

# 1st Thessalonians

4-3-22

4:7 For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.

1:1-10 – Escape the Coming Wrath

2:1-12 – How Paul Loved, pt 1

2:13-20 – How Paul Loved, pt 2

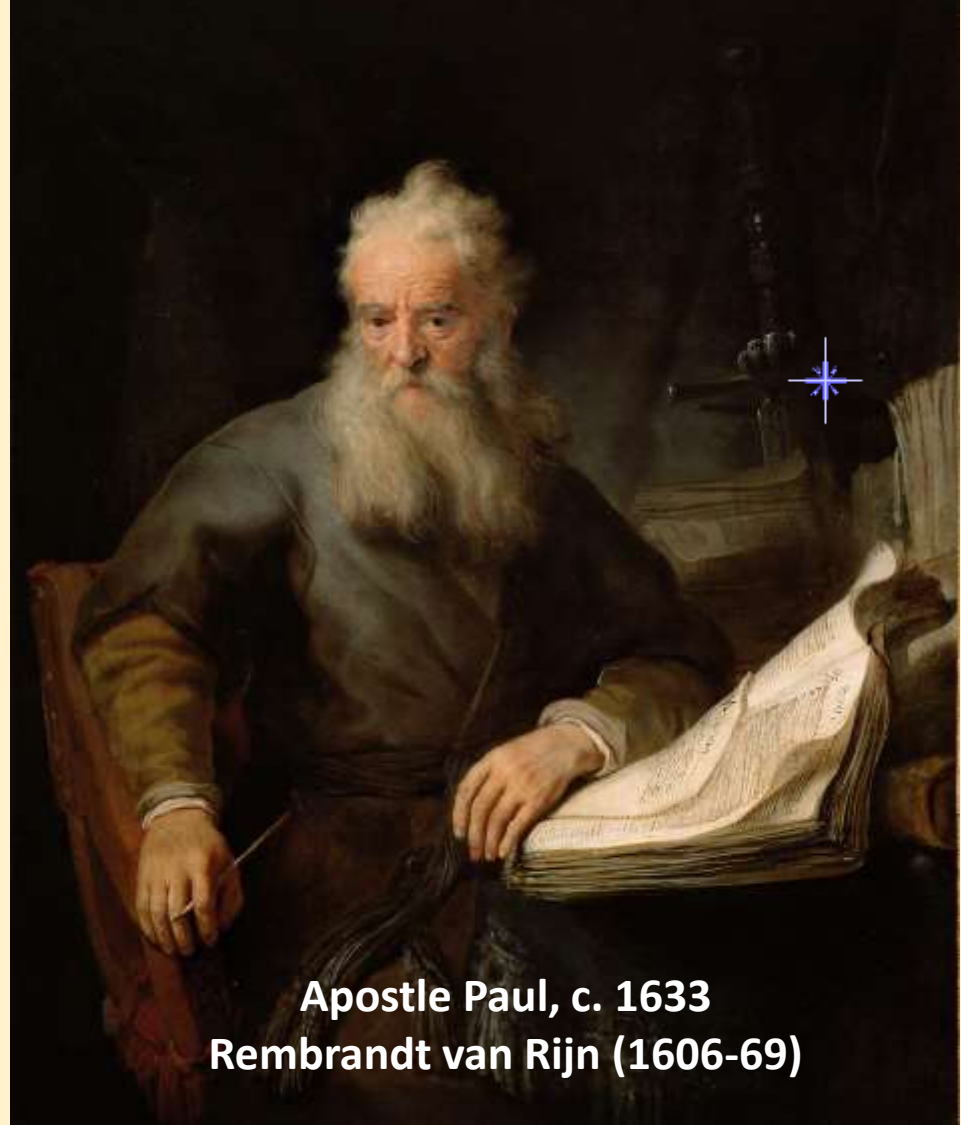
3:1-14 – Your Pastor's Heart

+ 4:1-12 – How Holy Can You Be?

