

“What Gets God’s Attention”

Text: Isaiah 66:1-2

Introduction:

- V.1, Notice that the Lord is speaking directly to man.
 - “Thus saith the LORD...”
- All of God’s words are important but I believe when He speaks directly – then even a greater emphasis is placed upon what is said.

- The Lord starts out with “**The heaven is my throne**”

- The Lord is talking about the third heaven
 - **Explain about the three heavens**

- “**and the earth is my footstool**”
 - Imagine God’s footstool is the earth.
 - Then imagine how big His throne must be!

- What the Lord is doing is trying to give mankind some idea of His magnitude – **God is infinite!**
- Then what follows is God is putting things in proper perspective.
- In other words He is looking down His nose at man.

- The Lord continues and says to man – “**...where is the house that ye build unto me?**”

- The Lord is saying to man-
 - “who do you think you are?”
 - “who are you trying to impress”
 - “I just got done telling you, “The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool”
 - “And you think you can build me a house big enough for me to live in.”

- Further, The Lord says, “**...and where is the place of my rest?**”
- God is saying to man –
 - “You must be crazy, not only do you think that you can build a house big enough for me to live in but also a bed big enough for me to rest in.”

- V. 2 – The Lord tells man that He has made the heaven and the earth.
 - That He has made – “**all those things hath mine hand made.**”
 - The Bible tells us explicitly that God, the Son is the Creator
 - **SEE COLOSSIANS 1:16-17**
- Man tries time and time again to impress God with his achievements, his accomplishments.
- He tries to reach up to God in his man made way & effort.
 - **Illustration** – Tower of Babel Experience.
- Man tries to pull himself up by his own boot straps.
- However, God is not impress with anything man does.
 - **SEE ISAIAH 40:15**
- The Bible tells us what God sees when He looks down and sees man’s self-effort to get His attention.
 - **SEE ISAIAH 64:6**
- The Bible sums up the extent of man in **1 Peter 1:24**
 - “For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away.”
- **Job 14:1** – Sums up man’s life upon this earth.
 - “Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.”
- **David** said in **1 Samuel 20:3**
 - “...there is but a step between me and death.”
- Man forgets that there is only one step between him and death.
 - Man spends his entire life accumulating and preparing for this life.
 - And does nothing in preparing for the next.
 - God is not impressed on what you have accumulated or accomplished .
 - **Jesus** told one man the same.
 - **SEE LUKE 12:13-21**
 - Notice V. 20 – “But God said unto him, **Thou fool**, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?”
 - Jesus says you are fool if you do not prepare now for eternity.

- Sometimes even Christians think God is impressed in their service to Him.
 - Look what our Lord says about this –
 - **SEE LUKE 17:5-10**
 - Notice V. 10 – “So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are **unprofitable servants**: we have done that which was our duty to do.”

- **We need to ask the question, “What Does Get God’s Attention?”**
- I believe the answer is found in **V. 2 of Isaiah 66**.
- **“but this man will I look”**
 - “look” or notice

- **“...even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit,...”**
 - Only God can see the heart – **See I Samuel 16:7**
- **God notices a man –**
 - **Poor in spirit** = humble abased in one’s own sight by a sense of guilt.
 - Man who has a **contrite spirit** = literally worn or bruised.
 - Hence broken hearted over sin
 - Deeply afflicted with grief and sorrow for having offended God;
 - Someone who is penitent.

- **God notice a man –**
 - **“trembleth at my word.”**
 - In other words, a man who believes the Bible from cover to cover.
 - And trembles in fear of God and realizes he deserves God’s judgment and wrath.
 - And as a result seeks God’s mercy.
 - **God notices a man –**
 - Who looks into the Bible as a mirror and sees how wicked they are.
 - The Bible says in **Proverbs 16:6** –
 - **“...by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.”**
 - This in the kind of man that God looks at.

- The Bible is full of examples of this kind of man.
 - God able to use these men because God notice them.
 - They met the requirements of **Isaiah 66:2**.
 - “...but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.”

