

89.3 Whom or What Do We Seek?

Jesus and His disciples were in Gethsemane when the crowd came to arrest Him. Twice in **John 18 (verses 4 and 7)**, Jesus asks, “**Whom do you seek?**” When they said, “**Jesus of Nazareth,**” He replied, “**I am He,**” or, “**I am.**”

The mob didn't come to seek Him as Lord but with another agenda. Their leaders had tried intimidation and censorship on Him and failed. Now the pack of wolves would take Him as though He was a blaspheming criminal or insurrectionist. *En masse* and armed to the teeth, they intended to bring Jesus to their justice.

Let's turn to **Malachi 3:1** (NKJV, emphasis added). In this verse, the prophet states:

**And the Lord, whom you seek,
Will suddenly come to His temple,**

In our current crisis, I have heard many people say that we need to seek the Lord. I have said that we will not regain our liberty without Him. Today, I want to encourage us to seek the Lord, not just the blessings He can give us.

Benjamin Franklin saw the vain attempts for the delegates to agree at the **Constitutional Convention** and realized they had left out the most critical element, the Lord. He did want the aid of God to order the convention, but he remembered how Americans had prayed during the Revolution and asked for a return to that mindset. In part he said:

In the beginning of the Contest with G. Britain, when we were sensible of danger we had daily prayer in this room for the divine protection.-Our prayers, Sir, were heard, & they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a superintending providence in our favor.

To that kind providence we owe this happy opportunity of consulting in peace on the means of establishing our future national felicity. And have we now forgotten that powerful friend? or do we imagine that we no longer need his assistance?

I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth that God Governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid?

We have been assured, Sir, in the sacred writings, that "except the Lord build the House they labour (sic) in vain that build it." I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without his concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better, than the Builders of Babel:

We can fool ourselves into thinking that if we have blessings, we have God, but we do not fool God when we try to manipulate Him into giving us something we want. We may think we disguise it with pious words and long prayers, but God sees through us. He loves giving us blessings, but even more, He delights when we seek HIM more than what He can provide. Malachi says it is the LORD we seek, not just what He can give.

We can replace the Lord with certain things and think we have done what is acceptable to Him. Here are a few:

- A growing Church, for we think if our congregation increases in numbers and contribution, we must have the presence of the Lord. How do we explain the rise of unbiblical and ungodly cults and the occult? Are these groups growing with the accompaniment and approval of God?
- A Republic based on biblical principles. The presence of God produces a biblical republic, but a republic does not necessarily produce the presence of God. Seek GOD first and then He adds His fruits.

- Restored prosperity in our economy. We think that if we get God to back us, we will have prosperity and relief from inflation. God promises blessings when we have and obey Him, not in giving lip service to Him.
- Reformed corruption in government and every other national sector. Reform begins in genuine acknowledgment of God and repentance. That is why our American forefathers often went to church to fast and pray.

Seeking the Lord must be foremost before we can receive His blessings. Can we be satisfied with Him and not just what He can give? That may frighten us because we have conditioned ourselves to comfort, but God is more interested in our character than our comfort. As one preacher pointed out, revival is costly, and before we have revival, we may have to go through the fire and feel the pain to have His gain. When all we have is the Lord, we understand our dependence on Him. When we have affluence, we depend on it instead.

A funny thing happens when we seek the Lord and not just His blessings; we get both. To have the Lord is to have everything. The Psalmist writes in **Psalm 91:2** (NKJV):

I will say of the LORD, “He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust.

I wasn't present when the fifty-six signed the Declaration of Independence. The last sentence sums up their position when they said they were willing to give their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor with a firm reliance on Providence. They sought the Lord and willingly gave up His blessings. As a result, the Spirit of the Lord gave them liberty (**2 Corinthians 3:17**).

Micah 6:8 (NKJV) was the prophet's attempt to summarize the Torah. He said there are actions we take, especially in the presence of God. Listen to his words:

**⁸ He has shown you, O man, what is good;
And what does the LORD require of you
But to do justly,
To love mercy,
And to walk humbly with your God?**

Many of us are fed up with the current climate in America. Corruption and immorality abound, and we cry to God to restore our liberty and rights. What if we cry to restore His presence, first in our personal lives, then in our families and churches, and then in our nation? As we close, consider these verses:

- **Jeremiah 29:13** (NKJV) ¹³ **And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.**
- **Psalm 119:2** (NKJV) ² **Blessed are those who keep His testimonies,
Who seek Him with the whole heart!**
- **Psalm 34:10** (NKJV) ¹⁰ **The young lions lack and suffer hunger;
But those who seek the LORD shall not lack any good thing.**

Let us desperately and earnestly seek the Lord. He will bless as He promises. It all begins with Him.

Keep The Light of *Seeking the Lord* Burning!