

The Presence of God

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,, Fairview Memorial MBC

Winter Bible Study Series•

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I. Scripture reading and introduction

Exodus 33:1-3,12-17

"33 And the Lord said unto Moses, Depart, and go up hence, thou and the people which thou hast brought up out of the land of Egypt, unto the land which I sware unto Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, Unto thy seed will I

g i v e i t: - - ! - - - - - - - -

I and I will send an angel before thee; and I will drive out the Canaanite, the Amorite, and the Hittite, and the

Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite: c . . :

3 Unto a land flowing with milk and honey: for I will not go up in the midst of thee; for thou art a stiff necked people: lest I consume thee in the way,"

"u And Moses said unto the Lord, See, thou sayest unto me, Bring up this people: and thou hast not let me know whom thou wilt send with me. Yet thou hast said, I know thee by name, and thou hast also found grace in my sight.

13 Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people.

14 And he said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.

15 And he said unto him, If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence.

16 For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the

earth. . . ' ' - j r . . . ' - - - -

17 And the Lord said unto Moses, hwill do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name. "" . . . - . ' ! - - . . . , . ; r v u

Moses possessed the promises of God towards the completion of the Exodus from Egypt. The land and peoples of Canaan were to be subdued by the angel of the Lord without difficulty. Yet, one thing was lacking. God's presence had been withdrawn as a result Of the people's sins and Moses pleaded with the Lord to not send them into Canaan without His immediate presence. Perhaps the experience at the bush burned in Moses' memory. He knew the presence of God was indispensable and pleaded with the Lord, ultimately obtaining grace and assurance that God's presence would join them.

Is it enough to simply trust the promises of God as found in His Word or are we to seek the ongoing and abiding presence of God within our lives and churches?

Romans 1:20 "20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse."

IV. The Indwelling Presence of God^

The presence of God is made known to an individual, personally, at the moment of initial accountability. (The Holy Spirit convicts (convinces) our spirits of sin and we become accountable for our sinful nature and choices) Acts 2:37 "37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles. Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

We feel the presence of the Holy Spirit, but He is not dwelling within us. Rather, the Holy Spirit is working within us to produce the godly sorrow necessary for true repentance (II Corinthians 7:10).

Salvation is a result of genuine repentance towards God the Father (whom we have offended) and faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ (our only means of salvation) John 14:6 "6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."~ ;

This salvation produces within us a new creature (II Corinthians 5:17) with the old man dying to sin and a regenerated man emerging in newness of life. This new creature has the righteousness of Christ imputed unto him and the sealing of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30). As important, and paramount for this discussion, the new man has Christ living within him. This is the indwelling presence of God, literally **and in reality...**

John 14:17 "" Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."~V

Romans 8:9-11 "9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. 10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. n But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

I Corinthians 3:16 "16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" v

I John 2:27 "v But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him."

True salvation results in the Lord living within us and His goodness becoming a part of us much like a natural branch which has been grafted into a tree. We begin to enjoy the life-giving sap and vitality provided by that tree. As such, we become as dependent upon the Lord's presence as the engrafted branch relies upon the tree of which it has become part.

John 15:4-5 ""*Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."

Each of us surely remembers what it felt like when we first experienced the peace which accompanies the indwelling presence of God. One moment, we were experiencing deep sorrow, contrition and spiritual pain (Psalm 116) and then next moment wonderful peace (Psalm 40). The contrast felt at that

II. The Presence of God...:.'...:

- a. Hebrew - panim - literally means "face" and implies a close and personal encounter with the Lord.
- b. Greek - prosopon - very similar to the above Hebrew word and definition

In the Old Testament especially, body parts / positions are used to demonstrate actions and relationships pictorially. For instance, Hezekiah says about the Lord in Isaiah 38:17, "...for you hast cast all my sins behind thy back!". The idea is that God forgave him and "no longer remembered" those sins despite the fact that God knows all and cannot "forget". Also see Ezekiel 23:35 regarding the Lord's accusations against Israel, "Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Because thou hast forgotten me, and cast me behind thy back, therefore bear thou also thy lewdness and thy whoredoms." Conversely, to be before someone's face requires close proximity and some level of intimacy. This is the essence of the original language when speaking of the presence of God: a close, personal and intimate encounter with the Lord. Some examples of this type of encounter with God: Jacob at Bethel (Genesis 28:16-19); Christ's baptism (Matthew 3:13-17); Peter, James and John at Christ's Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-8); Isaiah's vision of God's throne (Isaiah 6:1-5) and John on Patmos (Revelation 1:10-17).

