

“God’s Presence & His People”

Exodus 33:15-16

June 16, 2013

Intro:

Question:

What do heaven & hell have in common?

Answer:

**They are BOTH...
in terms of “DESTINATIONS,”
DEFINED by the parameters of a person’s eternal
placement...
be it “IN” or “OUT” of God’s Perfect Presence.**

Think about it:

Hell is eternal separation from God...
in unending, fully alert, torment & torture!

VS.

Heaven’s greatest promise is...
being in the presence of God eternally!

T/S: While true, you may ask: Why is this relevant?

QT: “Does anything matter more than God’s presence with us? Think about it: What could be worse than being separated from Almighty God? The Bible is filled with stories that describe the blessings that come with His presence and the horrors that accompany His rejection. God’s presence with people is a central theme of the Scriptures...” - **Francis Chan**

T/S: This is not just an important eternal point, it is also a timely point as we continue our series...

2013 BE-Come-ING (the work of God)
(Mission, Messiah, Multiply.... Ministry/1 John)

Multiply
wk. 7 of 9 in O.T.
wk. 7 of 16 over-all (6 N.T.)

T/S: ...**God’s perspective** on *His presence / people*

Review & Connect:

Creation	Presence Planned & Perfected
Garden	Problem-with & Promise-for Presence
Flood	Purging Presence

<i>Abraham</i>	Promising Presence thru People
<i>Moses/Egypt</i>	Proving Presence (Plagues/Passover)
<i>Covenant</i>	Presence Particulars
<i>Sacrificial Atonement</i>	Paying the Price for Permanent Presence
<i>Tabernacle</i>	Places of Presence

Creation initiates...
Sin thru Satan separates...

God's Mercy proves...
God's Grace provides...

O.T. Covenants explain...
Sacrificial Atonement enables...

The Spirit of God empowers...
The Gospel of God exemplifies...

T/S: Again... think about it:

"Abba" / Send

"Son" / Serve

"Emmanuel" / Stay
(Isa. 7:14 / Matt. 1:23)

Examples of God's Presence

Adam... Noah... Abraham... Moses...

JOSHUA at Jericho...

NEHEMIAH... (52 days of wall-building)

JOSEPH... sold into slavery... to save 2 nations

DAVID vs Goliath...

DANIEL... in the lion's den

SHADRACH/MEISHACH/ABEDIGO & the Furnace...

ELIJAH... vs prophets of Baal...

ELISHA... seeing with God's eyes...

GIDEON... don't get caught up with the numbers...

EZEKIEL (ch.37 – God breathes into dry bones...)

T/S: **HOSEA** & Gomer... (He loves the unlovely...)

T/S: We'll use the balance of our time this morning
 to connect this eternal truth & principle to
 today's environment & people...

T/S: *Let's pick up God's story in the desert....*

Qt: *“One of the most fascinating features of the Old Testament Law was a tent, referred to as the tabernacle. This was where God would meet with His people. God had been leading Israel through the desert as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. With the tabernacle, God was creating a home for Himself on earth. The tabernacle would go with Israel wherever they went—from this point on Israel would be known as the people who literally had God dwelling in their midst.”*
– Francis Chan

TABERNACLE

*** God’s special place on earth (with His people)

*** **CRITICAL:** see connection to John 1:14 ***

Note: God not only stayed with them...
He guided them:
(pillar of cloud or fire signaled go/stay)

Exodus 25:22 = *There I will meet with you; and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are upon the ark of the covenant, I will speak to you about all that I will give you in commandment for the sons of Israel.*

The Tabernacle meant God would be with His people
wherever they went...

The Tabernacle was like a slice of the Garden...

God's presence differentiates God's people!

T/S: *** CRITICAL Turning-Point ***

God's Blessing Without His Presence:

CONTEXT:

Moses heads back down to the people with the 10 Cs

People actively breaking the first 2 C's... (Exodus 20)

God responds:

God puts 3,000 men to death right there...

God threatens to remove His presence:

*Then the Lord spoke to Moses, "Depart, go up from here, you and the people whom you have brought up from the land of Egypt, to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'To your descendants I will give it.' 2 I will send an angel before you and I will drive out the Canaanite, the Amorite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Hivite and the Jebusite. 3 Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; **for I will not go up in your midst, because you are an obstinate people, and I might destroy you on the way.**" - Exodus 33:1-3*

God changes key relational language:

"My people" is now **"the people"**

"My angel" is now **"an angel..."**

God restates/commits to His promise... BUT...
now He changes the conditions:

You still get the Promised Land...

