, 39-40, 42, 46-47)? What are other steps we should take in guarding against the insidious nature of sin?

Time to PRAY (10 minutes)

Take a few minutes to share prayer requests that relate to the people in your group, and then find a couple of volunteers to pray for those needs.