III. The Omnipresence of God

God has many attributes ("a specification that defines the property of an object"). God is infinite, limitless, self-existent, self-sufficient, omnipotent, omniscient, sovereign, eternal, immutable, holy, wise, perfect, true, just, good and many other things. He is also omnipresent, which means present everywhere at all times. There is no location in which God does not exist. There is no place of which He has no knowledge. As His creation, man has no means of escaping God's presence in this regard.

Psalm 139:7-8 (David) "7 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there."

Proverbs 15:3/31 The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."

Jeremiah 23:23-24 "23 Am I a God at hand, saith the Lord, and not a God afar off? ** Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him ? saith the Lord. Do not I fill heaven and earth ? saith the Lord."

Amos 9:2,3 "2 Though they dig into hell, thence shall mine hand take them; though they climb up to heaven, thence will I bring them down:3 And though they hide themselves in the top of Carmel, I will search and take them out thence; and though they be hid from my sight in the bottom of the sea, thence will I command the serpent, and **he shall bite them.**" ,v•••,•-•. •, ^ , ; .^•

Although God is omnipresent, the majority of men are not aware of God's presence, ignore the presence of God or deny Him altogether.

Matthew 7:13-14 "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:u Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Be that as it may, evidence of His presence and sovereignty are sufficient that all men may know of His existence and pursue His presence.

d. God provided a way for His manifested presence to again strive with men

1. The Law = ^

-pointed men towards the Messiah as promised in Genesis 3:15.

Galatians 3:24 "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith."

2. The Shekinah - the supernatural light/cloud which dwelt upon the mercy seat under the cherubim

-Leviticus 16:2 "2And the Lord said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the vail before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark; that he die not: for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat."...;

-God instructed the construction of the Tabernacle and later the Temple. The highlight of each building was the Most Holy Place or Holy of Holies. Within that place, shielded by the veil, dwelt the Ark of the Covenant upon which was a lid of shittim wood overlaid with gold. This lid included two cherubim on either end with their wings meeting atop the lid or mercy seat. This was the place upon which God stated He would dwell with His people. Because men were sinful and could not withstand the manifest presence / glory of God, they were to enter this place only once per year (Day of Atonement) and even then only the high Priest and not without blood (Hebrews 9:7). The supernatural cloud / light which dwelt there was the presence of God!: ,.^

Tabernacle: - . . ? • v,

Exodus 40:34-35 "** Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. *3And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.", •

Temple --, •••=••;•^•;••; ..• ^•; •• :: • - ; ••••••:•••••^<,•••

IKings 8:6-11 "6And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the Lord unto his place, into the oracle of the house, to the most holy place, even under the wings of the cherubims.

7For the cherubims spread forth their two wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubims covered the ark and the staves thereof above.

8And they drew out the staves, that the ends of the staves were seen out in the holy place before the oracle, and they were not seen without: and there they are unto this day.

9There was nothing in the ark save the two tables of stone, which Moses put there at Horeb, when the Lord made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt.

10And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the Lord, IISo that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the house

of the Lord. 't

Worthy to note here is that: the Tabernacle and Temple both were types of Christ, the Messiah to come. The buildings themselves and their rooms were indicative of Christ as were the materials used. The Most Holy Place was shielded from the rest of the building by a veil, a representation of Christ (Hebrews 10:19-20). The ark represented Christ and it contained the manifested presence of God Himself. Thus, we come to the personification of the glory of God, His Son Jesus.

moment will likely never be more pronounced than at that glorious instant of our eternal salvation and deliverance from sin. We may liken this to donning our socks each morning. Initially, we feel the socks as we first put them on for the day. However, within a few moments we forget that sensation and our brains relax and begin to ignore the sensation it is receiving from our feet. Our brains accept that the socks are the "new normal" and we often forget the socks altogether. How many of us go through our day thinking about our socks? Although we may not be cognizant of our socks, the reality of their presence is not changed. They cover our feet and exist within our shoes. They live within our shoes for the most part and we are grateful for their presence. The same may be said for our salvation in that we "know so" that it is there and are aware of its "heart felt" existence, but we don't often think upon and ponder the wonderful peace that abides in our souls in a constant, uninterrupted manner(perhaps we should!)

