

To Seek or Not to Seek: That is the Question

Scripture:

Psalm 53:2 “God looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God.”

Introduction:

We understand that Father seeks worshippers, the good shepherd seeks the lost, the wise man seeks the treasure in the field, and Christ came to seek and to save those who were lost. Much could be said about the seeking the Lord, but we can't lose sight of the fact that there is a dimension of life where we seek Him.

I. God is looking for those who will seek Him.

A. Seeking religion, position or things will not bring satisfaction.

B. David's word to Solomon.

I Chronicles 28:9-10 “As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever. ¹⁰Consider now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong, and do it.”

1. We have a promise that if we set our hearts toward the Lord we will find our hearts desire.

2. Those who seek the Lord will have a part in building the Church. If we're not building the Church, we need to question whether we are really seeking the Lord.

C. We must move quickly to seek the Lord rather than wait until there is no other way out.

Psalm 63 “O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory. Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You. ⁴Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. ⁵My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips. ⁶When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches. ⁷Because You have been my help, Therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice. ⁸My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds me. ⁹But those who seek my life, to destroy it, Shall go into the lower parts of the earth. ¹⁰They shall fall by the sword; They shall be a portion for jackals. ¹¹But the king shall rejoice in God; everyone who swears by Him shall glory; But the mouth of those who speak lies shall be stopped.”

1. When I feel dried up and can't find relief, I will not give up.

2. I come to church expecting to see the manifested glory and power of God.

3. I will still praise and worship when I'm in this dry place.

4. When darkness closes in, I will keep my heart fixed on the Lord.

5. I'm covered with feathers.

6. I trust in the Lord, He is my help, my strong tower, my deliverer.

II. Seeking the Lord changes us.

Isaiah 55:6-13 “Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. ⁷Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; And to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰“For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, ¹¹So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. ¹²“For you shall go out with joy, and be led out with peace; the mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing before you, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree; and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

- A. We receive mercy and pardon.
- B. We will learn the Lord’s way of life in order to turn from our way of life.
- C. We will be filled with joy and peace.
- D. We will experience the good things of the Kingdom.

III. The Bride company will seek the Bride-groom.

Song of Solomon 3:1-4 “By night on my bed I sought the one I love; I sought him, but I did not find him. ²“I will rise now,” I said, “And go about the city; in the streets and in the squares I will seek the one I love.” I sought him, but I did not find him. ³The watchmen who go about the city found me; I said, “Have you seen the one I love?” ⁴Scarcely had I passed by them, When I found the one I love. I held him and would not let him go, until I had brought him to the house of my mother, And into the chamber of her who conceived me.”

- A. True seeking is born out of a heart of love.
 - 1. Sleep gone as a result of love.
 - 2. Cannot contain her longing. (No more statements like, “ I’ll feel better in the morning”.)
 - 3. Die without food, die without the Lord. (That’s love.)
- B. True seeking will overcome the resistance. (Sought him, but could not find him.)
 - 1. Didn’t give up.

Jeremiah 29:13 “And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.”
 - 2. Illustration

The old teacher with the young pupil who wanted to learn about God—old man took young man to lake – pushed him under; held him there till he finally struggled free gasping for air – “What’s the meaning of this?” “When you desire God as you desired air, you will find him.”

Psalms 42:1 “As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God.”
- C. True seeking takes you to the streets and broadways about the city.
 - 1. Many people seek God in religion.
 - 2. Will they find Him here?
 - 3. Have you seen Him, they ask.

- D. True seeking will cause us to be found by the prophets (prophetic ministry) of God.
 - 1. Their ministry is to find the searching bride and direct her to Jesus.
 - 2. What do you want from the prophets?
 - a) Another word.
 - b) Another tidbit of heavenly delight.
 - c) Jesus
- E. True seeking will find the Lord. When found, they will not let Him go.
 - 1. Many let Him go for many different reasons.
 - 2. Daniel would not let Him go.
 - 3. Jacob would not let Him go.
 - 4. Mary at the tomb of Jesus would not let Him go.
 - 5. Noah would not let Him go.
- F. True seekers will bring the Lord home to mother (the Church).
 - 1. To the brothers and sisters.
 - 2. To the needy and hurting.
 - 3. They want to find ways to release Christ to those who need Him and will seek Him.

Conclusion

- A. We're running out of tomorrows. We need to seek the Lord today and receive all that finding Him will bring into our lives.
- B. It's time now for those of us who find Him to release Him to the hungry and hurting that are all around us.
- C. We need to get involved in a ministry that reaches those seeking Him, even if they don't realize yet that they are doing so.