

God Is Good to Them That Seek Him

Sunday, May 26th, 1985

Lamentations 3:25

“The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him.”

Here is my subject today; I am going to speak to you on the subject: “GOD IS GOOD TO THEM THAT SEEK HIM.”

If you are accustomed to following along in your Bible; this text is found in Lamentations 3:25. This is what the Scripture says; *“The Lord is good unto them that wait for Him, to the soul that seeketh Him.”*

Over in the book of Ezra, chapter 8:22, the Scripture says; *“The hand of the Lord is upon all them for good that seek Him.”*

The Word of God has much to say about seeking the Lord. Remember, the major emphasis, when we are talking about seeking the Lord, it is to seek Him. It is not in seeking a feeling, an experience, assurance, or correct doctrine.

There are men who have doctrine, who do not have Christ. There are men who are very orthodox, fundamental, and exact in their theology, who do not know Christ.

So, the emphasis in this thing of seeking the Lord, is seeking the Lord, seeking Him and not a feeling, experience, doctrine or assurance that you are saved; Satan can give you those things. We are talking about seeking the Lord Himself.

Listen to Jeremiah Chapter 29:13; Jeremiah, writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit said; *“The holy men spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”* All Scripture is God-breathed. Jeremiah says, *“Ye shall seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart.”* Do you see the emphasis?

Our Lord said, *“Eternal life is to know God, (to know Him), the only true God and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.”* It is not to have an experience and it is not to have religion, or orthodoxy; it is to know God. This is what I am saying in seeking the Lord, it is seeking Him. That is my subject today: “The Lord is good to them that seek Him.”

Job said this; *“I know that My Redeemer liveth.”* He did not say, “I know that I am in the right nation, race, or religion; he said; *“I know that My Redeemer liveth.”*

David said, *“The Lord is My Shepherd; (the Lord Himself is my Shepherd), therefore, I shall not want.”*

Solomon, in that beautiful Song of Solomon, said; *“I have found Him whom my soul loveth and I held Him and would not let Him go.”*

This is said in other places, the apostle Paul said; *“I know whom I have believed.”* Paul knew when he believed and knew what he believed, but this was not the emphasis. It is not that I know when I believed or I know when I was saved or when I had an experience. Paul said, *“I know **whom** I have believed.”*

I wish I had the vocabulary and the ability to convey to all that hear me, that salvation and eternal life is not in an experience.

Salvation and eternal life is not in the moral law. Salvation and eternal life is not being in the right church. Salvation and eternal life is not having orthodoxy, doctrine, and theology or knowledge of Scripture. Salvation and eternal life is in the right Person, the Lord Jesus Christ.

All of these have their proper place. The moral law has its proper place. The church has its proper place. There is baptism, the Lord’s Table, ordinances, doctrine, theology, which is the study of Scripture.

My friends; salvation is a Person, and eternal life is a Person. It is being in the right Person, the Lord Jesus Christ.

You see, God the Father hath given all things into the hands of His Son. That is where the Father put everything. He didn’t put all things into the hands of the church, but put them in Christ. The Heavenly Father has put everything into the hands of His Divine Son.

This is what the Scripture says in Colossians; *“In Him dwelleth, (not here today and gone tomorrow but dwelleth habitually, continually) in Christ dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily and you are complete in Christ.”*

Christ also said; *“I am the way, the truth and the life. No man cometh to the Father but by me.”* Our Lord said, *“If the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.”* He has the authority to set you free.

“He has all authority over all flesh to give eternal life to as many as the Father hath given Him. He has all authority in heaven and earth. No man knoweth the Father save the Son and He to whom the Son will reveal Him. As the Father quickeneth whom He will, even so, the Son quickeneth whom He will.”

Christ said, *“Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden; I will give you rest.”* Rest is His to give. *“My peace I give unto you.”* Peace is His to give.

You see, all things are in Him and these *“all things”* are spiritual blessings in the heavenlies. They are mine as a direct result of my union with Christ. *“Without Him I can do nothing.”* Without Him I am nothing. Without Him I have nothing. But, in Him and through Him and because of Him and for His glory; I have all things.

That union with Him is by faith. So, therefore, we exhort it again and again in God’s Word to *“Seek the Lord. Look unto Him and be saved.”* I emphasize over and over again that it is to seek Him. *“The Lord is good to them that seek Him, to those who wait upon Him.”*

Let me show you several Scriptures today which deal with this subject of seeking the Lord and the goodness of God extended to those who do seek Him. You determine for yourself whether you have ever sought the Lord or if you are now seeking the Lord. You can determine by these Scriptures if you are, in fact, seeking the Lord or if you have ever sought the Lord.