- **Let us look at the testimonies of some of these men.**
- **Apostle Paul:**
 - **Romans 7:18** – “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth **no good thing**: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.”
 - **Romans 7:24** – “**O wretched man** that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?”
- **Apostle Peter:**
 - **See Luke 5:1-8**
 - V. 8 – “for I am a **sinful man**, O Lord.”
- **Isaiah:**
 - **See Isaiah 6:1-5**
 - V. 5 – “Woe is me! for I am **undone**; because I am a man of **unclean lips**,”
- **Job:**
 - **See Job 42:4-6**
 - V.6 – “I **abhor myself**,”
 - This why God was able to say about in **Job 1:8**.
 - “And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?”
- **King David:**
 - King David realized what he was in the sight of a holy and righteous God.
 - David was a man that was poor and of a contrite spirit and trembled at God’s word.
 - That is why he could say in **Psalm 51:1-5 (Read)**
- Not only does God **notice** individuals that are poor and contrite of spirit and trembleth at His Word.
 - But this also applies to groups of people, cities, towns, & nations.
- Look at Nineveh
 - When Jonah finally did what God wanted him to do.
 - Go to Nineveh and preach what God wanted him to preach.
 - We see that the people of Nineveh from the lowest to the highest collectively were poor and of a contrite spirit and trembleth at God’s Word.

- **See - Jonah 3:4 -9.**
- As a result God noticed them.
- They got his attention and did not destroy Nineveh like He said He would in **Jonah 3:4**
- Jonah 3: 10 – “And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.”

- Oh! If only America could be a nation of people who were poor and of a contrite spirit and trembleth at God’s Word.
 - We would have a revival and God would turn back His soon coming hand of wrath upon this country.
 - We are beginning to see signs of it now.
 - All natural disasters – fires western states, etc.
 - Earthquakes increasing

- How About you Christian?
 - If you really were poor and of a contrite spirit and trembleth at God’s Word.
 - Then you would not be hanging out with the crowd you are now.
 - You would not allow your children to participate in the upcoming ungodly and Satanic holiday of Halloween.
- If you really were poor and of a contrite spirit and trembleth at God’s Word
 - Then you would be in church every time the doors are open
 - You would be baptized if have already gotten saved.
 - You would giving to the church your time, talent and tithe.
 - You would not be dressing and acting like the world.
 - You would not allow your children to listen to the world’s ungodly music and watch the hellavision for hour upon hour.
 - Let me ask you this question – “Does your child know more about Pokemon than he does about the Lord Jesus Christ?”
- If you really were poor and of a contrite spirit and trembleth at God’s Word
 - Then you would not go to the counselors of the world.
 - I do not care if you call it “Christian Counseling”
 - The only Counselor that you should be going to is the Great Counselor, the Lord Jesus Christ.

- I believe the only way a person is poor and of a contrite spirit and trembleth at God’s Word is if he reads God’s word each and every day and believes it!

- Because if you do then you will realize how wicked and depraved you really are without the God of the Bible.
 - **Amen!!!**
 - As Jeremiah wrote in Jeremiah 17:10
 - “The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked: who can know it?”

Conclusion:

- We have seen this morning what gets God’s attention.
 - Simply – “Even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.”
 - Christian do you feel like you have not been able to get God to look upon you lately?
 - Well, probably it is because you do not meet the requirements of Isaiah 66:2
 - You did at one time that is how you got saved.
 - You had to be as that Publican in Luke 18, who prayed, “God be merciful to me a sinner”
 - And Jesus said that man “went down to his house justified”
 - Just like the day that you asked Jesus to save you.
 - You were poor and of a contrite spirit and trembleth at His Word.
 - Christian nothing has changed.
 - If you need God’s attention in your Christian walk.
 - In other words you want Him to move in your life just like did in salvation.
 - If you want Him to notice you then you must be poor and of a contrite spirit and trembleth at His Word.