

APPLYING TRUTH TO LIFE

Grace Gatherings

THEOLOGY NIGHTS | October 4, 2023

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WILLIAMSBURG

Question 8

Explain each of the following attributes of God describing the practical implications of each attribute for life and counseling: wrath, mercy, holiness, omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence.

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Wrath:

“As an attribute of God, the doctrine that **God intensely hates all sin.**”

(Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 206)

“God’s wrath is **His anger toward and punishment of wickedness.**”

(Heath Lambert, *A Theology of Biblical Counseling*, 131)

“It is the **holiness of God stirred into activity against sin.**”

(Arthur W. Pink, *The Attributes of God*, 91)

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Explain each of the following attributes of God describing the practical implications of each attribute for life and counseling: **wrath**, mercy, holiness, omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence.

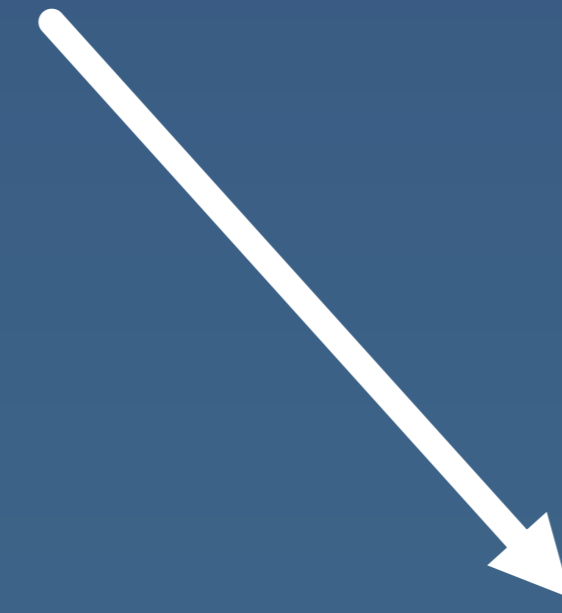
What are the practical implications of God's wrath for life and counseling?

- **Warns** us (Romans 2:5; John 3:36; Hebrews 12:26-31)
- Establishes in us a (greater) **fear and reverence** for God
- **Humbles** us as we (Christians) better understand the true cost of our salvation; increased **gratitude** for the gospel / Jesus Christ
- Fosters in us a stronger need and desire to **live in obedience** (i.e., self-discipline); live in a way pleasing to God
- Reminds us that a desire to punish evil is a **good thing**, a Godly attribute
- **Encourages** us to know that God's care includes a promise to punish wrongdoers in His wrath (Romans 12:17-19)

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Explain each of the following attributes of God describing the practical implications of each attribute for life and counseling: wrath, **mercy**, holiness, omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence.

Mercy



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God's kindness to undeserving people who need help

- Exodus 33:19; Romans 9:15
- Exodus 34:6; Psalm 103:8
- Hebrews 4:16

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Mercy

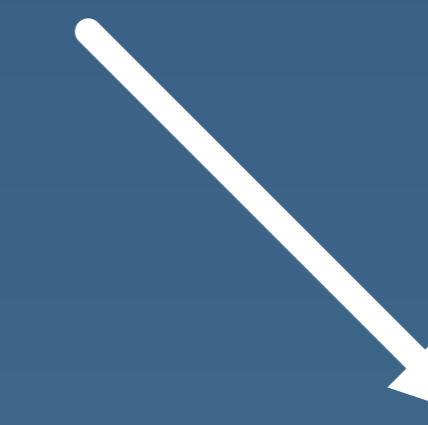
(God's kindness to undeserving people who need help)



Often understood as a manifestation of God's goodness to those who **are in trouble** (i.e., suffering, distressed, in misery)

- 2 Samuel 24:14
- Matthew 9:27; 20:30
- 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

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Often understood as a manifestation of God's goodness to those who **do not deserve it**

- Psalm 119:132
- Romans 3:23-24
- Romans 11:6

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Explain each of the following attributes of God describing the practical implications of each attribute for life and counseling: wrath, **mercy**, holiness, omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence.