What we DO experience and cherish and pursue is the manifested presence of God. Those times in which, as they say, "our cup runs over and we drink from the saucer". Those times when God manifests Himself in an uncommon way and we enjoy His face/presence as only His children can. THIS IS WHAT DISTINGUISHES GOD'S PEOPLE FROM THE WORLD AND HIS CHURCH FROM FALSE RELIGIONS! This is what Moses desired from the Lord in Exodus 33. ;

V. God's Manifest Presence^;:?

a. Creation - Genesis 1:1-2 " In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. 2And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of **the waters.'a**

b. Man - Genesis 1:26-27,2:7 "26And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 22So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."

"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and **man became a living soul."**^,o

Man enjoyed open communion and fellowship with God as He walked with them and they conversed. There was no sin in the world and thus, God's manifested presence was available to man. Adam and Eve knew nothing different....until they sinned.

Genesis 3:7-9 "'And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. 8And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden.s And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?"

c. **Mankind suffered without the manifest presence of God,, ,**

1. Cain / Abel: the first procreated human killed the second

2. Tower of Babel: a result of man seeking a men-generated way back to God

3. Men were scattered and descended into races, leading tp wars and strife , •, _

Testament /Church Age. (God the Father was prominent in the Old Testament and God the Son during the Gospels). Believers and His Church have Christ's promise of His constant and uninterrupted presence. As we know, God's presence is more manifested and pronounced at some times versus others. This presence is what identifies the Lord's church from false religions and faiths. This presence is what teaches and guides His children / church and allows us to worship Him in Spirit and truth (John 4:24). This presence is what provides leadership to believers' lives and produces unity within church **bodies.**

The presence of the Holy Spirit, God's manifested presence, may be grieved (Ephesians 4:30) and quenched (I Thessalonians 5:19). We may even flee the presence of God as Jonah did (Jonah 1:3). As such, we may lose the manifested presence of God...without losing our salvation (the indwelling **presence of God).**

A.W. Tozer: "The world is perishing for lack of the knowledge of God, and the church is famishing for **want of His Presence.**"

How long does it take for a church without the presence of God to no longer be a church? Did the churches of Asia Minor know when the candlesticks had been removed? Churches likely continue to meet for years without the presence of God, but without the manifested presence of God via the Holy Spirit, they are dead.

5. Christ's Return: The Second Coming

Jesus Himself said this about His imminent return:

Luke 17:26-27 "2SAnd as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. 27 They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all."

The Holy Spirit's role among men will continue until the Father sends His Son to get His Espoused Bride, the True Church. Upon Christ's return, his manifested presence will evoke dramatic reactions. His "face" or presence shall be seen by all men and nations. The dead in Christ shall be risen (I Thessalonians 4) and believers alive at His return will be changed in the moment, a twinkling of an eye, and will be forever with the Lord after joining Him in the air. ,

In contrast, the unbelieving will respond in this manner:

Revelation 6:15-17 "1sAnd the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the **mountains;**

16 And said to the mountains and rocks. Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"

3. Jesus Christ, the manifested presence of God ^^

Matthew 1:23 "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, **God with us.**",>.., ; ; -1..- ; .' >'..•'•••..

-Just as the manifest glory of God was hidden within the Tabernacle and Temple, the glory of God was hidden within the flesh of the man Jesus.

Isaiah 53:2 "For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him."

-Jesus said He was the manifestation and personification of the Father

John 14:9 "Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father, and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?"

-Jesus was and is God; 100% God and 100% man 100% of the time

Colossians 2:9 "For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily."•••'<••

The Presence of Jesus was miraculous to them who believed (only):

-Blind Bartimaeus sensed His presence and came forth seeingj<

-The woman with the issue of blood touched the hem of His garment and was made whole

-Zacchaeus climbed a tree and ended up eating in the presence of Jesus in his own home

-The lame man who was lowered from the roof into the house with Jesus was healed

Those who found healing and salvation in Christ were blessed by the manifested glory of God, yet: •-' shrouded in flesh. After His resurrection and initial ascension to His Father, Jesus appeared unto many disciples in fleshly form. He ate with them and yet, walked through walls as well I He walked with two disciples on their way to Emmaus while concealing His identity from them. Once He had departed, they **realized it had been Jesus and remarked in Luke 24:32, *r^ ;**

"And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within Us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?"