If you would like to, take a pencil and write these Scriptures down and go back later and study them. This is what the book of Acts says about the noble Bereans. They were nobler than those in Thessalonica because *“They searched the Scriptures to see if these things be so.”* That is what I exhort you to do, *“Search the Scriptures to see if these things be so.”* I believe they are so and that they are taught in the Word of God.

Here are six or seven Scriptures about those who seek the Lord; *“The Lord is good to them that seek Him.”*

First of all: Those who seek the Lord, seek Him continually. In 1 Chronicles 16:10 and 11, it says this; *“Let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord continually.”*

My friends; everyone gets religious occasionally. People get religious when someone gets sick. You can have an accident on the highway and someone may be hurt critically and in a coma. The preachers all come around the room. The relatives come and

everyone will start talking about religion and everyone will get religious. The preacher will try to get a profession of faith out of everyone.

Someone dies and everyone gets religious. During Easter everybody gets religious. They go down to the Football Stadium before sun-up. On Christmas everyone gets religious. When trouble comes in the home or in the family, people get religious and they call on God.

Folks get religious occasionally. Everyone starts to think about death, heaven or hell, or God, occasionally. Some people get religious every Sunday. There are some people who go to church and fulfill their duties as church members every Sunday.

Those who seek the Lord, who truly seek the Lord, do so continually. *“Every day is the Lord’s Day.”* Every event is under His care. They seek the Lord continually and are not spasmodic (hot today and cold tomorrow). Their hearts are set on God.

The Scripture says, *“They rejoice evermore and they pray without ceasing.”* They live in an attitude of communion and fellowship with God.

They walk in the Spirit and they walk in the Light. When it talks about *“the walk,”* we are talking about your general trend or bent of the will, your trend of life or the tenor of your life. People, who seek the Lord, seek the Lord continually. *“They walk in the light as He is in the light. They have fellowship one with another.”* They feed upon His Word.

Their relationship with the living God is an unbroken relationship of trust and rest. They are not hot and cold, here today and gone tomorrow on special occasions, such as Feast Days or Sabbath Days.

Every day is the Lord’s Day; *“This is the day that the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad therein.”* That is the first thing about people who truly and sincerely seek the Lord, they seek Him continually.

Secondly: The second Scripture is found in Psalm 119:2; it says this, *“Blessed are they that keep His Word and that seek the Lord with the whole heart.”* Jeremiah 29, (which I quoted a few moments ago), said; *“Ye shall seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart.”* Those who seek the Lord in truth, seek Him with the heart.

When the Scriptures speak of the heart, it is not talking about this organ that pumps blood. This is something a lot of people has trouble understanding. This organ that pumps

blood is not the heart. That physical organ has no more to do with your emotions or spiritual life than your liver, lungs, stomach, kidneys, or any other organs.

I have heard people talking about doctors transplanting artificial hearts (or even in the heart of a baboon) in a man, and they got upset. They wondered what his love would be and what his affections would be.

My friends, the heart is just an organ that pumps blood. The heart has a lot to do with an individual's health and life. When the Scripture talks about your heart, it is talking about your real self, not that organ. The Scripture is talking about your true thoughts, your true self, your true affections and devotions. This is the heart.

When the Scripture says, *"My son; give me your heart;"* God is not talking about you giving your organ that pumps blood; He is talking about you giving the real you, your real affections, your real devotions, your very soul.

When Simon Magus was baptized and wanted to buy the power to bestow the Holy Ghost upon people, he said; *"I will give you money for this gift."* Peter said to him, *"Your heart's not right with God."*

This did not mean that he had a bad organ that pumped blood; it means that he had a bad attitude, a bad spirit. His inner-self was not right with God. The Scripture says, *"Keep thy heart; for out of it are the issues of life. As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he."*

What I am saying is this; those who seek the Lord are not playing a game. This seeking the Lord is not a game, a fad, or an impulse; it is a heart work. It is what I want and it is what my soul longs for, the Living God.