BUT... "I will not go with you..."

***** God is offering their *preference* without His presence! *****

Don't miss this...

It might be Moses' greatest contribution to God's family of faith!

T/S: Moses knew exactly what was at stake!

15 Then Moses said to the LORD, "**If Your presence does not go with us, do not lead us up from here.** **16** For how then can it be known that I have found favor in Your sight, I and Your people? Is it not by Your going with us, so that we, I and Your people, may be distinguished from all the other people who are upon the face of the earth?"- **Exodus 33:15-16**

***** CAUTION *****

T/S: Presence implies intimacy!

BUT...

it can mean either "Proximity" OR "Intimacy"

T/S: Let's look ahead to what happened once the
Tabernacle was replaced with the
Temple...

BUT...

God's people rejected intimacy with God

An Important Warning: **1 Kings 9:1-9**

God warned Solomon that He would only remain
amongst the people SO LONG AS THEY REMAINED
OBEDIENT...

God stayed with them...
as long as they stayed with Him!

JEREMIAH (ch.5-7 **consequence of lost presence**)

Ch. 5... **1** *"Go up and down the streets of
Jerusalem, look around and consider, search
through her squares. If you can find but one
person who deals honestly and seeks the truth,
I will forgive this city. 2 Although they say, 'As
surely as the Lord lives,' still they are swearing
falsely." 3 Lord, do not your eyes look for truth?
You struck them, but they felt no pain; you
crushed them, but they refused correction. They
made their faces harder than stone and refused*

to repent.

6 *Therefore a lion from the forest will attack them, a wolf from the desert will ravage them, a leopard will lie in wait near their towns to tear to pieces any who venture out, for their rebellion is great and their transgressions many.*

21 *Hear this, you foolish and senseless people, who have eyes but do not see, who have ears but do not hear: **22a** Should you not fear me?" declares the Lord. "Should you not tremble in my presence?*

23 *But these people have stubborn and rebellious hearts; they have turned aside and gone away. **24** They do not say to themselves, 'Let us fear the Lord our God...*

25 *Your wrongdoings & sins have deprived you of good. **26** "Among my people are the wicked who lie in wait like men who snare birds and like those who set traps to catch people.*

31 *The prophets prophesy lies, the priests rule by their own authority, and my people love it this way. But what will you do when the end comes?*

Sadly, the same holds true today!

The only thing that makes a Christian church a Christian Church is Christ!

“A Christ-less church is a crowd.” – JDP

An Important Warning: 1 Kings 9:1-9

God warned Solomon that He would only remain amongst the people SO LONG AS THEY REMAINED OBEDIENT...

**God stayed with them...
as long as they stayed with Him!**

Ezekiel 10-11: warning really turned into wrath in reality

REMEMBER: Jesus tore up the temple...

TRUTH = God Became Flesh:

Once again Jesus solves the problems of man...

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God... - John 1:1-2

14 *And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. - John 1:14*

“DWELT among us” = “set up a tent”
Gk. = word for Hebrew **“Tabernacle”**

Jesus is both the:

PERSON of God

PRESENCE of God

**In-Christ...
we NEVER have to worry...
about losing the presence of God!**

John 10:28-29 = cannot snatch out of His hand

John 14:20 = we are one...

John 15 (“I am the Vine... you branches”)

TOGETHER

Acts 1:8 & Matthew 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, **I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**"

- Matthew 28:18-20

God "with us" now changes to...
God "IN us"

1 Cor. 6:19-20 = we are the new temple of God

**...do you not know that your
body is a temple of the Holy
Spirit who is in you, whom you
have from God, and that you are not
your own? 20** For you have
been bought with a price: therefore
glorify God in your body."

**God “with us” now changes to...
God “IN us”**

ONLY those individuals indwelt by the Holy Spirit, living
IN-Christ are biblical Christians...

AND

ONLY indwelt Christians, together, are Christ’s Church!

See John 17:20-23

20 “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, **21** that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. **22** I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— **23** I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Let us pray IN and FOR the Presence of Almighty God.

In Jesus’ name... we PRAY...

AMEN!