4:13-18 – Our Heavenly Rest

5:1-11 – Day of the Lord ... Are You Woke?

5:12-24 – Blameless at His Coming



Apostle Paul, c. 1633  
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)

FBC Woodville  
Sunday School Class

Michael G. Maness  
[PreciousHeart.net/SS](http://PreciousHeart.net/SS)  
... [Click Here](#)



**April 17 – Sunrise 0700**

# Easter

CELEBRATE WITH US

7:00 SUNRISE SERVICE // 9:30 BREAKFAST // 10:45 WORSHIP



**4:7 For God did not call us to be impure,  
but to live a holy life.**

**Alternate Title #1**

**How Holy Can  
You Be?**

# **Holy, Holy, Holy**

These words are **LARGE**

- ✓ **Complete & Whole**
- ✓ **Comprehensive**
- ✓ **Exhaustive**
- ✓ **Encyclopedic**
- ✓ **Universal ... Galactic**

That is, **Holy** leaves **NOTHING** out

**Holy** includes every thought & action

**Holy = Purity & Perfection**



**"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!"**

**Anglican Bishop Reginald Heber (1783–1826)**

**Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!**

**Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;**

**Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and Mighty!**

**God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

**Holy, Holy, Holy! All the saints adore Thee,**

**Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;**

**Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,**

**Which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.**



Perhaps this is  
your Guardian Angel


***Angel of Grief or  
Weeping Angel - 1894***

**by William Wetmore Story**

**grave of his wife  
Emelyn Story at the  
Protestant Cemetery  
in Rome.**



***The Angel of Grief Weeping Over the  
Dismantled Altar of Life  
replica at Sanford University***



**<sup>1</sup> As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you HOW TO LIVE in order to please God, as in fact you are living.**

**Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more.**


**<sup>2</sup> For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.**

**He is going to share a little in the next verses  
What went on during Thessalonica campfires  
We can assume from chapters 1-4 ... to here**

**HOURS of “instruction” took place**

**What he felt was high priority ... he writes**





<sup>3</sup> It is God's will that you should be **sanctified**:  
that you should avoid **sexual immorality**;

Πορνείας – *Porneias* – 25x in the N.T. – *Porn*

Word for *Sanctified* 10x -

<sup>4</sup> that each of you should learn to control your own body  
in a way that is **holy** and honorable, <sup>5</sup>not in passionate lust  
like the pagans, who do not know God.

Interestingly enough, **sanctified** root is used for **holy** too

Little trouble with meanings of *Porn* & *Sanctified*

***Sanctification***: 1. ***Positional***: Christ's life in us before Father

J. Vernon McGee 2. ***Practical***: Spirit working to perfect us

3. ***Total***: Future in His image in Heaven



**<sup>3</sup> It is God's will that you should be sanctified:  
that you should avoid sexual immorality;**

**<sup>4</sup> that each of you should learn to control your own body  
in a way that is holy and honorable, <sup>5</sup>not in passionate  
lust like the pagans, who do not know God.**

**Little trouble with meanings Porn & Sanctified**

**What does it mean "lust like the pagans"? A.D. 50 ... Acts**

**Porn often refers to Prostitution in the temples**

**F. F. Bruce (1909-1990) Rylands Professor of  
Biblical Criticism at University of Manchester ...**

**international authority: his *New Testament Documents:  
Are They Reliable?* (1943), *Christianity Today* in 2006 as**

**top 50 books "shaped evangelicals"**



**F.F. Bruce: “pornei” PRIMARILY traffic of Harlots including brother to sister, father to child**  
**“Christianity from the outset has sanctified sexual union within marriage (as in Judaism)....**  
**“This is a strange notion in pagan society to which the gospel was first brought.”**



**Brothels brought in revenue for the state & state religion**  
**Demosthenes (384-322 BC) in 4th century Athens said:**

**“We keep mistresses for pleasure, concubines for our day-to-day bodily needs, but we have wives to produce legitimate children and serve as trustworthy guardians of the homes.”**

