

## **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SEEK GOD? (Hebrews 11:6)**

### **I. What seeking God is and is not.**

- A. Let's first notice some things that seeking God is not.
  - 1. Church membership or attendance.
  - 2. Reading the Bible and praying.
  - 3. Helping others.
  - 4. Being doctrinally sound.
  - 5. Personal evangelism (Matthew 23:15).
  - 6. Spiritual feelings (Romans 10:2).
  - 7. Love for the truth (John 7:17).
  - 8. Preaching (Philippians 1:15-16).
- B. Each of the things about mentioned accompany seeking God and if they were not present in the person's life, that would indicate something lacking in the person's seeking.
- C. However, by themselves, each of these don't necessarily mean that a person is seeking God.
- D. What seeking God is can be summed up in three parts:
  - 1. Growth in obedience;
  - 2. With a desire to love and honor God;
  - 3. More each day.
- E. It is a deep longing to be closer to God.
- F. This is a conscious, deliberate goal for which we reach (Philippians 3:14-15).
- G. This is that for which Paul aimed (Philippians 3:8-11).
- H. There are some similar expressions to "seeking God" in the Bible.
  - 1. Desiring God, which indicates a deep longing (Psalm 27:4).
  - 2. Loving God with all our hearts, indicating a wholehearted affection (Matthew 22:37-38).
  - 3. Calling upon the Lord, meaning a heart felt appeal to God (Psalm 145:18; Isaiah 55:6).
- I. When we are seeking God, we are striving to relate ourselves correctly, or rightly, to His glory (Philippians 1:20).

### **II. Why seeking God is so important.**

- A. If we are to seek God, it is not because He is hard to find (Acts 17:27).
- B. God desires fellowship with all men, but only has it with those that desire fellowship with Him.
- C. Seeking God is a "first-principles" issue.
  - 1. Many sermon series have been done about "first-principles."

- a. These include baptism, the one church and many other topics.
- b. All of these are vital and necessary.
- 2. This has to do with the heart and it must be one of the “weightier matters (Matthew 23:23).
- 3. Notice these “first-principle” passages:
  - a. Deuteronomy 10:12-13.
  - b. Micah 6:8.
  - c. Matthew 22:37-40.
  - d. Matthew 23:23.
  - e. Acts 24:25.
- D. This idea of seeking God is much more basic than many of the basics we emphasize.
  - 1. The reason is that we are to seek God first.
  - 2. This comes before the necessity of baptism, the one church or other topics.
  - 3. If I am truly seeking God first, these other things will become easy because they are found in God’s word.
  - 4. I won’t understand the necessity of baptism if I am not truly seeking God.
  - 5. I won’t understand the Bible’s teaching about the one true church if I am not truly seeking God.
- E. God has made promises to the true seeker.
  - 1. Jeremiah 29:12-13.
  - 2. Matthew 7:7-8.

**III. A self-test.**

- A. There is a great need for honest self-inventory.
- B. Let’s ask ourselves some questions.
  - 1. Are we seeking to fill our minds more and more with the knowledge of God?
  - 2. Are we seeking to bring our thoughts, words and deeds more into line with the will of God?
  - 3. Are we seeking more and more to engage in worship to God?
  - 4. Are we seeking more and more to be with the people of God?
- C. It is God’s desire that we seek Him (Psalm 27:8).
- D. God is seeking those that seek Him (Malachi 3:16).

**From a sermon by Gary Henry**