In Romans chapter 10, verses 9 and 10, it says; *"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth, Jesus to be Lord and believe in thine heart (in your true self, in your inner-being, where your true affections lie), you will be saved (if you believe in your heart)."*

That is what Phillip asked the Ethiopian Eunuch on the road to Ethiopia; he said, *"What doth hinder me from being baptized?"* Phillip said, *"If you believe with all your heart, you may."* He said, *"I believe that Jesus is the Son of God."*

Thirdly: Those who seek the Lord seek Him in truth. In Psalm 145:18, it says this; *"The Lord is nigh unto them that call upon Him, to them that seek Him in truth."*

Listen to me; don't get upset and don't get your feelings hurt and don't get offended. I know that many people have the idea that it really doesn't matter what a person believes as far as religion is concerned, as far as God and sin, salvation and Jesus Christ or heaven or hell.

"It really doesn't matter what a person believes;" that is what they tell me; "Just so he is sincere. Let's all get together and resolve our differences because we are all going to the same place and we are just traveling different roads."

My friends, it does matter what you believe if the Bible is the Word of God, and it is. That is why God has given us His Word. He said, "*These things are written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ and that believing you might have life in His name.*"

He said in Isaiah 8, "*If they speak not according to the Word of God it is because there is no light in them.*" In 1 John 5:20, the Scripture says; "*The Son of God hath come and hath given us understanding that we may know Him that is true and that we are in Him that is true, even in His Son Jesus Christ. And this is the true God and this is eternal life. Let God be true and every man a liar.*"

Let our faith concerning God be determined by the Word of God. Let our understanding in regard to sin be determined by the Word of God. Let our beliefs concerning Jesus Christ, who He is, what He did, and where He is now, be determined by the Word of God.

This is our foundation of faith. The Bible tells us that God is Holy. We are not permitted to change that. The Bible tells us that God is Righteous, that God is Just and "*God by no means will clear the guilty,*" that God is love. We are not allowed to change that.

The Bible tells us that men are fallen, guilty, creatures; they fell in Adam; "*As in Adam all die.*" We are not allowed to change that; "*We are without hope, without help, without strength, without God, without Christ in this world.*" We are not allowed to change that.

If we understand our condition and our sin, we have to understand it in the light of the Scriptures. The Scripture says, "*Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners of whom I am the chief. He came to seek and to save the lost.*" We are not allowed to change that. We are not permitted to alter that.

The Scripture says, "*By faith we are justified.*" By faith we are redeemed in Christ. We receive Christ by faith, we look to Christ by faith, and we find rest in Him by faith. "*He*

of God, is made unto us, (all we need); wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.” It is in Him.

“He was made sin for us who knew no sin that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.” We are not permitted to change that. It does matter what we believe.

It doesn't matter what a man believes as long as he believes the Scriptures. The Scriptures are one; they are unbroken, infallible, and consistent with the Scriptures. *“Those who seek the Lord seek Him in truth.”*

Fourthly: Those who genuinely seek God, who seek Him continually, seek Him with all the heart; seek Him in truth according to the Word. They seek Him remembering their sins. They remember who they are and what they are. They remember their unworthiness, their inability, and their uncleanness.

It is mercy that we are seeking, not justice. It is grace that we are seeking. We are not seeking a reward; we are seeking grace. Listen to Isaiah 51:1; *“Ye that seek the Lord; look to the rock from which you were hewn. Look to the pit from which you were dug.”* Remember that!

Someone asked the blind man, whom our Lord healed, to tell them what had happened. He said; *“I was blind and now I see;”* (I know where I was. I know what I was and I know that a man named Jesus Christ made me whole). ”

I know what I was and you know what you were. You were fallen, guilty, sons of Adam. You were unclean like the lepers of old. Paul said of himself, *“I was a blasphemer; I was injurious but I obtained mercy.”*

I know what I am now; *“I am what I am by the grace of God.”* I know that I am a sinner saved by His grace. I know *“That in my flesh dwelleth no good thing; in My Lord, dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead.”* I know what I shall be; *“I shall be satisfied when I awake with His likeness.”* So, those who seek the Lord, seek Him with a conscience and it is mercy that they are seeking.

The Publican came and said, *“Lord; be merciful to me a sinner.”* The Canaanite woman said; *“Lord, have mercy upon me.”* Blind Bartimaeus said; *“Jesus, thou Son of David; have mercy upon me.”*

The Lord said in Isaiah 51, *“Look unto the rock from which you are hewn and the hole of the pit from which you are digged.”* Yes sir, we know what we were and we know who

He is and we know how He saved us. It was not by our works but it was by His mercy that is in Christ Jesus.