**New book out by Mary Beard, a professor of classics at the University of Cambridge**

***Twelve Caesars: Images of Power from the Ancient World to the Modern (2021)***

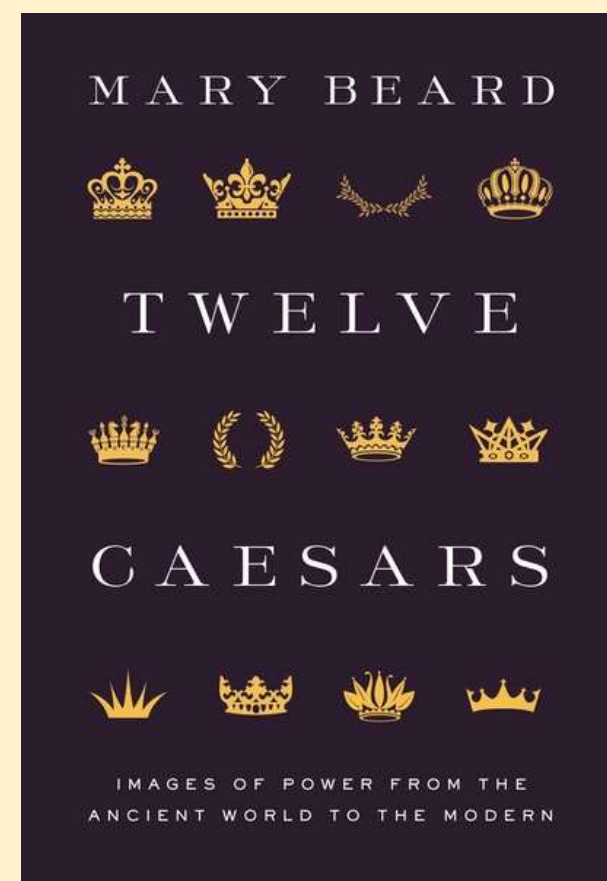
**Beard was also the author of the Best-Selling: *SPQR: A History of Ancient Rome***

**She expands upon an ancient pivotal book by Suetonius, AD 69-122**

***Lives of the Twelve Caesars***

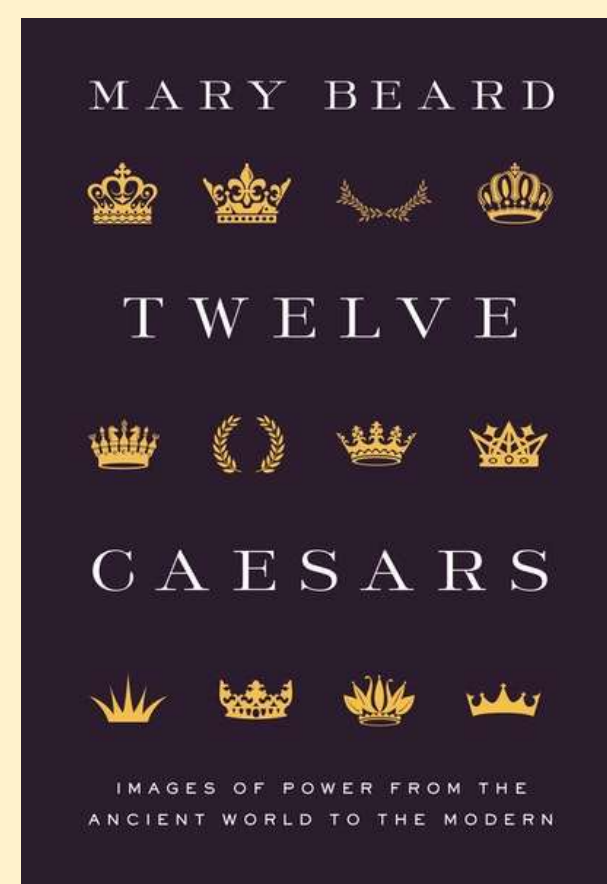
**Republican Rome 510-31 BC ... Imperial Rome 31 BC–AD 476**