Prior to departing to His Father in resurrected form and being seated at His Father's right hand,

(Hebrews 9:24 "for Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us."), Christ promised His disciples the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, whom

He left with His church. :.

John 14:26 "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

4. God, the Holy Spirit: The Believer's and Church's Manifest Presence of God-•••••

Matthew 28:18-20 "18And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth, a Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

This was the promise of the Holy Spirit which the church would enjoy on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2).

The Holy Spirit is the person of the Godhead with prominence in dealing with mankind during this New

VI. Christ the Key^

-We don't have to wait until we get to Heaven to enjoy the Lord's presence.

Matthew 18:20 promises us that, 't2OFor where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in **the midst of them.**'o ^

-We may have JOY in this life by living in His presence!

David: Psalm 16:11"" Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness ofiofv: at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."

-We may also lose the manifestation of His presence in our lives / churches:

David after sinning with Bathsheba:•

Psalm 51:11 "u Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me."

Samson

Judges 16:20 't20And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the Lord was departed from him."

Saul'^'' - ?

I Samuel 16:14 ""* But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him."

f God is always present everywhere (omnipresence) and He lives within His children (indwelling presence), but His manifested presence must be pursued. We must seek His face /presence! It behooves us to realize that only Christ perfectly pleases the Father and what little He sees in us which " pleases Him was done by Christ. Thus, it is only through Christ that we may please the Father and gain (access to His presence.

Hebrews 10:19-21 "19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, MBy a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;2XAnd having an high priest over the house of God."

V John 14:6 "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

a.Mary and Martha

Luke 10:38-42 't38Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. 39And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus'feet, and heard his word. MBut Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. 41 And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:42 But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

Mary had chosen "that good part", the presence and words of Jesus. When we seek the presence of Jesus and His righteousness, nothing else matters or interests us. Matthew 6:33 "3 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

b.Paul / Silas and the Philippian Jailer

Acts 16:25-30 "2sAnd at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. 26And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. 27And the keeper of the prison awaking

Remember: "face" means presence. The ungodly will panic in attempting to escape from the presence of Christ! His holiness and perfection will condemn and distress even the "best" of men who are-, unsaved.

6. Eternity

We know of the many descriptions of the New Heaven and New Jerusalem depicted by John the Revelator. We also are aware of the descriptions of Hell as offered by the Scriptures. While all are accurate and beneficial for our understanding and warning, the bottom line remains that one (Heaven) will have the unhidden glory and presence of God while the other will possess not even a hint of God's presence and grace. THAT will be the distinguishing factor of men's eternal fates....whether or not they enjoy the manifested presence of God (in soul AND body) or not.

a. Heaven.

I John 3:2 "2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is"

Revelation 21:22-23 "22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. 23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof."

Revelation 22:4 "And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads."

b. Hell.

Revelation 20:10-15 "10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. 11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works: 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire"

II Thessalonians 1:8-9 "in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:"

9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power."

out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. ** But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. 29 Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, ^And brought them out, and said. Sirs, what must I do to be saved!"

VII. Conclusion

The Presence of God is:

a. What distinguishes God's people from the rest of the world

The world cannot replicate or imitate the fruits of the Holy Spirit. We are commanded to bear "much fruit" and this is the sign that Jesus said would identify His disciples to the world (John 15:8)

b. What identifies the True Church of Jesus Christ

The Lord honors and abides with those who seek His face and worship His name , ,

II Chronicles 7:14 "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will \ **heal their land.**" \

Psalms 27:8 "When thou saidst. Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek"j •

c. Proof of God's grace upon the believer

Romans 8:14-18 "u For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. K For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, \ Father. 1S The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:j 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may } be also glorified together. 18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared . / with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

The manifested presence of God is a wonderful and necessary thing. Either we have it or we do not. His presence or lack thereof will determine the fate of our lives, our churches and our future work in His

kingdom.