Fifth: Those who seek the Lord seek Him with a single purpose and that is found in Psalm 27:4. Listen to David; *“There is one thing, (which is getting it down pretty close) have I desired of the Lord; that will I seek after.”*

I wonder what that is; is it riches, honor, or glory in the flesh? Is it long life? *“One thing have I desired of the Lord and that will I seek after that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in His temple.”*

That is the one, single, purpose in seeking the Lord, His presence and His glory. He said, *“One thing have I desired of the Lord and that will I seek after that I may dwell in the House of the Lord, in the presence of the Lord, all the days of my life, to behold His beauty and His glory.”*

This is what Abraham looked for, *“A city, not made with hands, a city eternal in the Heavens.”*

This is what Job is saying; *“In my flesh I am going to see the Lord.”*

That is what Paul is saying; *“I have a desire to depart. I am in a straight betwixt the two. I have a desire to depart and be with Christ which is far better.”*

That is what David is talking about when he said; *“I will be satisfied (and only then) will I be satisfied when I awake with His likeness.”*

A man cannot have two goals, especially when they are in opposite directions. *“A man cannot serve two masters.”* Christ said that you cannot do it, you cannot serve two masters. It’s either *“God or mammon;”* it cannot be both.

The Scripture says, *“Set your affection (which is singular) on things above, not on the things of this earth. Where your treasure is, there is where your heart will be.”*

Those that seek the Lord seek Him with a single purpose. This is my objective, this is my end and this is my goal, *“To know Him, whom to know, is life eternal.”*

Sixth: Listen to this carefully, *“Those that seek the Lord seek Him while He may be found.”* Over in Isaiah Chapter 55:6, this is what it says; *“Seek ye the Lord while He may be found; call ye upon Him while He is near.”*

Wouldn't you say that for me and for you that it is right now? It is sort of like, when Paul wrote; *“Now is the accepted time; behold today is the day of salvation.”* Today is the day that I have while I still have my faculties; while I still have some power to reason.

That is exactly the word that I meant to use in Isaiah 1; *“Come, let us reason together; though your sins be as scarlet; they shall be as white as snow. Though they be red like crimson; they shall be as wool.”*

“Come, let us reason together;” while I still have my power of reason, while I still have my faculties, while I still have an interest in these things. I'm not talking about when old age comes and I say that I have no more interest and I have no more pleasure in these things. *“Seek ye the Lord while He may be found.”*

I'm not talking about a cut-off date. I'm not talking about a deadline. There is something in the Scripture here and I want you to turn to Proverbs 1:24. I am saying that there is a day of grace. There is a day of common grace and there is a day of a general call.

There is a day when the Gospel is heard. There is a day when God sends His servant and He preaches and opens the Word and reads the Word and men hear the Word and they hear the Gospel.

This is what our Lord Jesus was talking about when He was talking about Capernaum. He said, *“Woe unto thee Capernaum; woe unto the Bethsaida, if the mighty works which are done in you had been done in power in Sidon or Sodom and Gomorrah; they would have repented; they would have remained unto this day.”*

Mighty works were done. You are going to be responsible for what you have heard, what you have seen, and what you have witnessed; you are going to be responsible.

Listen to Proverbs 1:24; God says, *“Because I have called and you have refused. I have stretched out my hand no man regarded. You have set at naught my council, my Word, my warnings and you would not of my reproof; (you would not have my reproof) therefore, one day, you will call on me and I will not answer. One day you will seek me and shall not find me.”*

He said, *“The Lord is good to them who seek Him. The Lord is good to all of them that seek Him, to those who wait upon Him.”* They seek the Lord continually. They seek the Lord with all their hearts. They seek the Lord in truth and they seek the Lord remembering their sin and His mercy upon their sins.

They seek the Lord with a single purpose, that they might know Him. Paul said, *“That I may win Christ and be found in Him; that I might know Him and the power of His resurrection.”*

Those who seek the Lord and find the Lord, seek the Lord while He may be found. I don't know; the Gospel may be removed from you or you may be removed from the Gospel. There may come a day when you will have no more interest in the Bible, the Gospel, or in the things of God. You may have no more interest in these spiritual matters.

Right now, you do seek the Lord, or you wouldn't have tuned into this message. *“Seek ye the Lord while He may be found. Call ye upon Him while He is near; for the Lord is good unto them that seek Him.”*