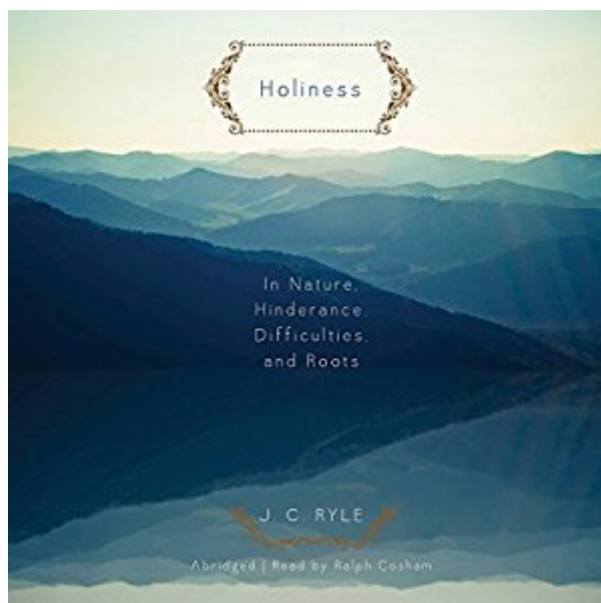


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# Holiness



## Synopsis

John Charles Ryle's best known works have been reissued and widely read over many years. The fine qualities of his writings have ensured that his books are still popular and useful. This volume has become a classic work and is known and loved by many throughout the world. In days when evangelical preachers are accused of being either superficial or dull, we have here a great example of one who was neither of these things. As Bishop Ryle explains and applies his texts with his customary simplicity and directness, the listener will find his conscience pricked and his soul examined. Ryle addresses hard and trying subjects that most modern evangelicals have chosen to ignore: the power and depth of indwelling sin, the necessity of a holy life, the struggle and fight of faith, counting the cost of following Christ - and that's only in the first five chapters. Ryle's Holiness has become essential reading on this most important subject, and the first chapter, "Sin", has rarely been bettered. J. C. Ryle (1816-1900) was appointed as the first bishop of Liverpool in 1880 and was the leader of the Evangelical Party in the Church of England for more than half a century. He is highly regarded for his plain and lively writings on practical and spiritual themes; their usefulness and impact have been consistently recognized and remain as wise and relevant today as when he first wrote them.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I bought the Kindle version of this book, and it does have quite a few technical issues with the editing, mostly spelling mistakes and poor transitions in between the chapters. (But hey, it was 99

cents.) However...JC Ryle is quickly becoming one of my favorite authors. Ryle's insights into Scripture and clarity of expression are remarkable, making his works not only profitable, but an easy and pleasant read, not at all tedious. Beyond that, Ryle's compassion for his readers practically bleeds through the pages. He pleads with men to examine their condition and turn to Christ. I'm truly grateful that JC Ryle composed this work, so that I and others like me can benefit from his wisdom well over a century later. (Just for fun, I must say that Ryle reminds me of what a Christian Gandalf-or Dumbledore, take your pick-would probably write!)

If there were ten stars, that's what I would give Holiness. I've read only one other book that comes anywhere close to this: Eric Metaxas' Bonhoeffer book. My reading group is reading/studying Holiness and meeting monthly to discuss it. We have been reading very slowly in order to absorb everything we can from this work. Sadly, we are at the end, but I will always be impacted by the things I've learned from J. C. Ryle.

If there was preaching as direct as this book is written, revival would be common all through churches in America. This book will challenge any weak thinking you may have and it's direct writings cut right to the chase. If you like where your tent is pitched, this book is not for you. You do not want to be any closer to God. If you really need to be challenged, read this book.

I purchased the book "Holiness" because I wanted to have a scholarly and life-directed attitude on what it means to be Holy unto the Lord. Today's understanding by most people is that "holiness" is something that can be whipped up on the spur of the moment, and it's according to each person's definition of what "holiness" means to them. However, very few go to God's Word and read from Genesis to Revelation (66 books in all in The Bible) and actually let God show them what it means to Him for the humans he has created to be "holy." Many also think, once they hear of God's Holiness, that it is boring and not at all something to be explored. Far from it. Being born by the Holy Spirit makes you a child of God, and as you walk with Him, He shows you the love and joy that comes from living God's Way. That radiates to all around you. However, the Book is not a light read. Dr. Ryle speaks from the depths of his being and his experience as he goes through what it means to "...imitate God as dear children." I have not yet finished the book, as it is quite lengthy. But what I have read has given me much "food for thought." I highly recommend it to those searching for Truth.

I've read this book twice, and there has each time been a pronounced effect on my focus on and

progress in holiness. The book is well over 100 years old, but it doesn't feel like it. Ryle writes with an engaging style and sincerity that can be felt in its pages. His counsel is wise, practical, effective, and best of all, Biblical. There is a reason that this is a classic. Highly recommended for all Christians, especially young men.

Quotes from this entry include: "But the plain truth is, that men will persist in confounding two things that differ -- that is, justification and sanctification. In justification the word to address to man is believe -- only believe; in sanctification the word must be 'watch, pray, and fight.' What God has divided let us not mingle and confuse." "For my part I am persuaded that the more light we have, the more we see our own sinfulness; the nearer we get to heaven, the more we are clothed with humility." "Those whom the Spirit draws to Jesus are those whom the Spirit has convinced of sin. Without thorough conviction of sin, men may seem to come to Jesus and follow Him for a season, but they will soon fall away and return to the world." "The only righteousness in which we can appear before God is the righteousness of another -- even the perfect righteousness of our Substitute and Representative, Jesus Christ the Lord. His work, and not our work, is our only title to heaven. This is a truth which we should be ready to die to maintain." "The notion of a purgatory after death, which shall turn sinners into saints, is a lying invention of man and is nowhere taught in the Bible. We must be saints before we die if we are to be saints afterwards in glory. The favorite idea of many, that dying men need nothing except absolution and forgiveness of sins to fit them for their great change, is a profound delusion. We need the work of the Holy Spirit as well as the work of Christ; we need renewal of the heart as well as the atoning blood; we need to be sanctified as well as to be justified." "Holiness is the habit of being of one mind with God, according as we find His mind described in Scripture. It is the habit of agreeing in God's judgment, hating what He hates, loving what He loves, and measuring everything in this world by the standard of His Word." "The church of Rome denounces assurance in the most unmeasured terms. The Council of Trent declares roundly that a 'believer's assurance of the pardon of his sins is a vain and ungodly confidence'; and Cardinal Bellarmine, the well-known champion of Romanism, calls it 'a prime error of heretics.' ...My answer to all who deny the existence of real, well-grounded assurance, is simply this: 'What says the Scripture?' If assurance be not there, I have not another word to say... I feel, for my own part, if I may take these Scriptures in their plain obvious meaning, the doctrine of assurance is true." "Our justification is a perfect finished work and admits of no degrees. Our sanctification is imperfect and incomplete and will be so to the last hour of our life." "Listen not for a moment to the wretched argument of the Roman Catholic, when he tells you that the Virgin Mary and the saints are more

sympathizing than Christ....Oh, think twice before you cast aside the principles of the Reformation! Think twice before you give way to the prevailing tendency to favor popery and go back to Rome...Surely I have a right to say that the times require of us a renewed sense of the evils of Romanism, and of the enormous value of the Protestant Reformation!""'Christ is all' (Colossians 3:11)...These three words are the essence and substance of Christianity."

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