MAS Mentoring

Assignment Four

Preparation

- *Read chapter four in "The Holiness of God" by R.C. Sproul and answer the questions at the end of the chapter. Be prepared to discuss with your student. I suggest you pick two to three questions to discuss with your student.*
- *Read the section of **Devotion** below.*
- *Contact your student ahead of time and confirm meeting time and place. Let them know you look forward to getting with them.*

Meeting

1. *Either you or the student can open with prayer. Sometimes, you can ask them to.*
2. *You may ask you, "Is there anything you want to make sure we talk about today"?*
3. *Discuss "The Holiness of God" (chapter four). You can share with the student your answers from the chapter.*
4. *Discuss with them **Devotion** (see below).*
5. *If there are specific things you are praying for, you can ask for an update.*
6. *When you do an assessment at the end of each term, you are asked if you spoke with your student about a practicum. (Some programs require a practicum, and if your student's program does, you can ask how that is going.) Typically, I will ask about it at least once an eight-week term.*
7. *Close in prayer. Again, either one of you can pray.*

Remember, at the conclusion of the eight week term, you will need to complete an online assessment.

Devotion

In reading chapter four in Sproul's book, the chapter reminded me that part of being in relationship with God is He will reveal sin in our lives. A number of years ago, someone remarked to me, "I feel like as a Christian, I am getting worse." It seemed, in talking with them, that what was occurring was they were increasingly becoming aware of their sin. It reminded me of the Apostle Paul crying out, "Wretched Man that I am!" (Rom. 7:24) You

draw closer to God (by His grace) and in "seeing" His holiness, you see your sin. But for Paul, it did not end there. He continues, "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." (Rom. 8:1) Paul knew his sin but he new something greater, the forgiveness of God. Yes, we do see our sin as we walk with God but we also see His grace and mercy. Robert Murray M'Cheyne, a nineteenth century Scottish Presbyterian Pastor wrote, "For every look at yourself, take ten looks at Christ."

Are we tempted to minimize sin? Yes. We can gloss over it, as if it is no big deal. A friend of mine said we can look at sin, like cookie crumbs on our pants leg; we just brush it aside. I thought about this recently regarding the third commandment, "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain." Do I brush my sin aside? I could say, "Well, I don't curse. That's not a problem. So, it looks like I have the one down." However, maybe I take His name in vain when I fail to honor Him in the way I live. Maybe I take His name in vain, when I go through the religious motions of worship and my heart is not in it. Maybe I take His name in vain when I think, "I can sin, because I know He'll forgive me."

This is part of the motivation in reading Sproul's book on the holiness of God. We are new creatures in Christ and God is molding us more into His image, and that includes rooting out sin in our lives. Will that happen perfectly in this life? No. In fact, we may be like the man who said he's getting worse. We will become more aware of our sin and see, at least to some degree, the sin He actually died for. He didn't just die for the outward behaviors but also for those sinful beliefs, motivations, and desires.

Gerald Wilson, in his commentary on the Psalms, says, "When we really see God as he is—when his power and holiness is displayed for us—there should be no other appropriate response but to get on our knees in acknowledgment of just how far our lives, even at their very best, are removed from the holiness of God and just how undeserved is the gracious love and salvation that God pours out on us day by day."[1] Yet, our God does pour out such love. Let us rejoice that even in our sin, we can come to Him. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Heb. 4:16)

We can always look to Him . . . . . always . . . and even when we do not, we are still His. Hallelujah!

BC

[1] Gerald H. Wilson, *Psalms*, vol. 1, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002), 512.