**1901 translation on Google Books – his only book**



# Julius Caesar 100–Ides of March 15, 44 BC

Augustus	31 BC–14 AD – 1st Emperor
Tiberius	14–37
Caligula	37–41 - sister – senators wives
Claudius	41–54 - wife held contest, won 25
Nero	54–68 - kicked pregnant wife dead
Galba	68–69
Otho	Jan–April 69
Vitellius	July–Dec 69
Vespasian	69–79 ... fought Jews
Titus	79–81 ... Destroyed Jerusalem 70 AD
Domitian	81–96



The background of the slide is a classical painting depicting a group of people in a room. On the left side, there is a large, detailed stone column. The painting shows several figures, including a woman in a blue dress and a man in a white robe, in various poses. The overall style is that of a Renaissance or Baroque painting.

**4:7 For God did not call us to be impure,  
but to live a holy life.**

**Alternate Title #1**

**How Holy Can  
You Be?**

# *I did not see this at first*

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 – How Holy Can You Be?¶

<sup>1</sup> Additionally then, brothers and sisters, because of the grace of Jesus, that as you have obeyed the commands we gave you for your sanctification: that you may learn how to control his own passions, as the Gentiles, who don't know God, and take advantage of their weakness, and the avenger of all these offenses has not called us to impiety, but to holiness. He who rejects this does not recognize the brotherly love: You don't know that by God to love one another, as brothers and sisters in the entire region, to do this even in the midst of business, and to work with your own hands, that you may behave properly in

## Thessalonian Church

- ✓ Likely converted BEFORE Paul's 3-weeks
- ✓ Enemies said Paul were those who had turned the world upside down
- ✓ They were Pagans before conversion
- ✓ Paul spend *TIME* with them
- ✓ Many dinner & after dinner *TALKS*
- ✓ NOW he chooses ONE TOPIC to

Remind Them

**<sup>6</sup>This means one must not transgress against and take advantage of a brother or sister in this manner, because the Lord is an **avenger** of all these offenses, as we also previously told and warned you.**

**Context of this verse is Pagan Thessalonica ... Near East  
We don't see the SEX as much today in PUBLIC as they did  
Child Abuse, Trafficking, Enslavement is ILLEGAL Today  
But LOOK at this verse ... Paul was concerned about them**

**Doing Porn among Christians**

**Stop Prostituting Your OWN CHILDREN  
More importantly ... God is the avenger**



**7 For God did not call us to be impure,  
but to live a holy life.**

**How Holy CAN can you be?**

**More on marriage in Paul's other letters**

**But the most astounding rule ... measure  
astounding STANDARD is**

**Christ**

**Matt 5:28: But I say to you that everyone who looks at  
a woman with lustful intent has already committed  
adultery with her in his heart.**

**Christ Raised the Bar**





**7 For God did not call us to be impure,  
but to live a holy life.**

**8 Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction  
does not reject a human being but God,  
the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.**

