

## **WHAT SHOULD MOTIVATE US TO SEEK GOD? (Hebrews 11:6)**

### **I. What is wrong with the religion that most people practice?**

- A. When the rubber meets the road, most people's religion is self-centered - it's more about them than about God.
  - 1. We are more interested in what God can do for us (John 6:26-27).
  - 2. We are more interested in what pleases us or makes us happy in worship to God.
  - 3. We are more interested in God's blessings than God Himself.
- B. Many are more concerned with God's usefulness to them than to His wonder and glory.
- C. Many see God as a good luck token or someone they want in their corner because of what He can do for them.
- D. One writer stated, "Some people want to see God with their eyes as they see a cow, and to love Him as they love their cow - for the milk and cheese and profit it brings them. This is how it is with people who love God for the sake of outward wealth or inward comfort."
- E. The problem is that self-centered motives are not strong enough to keep us in their with God when tough times hit.
- F. The devil will always defeat us if our focus in on ourselves.

### **II. What is the right reason for seeking God?**

- A. Remember: motive is the key to motivation: if we want to be more powerfully motivated, we must find a higher motive.
- B. The quality of our motivation relies upon a better reason to seek God.
- C. What is the most powerful motive for seeking God?
  - 1. Love for God Himself - a sincere and single-minded love.
  - 2. Matthew 22:35, 38.
- D. We must remember that religion is not about us, it is about God.
- E. We must seek God for His sake, not for ours.
  - 1. Matthew 6:33.
    - a. In this context, the "all these things" is referencing the physical needs of life, but the principle is just as true in regards to spiritual blessings.
    - b. The blessings that come from seeking God come indirectly as we focus on God Himself and not on the blessings.
  - 2. In theory, a right-thinking person would seek God because of His majesty and goodness even if God had not provided for our salvation.
  - 3. God is so great and so mighty and wonderful, that we should be drawn to Him for those reasons alone.

- F. Having a deeper desire for God Himself is what life is all about.
- G. We ought to want to be as close to the glory of God as we possibly can because He is so wondrous to behold (Isaiah 6:1-5).

///. **What changes need to be made?**

- A. We need to meditate upon God (Psalm 63:5-6).
  - 1. We need to spend more time each day thinking about God.
  - 2. During that time, we truly need to focus on God.
- B. We need to talk to God.
  - 1. Prayer is something that must be learned (Luke 11:1).
  - 2. We need to open up and communicate with God.
- C. We need to learn about God.
  - 1. We need to study His nature as we did in VBS.
  - 2. There is so much error about God that study should focus on the truth about God in order to get to know Him.
- D. We need to obey God.
  - 1. We need to get out of ruts.
  - 2. 1 Timothy 4:15.
- E. Sacrifice for God.
  - 1. Give God what He deserves of our lives.
  - 2. We need to quit giving God that which costs us nothing (2 Samuel 24:24).