



DEGRADATION

The Ologies Lesson 12



The Ologies – Study and Gathering Guide

LESSON 12 - DEGRADATION

MAIN POINT:

MESSAGE NOTES:¹

Listen to or view message #12 in *The Ologies*, “Degradation,” at pscconline.com. You can also find it by searching for Pleasant Street Church of Christ on your favorite podcasting service or on the Faithlife app on Apple TV or Roku.

Thought Questions:

1. How might we help a skeptical person see that they need to be saved?
2. What is the difference between transgression and degradation?
3. How is degradation both something we do, and something done to us?
4. Why is God’s grace the only thing that can restore degraded people?

Next Steps:

1. What are some ways that you substitute religious observance for total devotion to God?
2. How will you “say ‘no’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and live self-controlled, upright, and godly...in this present age”?

Obedience Challenge: Graciously Given

There’s a difference between giving somebody what they require and giving them what they deserve. The law of Moses specified what God required. The covenant of Christ demonstrates what God deserves. Think of a cause or a person that needs your help and support this week. How can you give to them in Jesus’ name – that is, as if they were Jesus? What kind of gift would be worthy of him?

¹ You will share your notes during the Collaboration time of your Life Team meeting.

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DAILY DEVOTION GUIDE:

Read the following Scriptures about humankind as created beings, throughout this week. Use the [SOAP journaling method](#) to help you go deeper into the text. (See Handout)

- Monday – Leviticus 16
- Tuesday – Psalm 32
- Wednesday – Psalm 62
- Thursday – Psalm 130
- Friday – Isaiah 26
- Saturday – Titus 3

During your Life Team meeting, you'll be given the opportunity to share some of your Application entries. Consider bookmarking any that you'll want to share by way of confession or to encourage others.

Or copy it here for easy reference:

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INTERGENERATIONAL GATHERING GUIDE:

Primer Exercise:

For Children

Gather your family around the kitchen table. Ask everyone to help you make a list of everything people do in the kitchen/dining room. Encourage everyone to really think about things your family does in this room as well as what other people you know do in their kitchens/dining rooms. Write everything down on a sheet of paper and leave the list on the kitchen table (or tape it to the wall in the kitchen).

Now move everyone to the bathroom. For extra silliness, go to your smallest full bathroom and challenge everyone to fit in there at once. Make a list of everything people do in the bathroom. Again, try to make the most complete list possible and write it down.

Once you have your complete list, tell your family that you're tired of doing that same boring thing all of the time. Explain that you will switch the lists of what can be done in each room. From now on, meals will be cooked in the bathroom and bathroom activities will take place in the kitchen. Depending on your personality, you can take this as far as you'd like. Your kids will most likely think it's funny at first. If you persist, they'll probably begin to become troubled. If you plan to really push the envelope, you should think about *how* the various activities can switch rooms. For instance you might want to put a bowl in the kitchen floor for a potty.

After you bring the ruse to an end. Ask:

- What be wrong with switching rooms?
- How would life here be affected?

Say, "There are things that are appropriate for God's people to do and things that are inappropriate. What happens when God's people behave as if they don't know God?"

Everyone Else

Watch this video of [\(1\) Deepfake Queen: 2020 Alternative Christmas Message - YouTube](#)

- Why was this message funny?
- How would you have felt if it had been real?
- Why do you think some behaviors are fitting for the Queen and some are not?
- What behaviors are fitting for God's children?

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The three sessions below are designed for home devotional use. Each session should be done in a separate sitting.

Session One: “Brought Low”

- Read Psalm 106:34-43²
 - How did Israel participate in their degradation?
 - How did God degrade them in response?
 - What did they do in response to his deliverance?
- Application and Prayer
 - What went wrong with Israel?
 - How can we avoid making the same mistakes they did?

Session Two: “There but For Grace”

- Read Titus 3:1-8
 - Why should we be respectful and kind even to sinful people?
 - How does Paul describe the human heart and life before rebirth?
 - What did it take to save us?
- Application and Prayer
 - Think of an unbeliever who’s been a real jerk to you.
 - What kind and gracious things can you do for that person?

Session Three: “No Other Refuge”

- Read Psalm 62:2-5
 - What is the connection between being blessed and being forgiven?
 - Why must “all flesh come” to God if they want to be delivered?
- Application and Prayer
 - What did the psalmist say about going to God’s house?
 - How should we feel about being able to go directly into God’s presence through Jesus’ name?

² Keep in mind that the word translated “sin” or “iniquity” in vs. 43 refers to being twisted or perverted – degraded.

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LIFE TEAM GATHERING GUIDE:

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Words & Music by
Pete Sanchez, Jr.

I Exalt Thee

Psalms 97:9

Arr. by Darrell Bledsoe

Musical notation for the first system of 'I Exalt Thee'. It features a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff with lyrics: 'I ex - alt Thee, I ex - alt Thee, I ex - alt Thee, I ex - alt Thee.' The music includes various note values, rests, and dynamic markings.

Musical notation for the second system of 'I Exalt Thee'. It continues the melody with lyrics: 'O Lord, O Lord, For Thou, O Lord art high a - bove all the earth.' It includes triplet markings and a 'Verse' section.

Musical notation for the third system of 'I Exalt Thee'. It continues the melody with lyrics: 'Thou art ex - alt - ed far a - bove all gods. For Thou, O - bove all gods. I ex -' It includes triplet markings and a '2' marking.

Musical notation for the fourth system of 'I Exalt Thee'. It continues the melody with lyrics: 'alt Thee, I ex - alt Thee, I ex - alt Thee, I ex - alt Thee.' It includes triplet markings and a '2' marking.

Musical notation for the fifth system of 'I Exalt Thee'. It continues the melody with lyrics: 'alt Thee, I ex - alt Thee, I ex - alt Thee, I ex - alt Thee.' It includes triplet markings and a '2' marking.

I Exalt Thee

Musical notation for the sixth system of 'I Exalt Thee'. It continues the melody with lyrics: 'alt Thee, O Lord, I ex - O Lord.' It includes triplet markings and a '2 End Rit.' marking.

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Words & Music by
Jack Hayford

Majesty

1 Chronicles 29:11

Arr. by Darrell Bleasoe

1. Maj - es - ty, wor - ship His maj - es - ty, Un - to Je - sus be all glo - ry, pow - er and praise. Maj - es - ty, King - dom au - thor - i - ty, flow from His throne un - to His own, His an - tennae, So ex - alt, lift up - on high the name of Je - sus. Mag - ni - fy, come glo - ri - fy Christ Je - sus the

Majesty

King, Maj - es - ty, wor - ship His maj - es - ty. Je - sus, who died, now glo - ri - fied, King of all Kings.

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Scripture Discussion

- Read Hebrews 12:14-17
 - What similarities do you see between Esau and Cain?
 - How can the warnings in this passage help us to avoid degradation?

Pray

- Get a volunteer to close the prayer time at the end.
- Recite the following benediction together as an entry into a time of prayer:

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify us through and through. May our whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls us is faithful, and he will do it.

- Segue into an open prayer time.

Collaborate

Each participant should have listened to Message #12 in *The Ologies*, “Degradation” in person or online and taken notes.

- Have everyone share their answers to the **Thought Questions** in their *Message Notes*.
- If anyone has already done the **Obedience Challenge**, have them report on how it went and what they learned.
- Encourage (but don’t require) participants to share their **Next Steps** or any **Application** entries from their SOAP journals.
- Close by praying for each other’s **Next Steps** and **Application** entries.