**The standard of Christ is high ... who can ...**

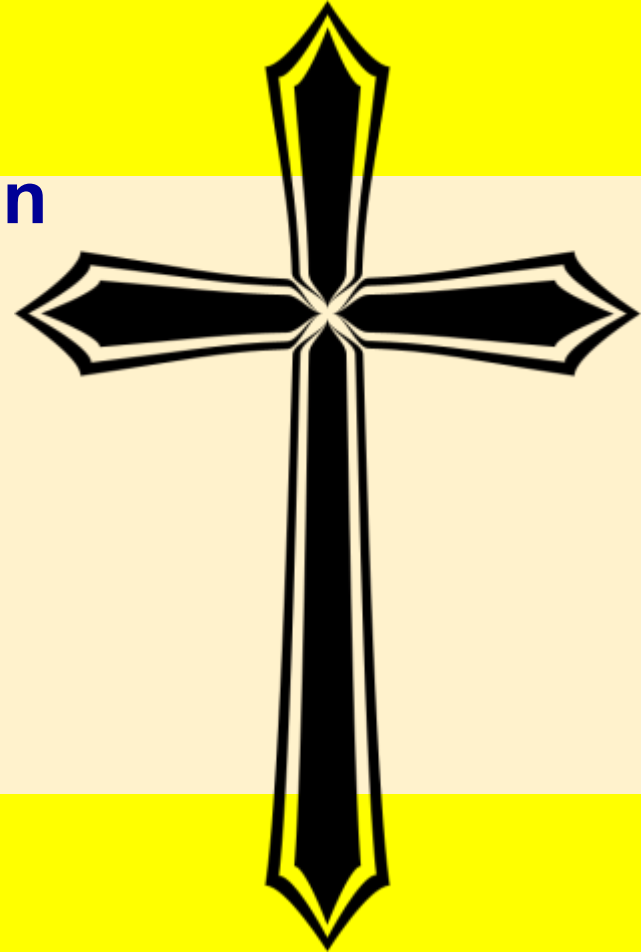
**Who is as competent as Christ?**


**Not a rhetorical question ...**

**WHO can live that competent?**

**God has called us to work ... grow ... to live for God**

**Exacting vigilance ... can be EXHAUSTING**





**Jesus was not a Pharisee or Sadducee ... rather  
Paul has finished his “instruction” ...**

**Of all things Paul taught during his 3-week stay  
To the rather new Christians in Thessalonica ...  
Paul REMINDS them NOT to Prostitute themselves  
then implores them**

**<sup>7</sup> For God did not call us to be impure,  
but to live a holy life.**

**<sup>8</sup> Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction  
does not reject a human being but God,  
the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.**

Paul has finished his “instruction” ... moves back to

## Love

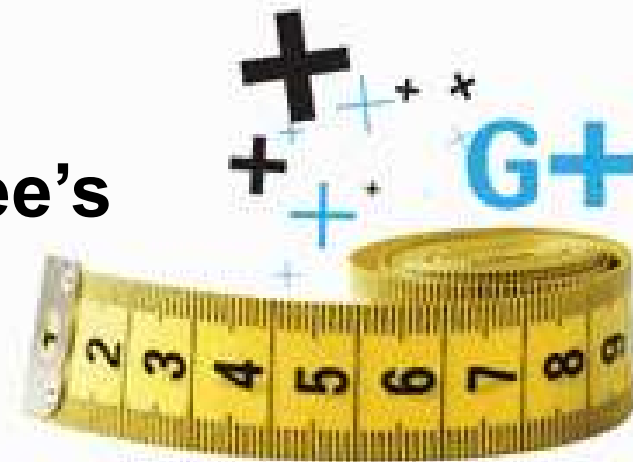


<sup>9</sup> Now about your **love** for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to **love** each other.

<sup>10</sup> And in fact, you do **love** all of God’s family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so **more** and **more**,

Living the Christian LIFE ... is NOT the Pharisee’s

Checklist or Tape Measure



<sup>10</sup> And in fact, you do **love** all of God's family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so **more** and **more**,

