

RETAINING THE PRESENCE OF GOD

INTRODUCTION

- Without "The Manifest Presence" the church will degenerate into an empty and lifeless religion.
- We can claim Christ as our Lord - but there will be no evidence of His character, nature, and likeness in us.
- It is one thing to accept Jesus Christ - what is crucial is, can I retain "His Presence" and walk with Him continually?

EXODUS 33:13-15 "Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people. ¹⁴ And He said, "My Presence will go *with you*, and I will give you rest." ¹⁵ Then he said to Him, "If Your Presence does not go *with us*, do not bring us up from here."

AMPLIFICATION

- Moses did not get enough of God - **He wanted dwell in His Presence continually.**
- At every opportunity, he would spend days in His Presence until God finally said, "*Depart and from here*"
- The current generation has no desire for God - That is why we have less fruit and are defeated – we do not value being in His Presence, continually.

Let there be change amongst us - "as the deer pants for the water brooks" - let us thirst for "the presence" of the living God.

DAVID VALUED THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD

- Two times David went and brought the Ark of the Covenant – the Ark of the Covenant represented the Presence of God.
- David danced ^[symbol of joy] before the LORD with all *his* might – he was joyful in the presence of God.

WAYS FOR LOSING THE PRESENCE OF GOD – KING AHAZ

- (See 2ki 16 & 2Chr 28)

1. **Inaccurate Lifestyle** (2Ki 16:2) "Ahaz did not do what was right in the sight of the LORD his God, as his father David had done."

- This means Ahaz **felt no divine accountability** - **he did as pleased to him**

2. **Inaccurate Patterns**

- **We must follow the divine order of God** that is set before us
 - "Those who worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in truth" – this is a specification, a present demand of God.
 - "Without faith it is impossible to please God" – this is a specification, a present demand of God.
- Ahaz did not choose David as his pattern – "he did not do what was right in the sight of the LORD, as his father David had done."
- He followed the way of other kings when he was from Judah.
- As a result he brought, **shame, poverty and humiliation** to the people of Judah

3. **Instability and Insecurity**

- 2Chr 28:3-4 "He burned incense in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, and burned incense on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree."
 - Golden Altar of Incense was the prescribed place for burning incense, the many locations he chose demonstrated insecurity and instability.
 - This is like moving from inaccurate church to inaccurate church.

CONCLUSION

Through your actions you cut the "Presence of God" from your life.

- Paul would ask - do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you?
- He would declare "you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."