What are the practical implications of God's **mercy** for life and counseling?

- **Provides hope** to the believer when he discovers (or is reminded) that God is the **Father of all mercy** and **God of all comfort**; that He **hears** the cry of the desperate, helpless, and hopeless and He loves to grant **mercy** out of His unending goodness.
- **Provides more hope** since the exercise of God's mercy is **not regulated** by the "wretchedness" or the "merit" of the one in need.
- **Reminds us to be merciful**. Matthew 5:7. Matthew 18:21-35 (The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant; v. 33 – *And should not you have had **mercy** on your fellow servant, as I had **mercy** on you?*). 2 Corinthians 1:3-4.
- **Humbles us**. Titus 3:3-5 – ... *He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, **but according to His own mercy** ...*

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Explain each of the following attributes of God describing the practical implications of each attribute for life and counseling: wrath, mercy, **holiness**, omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence.

Holiness:

“God’s holiness means that He is **separated from sin** and **devoted to seeking His own honor.**” (Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 202)

“In the Bible, something is holy when it is **set apart for exclusive dedication to God and His service.**” (Heath Lambert, *A Theology of Biblical Counseling*, 123)

These definitions of holiness include two aspects:

- Relational quality – **separation** from
- Moral quality – separation is **from sin/evil** and **devotion is toward God** (i.e., to the good of God’s own honor or glory)

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Explain each of the following attributes of God describing the practical implications of each attribute for life and counseling: wrath, mercy, **holiness**, omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence.

Example:

- The Sabbath – **holy** day. Exodus 20:11b.
- The sabbath day was made **holy** because it was **set apart** from the ordinary activities of the world and **dedicated** to God's service.

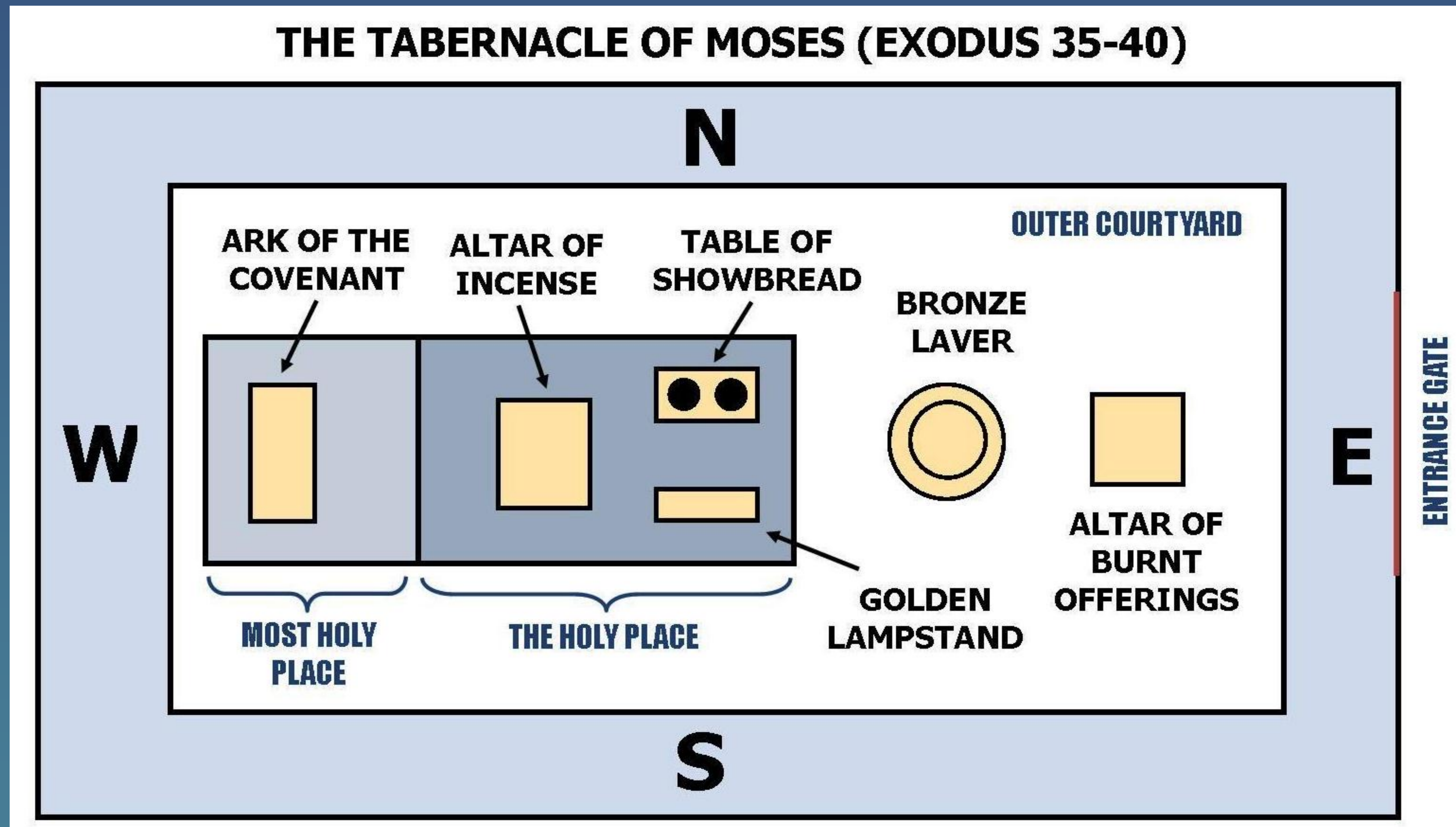
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Example:

- The Tabernacle - Exodus 26:33b

The *Holy Place*,
Most *Holy Place*



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Example:

- The Anointing Oil. Exodus 30:22-33.
- The tabernacle, items in the tabernacle (i.e., ark of testimony, table, utensils, basin, stand, etc.), even Aaron and his sons – they were to be made **holy**, that is, **set apart** from ordinary usage and tasks and from the evil and sin of the world and **dedicated** to God's service.

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Explain each of the following attributes of God describing the practical implications of each attribute for life and counseling: wrath, mercy, **holiness**, omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence.

How do these two aspects (i.e., separation from sin, devotion to God) apply to God Himself?

“God is supremely and infinitely holy because He has supreme and infinite insight into **His own awesome character**. God’s insight in this regard leads Him to the **ultimate devotion to Himself**. God’s holiness – His devotion to Himself – is a necessary attribute. If God were ever more devoted to something other than Himself, that something, as the primary object of His worship, would make God an idolater. God’s holiness means He is not an idolater and is not tempted to be one.”

(Lambert, 125)

“God’s holiness means that He is **separated from sin** and **devoted to seeking His own honor**.” (Wayne Grudem, 202)

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What are the practical implications of God's **holiness** for life and counseling?

- We are **commanded** to be holy – 1 Peter 1:14-16
- A right (biblical) view of God's holiness is a **prerequisite** for a right (biblical) view of ourselves – Isaiah 6:1-5
- A sincere devotion to God is a **prerequisite** to our holiness and loving others well
 - “Within the triune being of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are 100 percent devoted to each other in faithfulness and loyalty and trust. Since righteousness refers to the way people treat each other in relationship, God is holy in His righteousness. This all has implications for what it means for human beings to be holy. Human holiness has to do with only moral purity as a result of the **primary focus, namely, our devotion to God.**” (Lambert, 124)

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Explain each of the following attributes of God describing the practical implications of each attribute for life and counseling: wrath, mercy, **holiness**, omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence.

Are there activities or relationships in your present pattern of life that are hindering your growth in holiness because they make it difficult for you to be separated from sin and devoted to seeking God's honor?

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References:

- Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology, An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*
- Heath Lambert, *A Theology of Biblical Counseling*
- Arthur W. Pink, *The Attributes of God*
- Steven Lawson (Ligonier Ministries), *The Attributes of God*

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