<sup>11</sup> and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you,

<sup>12</sup> so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

The Holy Life as Jesus encouraged ... *in part*

You might not be able to be PERFECT ... at LEAST do

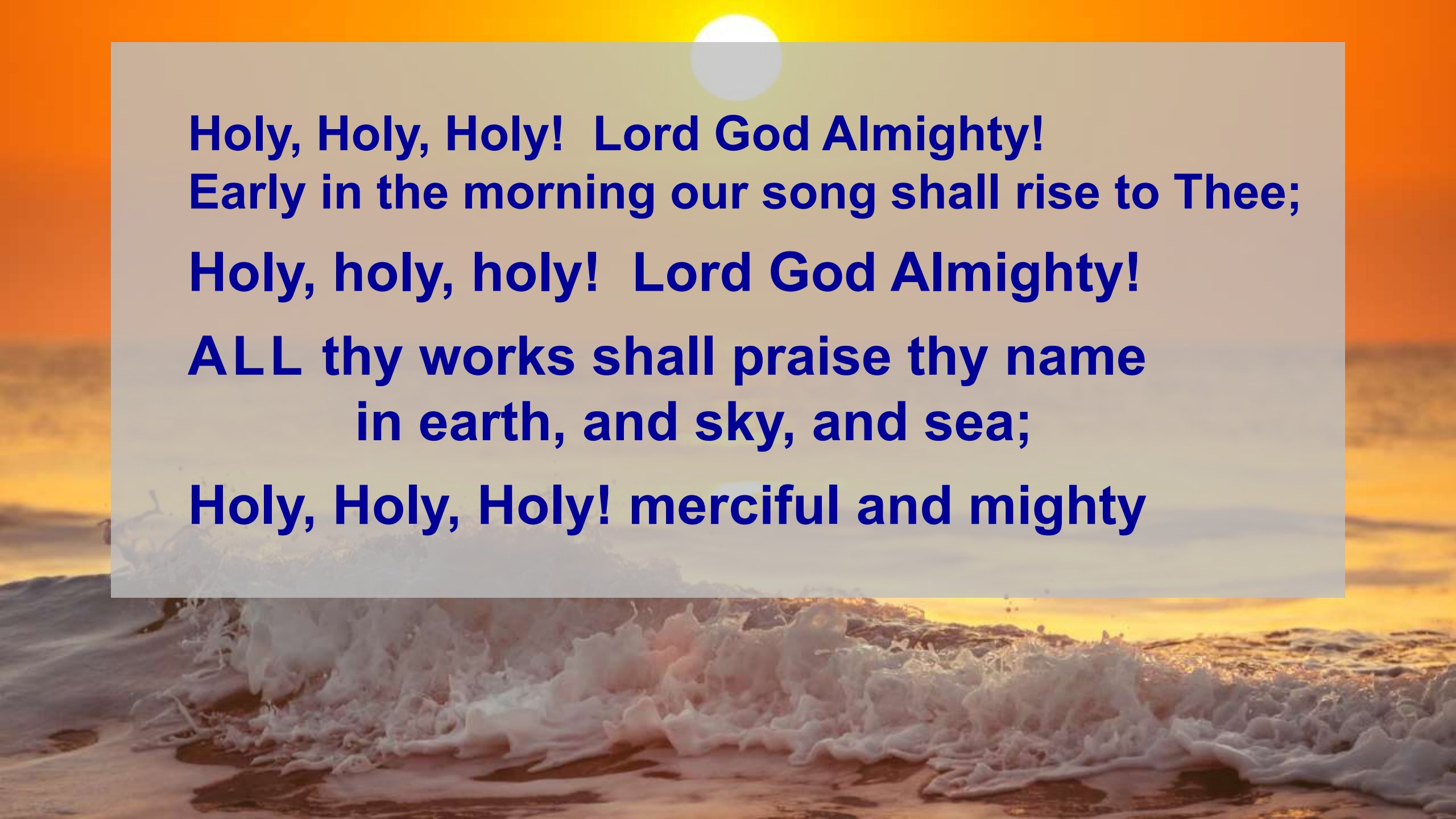
**NOT Prostitute yourself, your children, your slave**



"How Holy?" is less *the* question  
Question becomes "**How to Love?**"  
Grow in Christ ... yet the more you know  
More you SEE of Christ's Holiness  
More you see & feel of God's Greatness  
More you GRASP Christ's Eternal Holiness  
The SMALLER you become ...  
More you CAN SEE of your smallness ...  
More you CAN SEE of your shortcoming ...  
More you CAN SEE the distance to Christ's divine

**Competence**



A sunset over the ocean with white foam from a wave in the foreground. The sun is a bright white circle in the upper center, partially obscured by a semi-transparent white box containing text. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow, and the water is a deep orange. The foreground shows the white foam of a wave washing onto a sandy beach.

**Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!**  
**Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;**  
**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!**  
**ALL thy works shall praise thy name**  
**in earth, and sky, and sea;**  
**Holy, Holy, Holy! merciful and mighty**