

FINDING GOD

Deep within the soul of humanity is a latent desire to come into God's presence. But that desire, put there by God, is not enough to overcome the hindrances that block the pathway. The main obstruction into God's presence is the unredeemed nature of man.

To worship God from the depths of the human soul is to discover worship in its purest form, unaffected by the world around. And it is deeper than any mere human emotion.

For the unbeliever, worshipping God is impossible. The sin nature is repelled by the purity of God's nature and seeks other consolations. These two natures are incompatible, which is the practical outcome of an alienation from God.

The most important thing we can devote ourselves to is giving attention to the things of God to save our soul. This must be an active, persistent, and deliberate intent on our part, regardless of the difficulties that lie in our path. It is not a journey for the indolent or for those addicted to entertainment and the coarse pleasures of the flesh.

Someone has well said that whatever is without cost does not have value. When we think of coming into the presence of God, what could be more valuable than that? Certainly, the importance of coming into God's presence it's worth overcoming every obstacle along the way.

Penetrating the holy presence of God is the reward of fighting the good fight and overcoming all obstructions in the way. This all-consuming desire for God's presence goes a long way in tackling the major hindrances a seeker might find. When the goal is in clear view, the obstacles become trivial.

Some mistakenly believe that all religions lead to God. One man-made error is thinking that there are any number of religions that are good in varying degrees. Therefore, why should we give the more earnest heed to the message of Christianity?

Well, God has spoken through his Son and said: "Listen to Him". Jesus Christ is not another teacher. He is the final Teacher and the last Word of God to men. What He has said closes all other arguments. Christ does carry the supreme authority of God. To ignore that authority is a grave offense.

God has already taken the initiative when He sent His Holy Son, Jesus Christ, into the world, and when he sent the Holy Spirit down to take the things of Christ and show them to us. So, God has already taken the initiative. If God cannot disturb us, he cannot move us. If He cannot move us, He cannot save us. If He cannot get us concerned about the things of God, He cannot do anything at all for us.

We ought to read the Bible. We ought to listen to God's Word preached. We ought to search Scripture for answers. We ought to examine and reexamine. And all ought to be done in earnest. We ought to put away levity, flippancy, and fun.

The curse of everything today is that it must be funny. If it is not funny, it is not popular. But there's nothing funny in God's seeing His race wander away in the night. There was nothing funny about his sending His Holy Son to be born of a virgin. There was nothing funny about His persecution and crucifixion. There was nothing funny about the coming of the Holy Ghost. And nothing funny about the judgment, and the resurrection of the wicked dead that is coming.

Levity, flippancy, or fun has no place when we consider the things of God. We ought to give more earnest heed to the things that we have heard. The great labor of the church has always been to get people to give serious attention to spiritual matters. A man of God, with the burden of the Holy Spirit on him, will want to stir people to serious attention. Until serious attention has been given to the claims of Christ, it is for us as if the Bible had never been written. Find a Bible preaching church.

The Bible itself, though it is nourishment, though it is light, though it is warmth, though it is medicine to the soul, yet it never helps anybody where there is not serious attention given to it. And when we do not give it serious attention, it is as if Christ had not come into the world and died for mankind. He might as well have not come and died for us, to neglect all that is meant by his coming and dying.

Perhaps the most dangerous situation confronting Christians today is allowing their consciences to be cauterized. That is, making a person insensitive or callous to the world around him. In practical terms, he experiences a deadening of feelings toward morals.

Quite simply, this moral insensibility is a lack of feeling. You cannot feel the whole moral question. The strange paradox is that a person may be troubled by his inability to feel, yet he cannot feel. Even among those who consider themselves Christians, there is very little outrage at the immorality of our times.

The source of this dangerous condition is the semi-cauterization caused by the act of sinning. When a person sins, he cauterizes his conscience, to a certain extent. If you cauterize a thing, it will hurt at first, but after it heals over, you will have no feeling there. Where the cauterization took place, there will develop a hard shell, a thick skin. Sin does that. It cauterizes the conscience, and soon it does not bother us that we are sinning.

Then there is a spiritual lethargy, an unnatural inward drowsiness when faced with the claims of God. Yet, we hear a speech on the dangers of our times, and we immediately want to know how we can get to a Fallout Shelter. We are always concerned about superficial things, but rarely concerned about spiritual things.

Then there is a preoccupation with making a living. Jesus called that “the cares of this life”. If men would put as much earnest time and give as much serious attention to seeking God as they put into making a living, they would become much finer Christians. And soon people would wonder what happened.

The simple fact is that God gets the leftovers, never the main meal. God never gets anything new. He gets the hand me downs. We give God that which we do not need instead of giving to Him that which we need, and thus earning a crown for ourselves.

Another hindrance is constant seeking after pleasure. These are physical pleasures, comforts, various vices, food and the rest. There are mental pleasures such as social pleasures, gambling and amusements and the reading of fiction. All these put together simply give pleasant sensations, the same sensation as a baby gets sucking his thumb.

The whole human race has simply grown up seeking pleasure, so that we are a race of grown-up thumb suckers. We give over our time to acquiring pleasant sensations when we should give over our time to the advancing of our souls.

We may not be in earnest, but God is in dead earnest. God, the Father, was in earnest when He planned and finally accomplished the work of redemption. God, the Son, was earnest when He sweat great drops of blood in the Garden of Gethsemane. And God the Holy Ghost, is always in earnest when He comes to dwell in the nature of men.

The difference between spiritual things and earthly things is that the things of the spirit are so modest. The things of the spirit are not pushing in on you, they are not singing commercials to you, they're not knocking on your door and urging you to buy, they are simply waiting for you to notice.

If you are going to give attention to the things of God and save your own soul, you are going to have to give a good intention, a good resolution and then see to it that you do it. Do not let the devil present prevent you.

You're going to have to take yourself by the scruff of the neck, shake yourself and say "Now I don't know what others are going to do, but as for me, I'm going to seek the face of God. I'm going to see if I can be a better man next week than I was last week, and a better man next month than I was last month".

God meant it when He gave us the law. Christ meant it when He died and rose on the third day. The Holy Ghost means it when He quietly speaks to your heart. How much more will we be judged if we do not heed the truth that they were judged that broke the law?

"For if the Word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward, how shall we escape, if we neglect so great a salvation?" Our Lord Jesus spoke, and His words were confirmed to us by them that heard Him. God also bore them witness, with signs, wonders, miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to His own will.

Somebody says "nobody in my crowd paid attention to these things" but that is always so. The saving voice of God speaks to a crowd of men, but only one here and there hears it. When the voice of God spoke to the world in Noah's time, only he and his family heard it. The rest of them perished in the flood.

Somebody else says "if I pay attention to this, I'll lose my job". Chances are, you will not, but if you do, any job you will lose saving your soul certainly will be a wonderful bargain. Somebody else says "I want to have some fun yet.

And then I'll become a Christian.” That is too foolish, too meaningless, too lacking in significance for any serious answer. Another says: “I was afraid of what people would say”. Afraid of what people would say! What about what God says? The Bible says: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”.

The Bible also says that “By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God's command; that what we see now did not come from anything that can be seen”. And “That it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to Him must believe that God exists and that He rewards those who sincerely seek Him”.

Choose life. Choose Jesus.