

GOD AND GOD ALONE

CMBC February 22, 2015

Exodus 20:3

Roger Palms, the former editor of Billy Graham's Decision Magazine, wrote a book entitled, Enjoying The Closeness Of God. I am borrowing the that title for this series of messages Enjoying The Closeness Of God. The subtitle the book is "Knowing the Pleasure of Being His Friend".

- I am a friend of the BC Premier, Christy Clark, and I have a picture to prove that.
- Well, I should say that the Honourable Simon Gibson is a friend of Christy Clark.
 - Simon invited me to a breakfast with Premier Christy Clark – well, there were about 30 of us there.
 - When Christy Clark moved through the room, I was introduced as Simon Gibson's pastor, so she stopped to have a brief conversation with me.
 - Someone picked up my phone and took this picture.
- Well I know Christy Clark. We have been introduced. I even voted for her party. Simon has told me more about her.
 - But really, there would have to be a lot happen to "enjoy the closeness of being her friend".
 - Maybe if I committed to being a member of her legislature.
- Now somebody is going to take that out of context and start the rumour that I am intending to get into politics. I am not.
- I am only illustrating the relationship that so many of have with God.
 - We know Him.
 - We have met Him.
 - We claim to be a part of His party, Christians.
 - We read about Him. Listen to His speeches, His message.
 - But we rely on others to tell us about Him.
 - Enjoying a close friendship to God? Not really.
- So lets talk.

I am starting with looking at the first 4 of the 10 Commandments.

- They are specific steps that God gives us in entering the friendship He desires for us.
- Today, Commandment #1 "**Thou shalt have no other gods before me.**"
- That is key to "Enjoying the Closeness of God".

1. There Is Only One GOD

Isaiah 43:10 ...know and believe me and understand that I am He. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me. [11] I, even I, am the LORD, and apart from me there is no saviour. [12] I have revealed and saved and proclaimed — I, and not some foreign god among you. You are my witnesses, that I am God. [13] Yes, and from ancient days I am He.

Therefore God says in the very first commandment, "**You shall have no other gods before me.**"

- a. Who can compare with Him?
 - i. What is there to compare? He is the only God.

1. As Walter read from **Isaiah 45** "I am the LORD, and there is no other. [19] I have not spoken in secret, from somewhere in a land of darkness; I have not said to Jacob's descendants, 'Seek me in vain.' I, the LORD, speak the truth; I declare what is right.
 2. Because he alone is God, what He speaks is truth
 3. And He is a God who seeks a relationship with mankind.
- ii. But He does say, **You shall have no OTHER gods before me.**
 - iii. Are there other gods?
 - iv. Listen to **Psalm 89:6** **For who in the skies above can compare with the LORD? Who is like the LORD among the heavenly beings? [7] In the council of the holy ones God is greatly feared; he is more awesome than all who surround him. [8] O LORD God Almighty, who is like you? You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness surrounds you.**
 - v. There are other powerful beings,
 1. But none of them are gods
 2. None of them compare to God
 3. We might be awed by them, but none of them rival God
 - vi. Who then is God referring to when He says "have no other gods before me"?
 1. A small "god" is any power that influences our decisions
 2. Many things influence our decision and we submit to their influence.
 - a. Some of these influences are good some bad.
 - b. Your dress
 - c. Money
 - d. Your choice of friends
 - e. Even being offended determines my choices
 - f. All those things that you submit to in making a choice
 - g. God says, let none of those influences supersede what I say and expect from you.

I want us to see how foolish it is to have other gods.

- b. The LORD, the Almighty God is the Creator
 - i. All of these powerful beings have been created by God
 - ii. **Colossians 1:16** **For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. [17] And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.**
 - iii. We get confused when we look at nature and see what scientist are telling us about the powers of nature unfolding.
 1. The Sun we are told has been burning for 1 billion years
 2. It is half way through its life time
 3. It will gradually burn up in a billion years
 4. Of course! God created with the laws of nature that He set in the universe
 5. When He spoke the sun into being, it was already burning
 6. A tree already had rings
 7. He is God the Creator. He can do that.

8. If you don't have God the Creator, you can never figure out how all this started, but you can tell us how it keeps going.

iv. Here is an amazing description of God. I will read parts of Isa 40

Isa 40 [10] See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power,
and his arm rules for him.

See, his reward is with him.

[11] He tends his flock like a shepherd:

He gathers the lambs in his arms

and carries them close to his heart;

he gently leads those that have young.

[12] Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand,

or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens?

Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket,

or weighed the mountains on the scales

and the hills in a balance?

[13] Who has understood the mind * of the LORD,

or instructed him as his counselor?

[14] Whom did the LORD consult to enlighten him,

and who taught him the right way?

Who was it that taught him knowledge

or showed him the path of understanding?

[15] Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket;

they are regarded as dust on the scales;

he weighs the islands as though they were fine dust.

[16] Lebanon is not sufficient for altar fires,

nor its animals enough for burnt offerings.

[17] Before him all the nations are as nothing;

they are regarded by him as worthless and less than nothing.

[18] To whom, then, will you compare God?

What image will you compare him to?

[19] As for an idol, a craftsman casts it,

and a goldsmith overlays it with gold

and fashions silver chains for it.

[20] A man too poor to present such an offering

selects wood that will not rot.

He looks for a skilled craftsman

to set up an idol that will not topple.

[21] Do you not know?

Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood since the earth was founded?

[22] He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth,

and its people are like grasshoppers.

He stretches out the heavens like a canopy,

and spreads them out like a tent to live in.

[23] He brings princes to naught

and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing.

[24] No sooner are they planted,

no sooner are they sown,
no sooner do they take root in the ground,
than he blows on them and they wither,
and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.

[25] "To whom will you compare me?
Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One.

[26] Lift your eyes and look to the heavens:
Who created all these?

He who brings out the starry host one by one,
and calls them each by name.

Because of his great power and mighty strength,
not one of them is missing.

[27] Why do you say
and complain,

"My way is hidden from the LORD;
my cause is disregarded by my God"?

[28] Do you not know?
Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.

[29] He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.

[30] Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;

[31] but those who hope in the LORD
will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

v. There is no one like Him

1. He has created everything there is, yet we would bow down to one of His creations, or worse yet, bow down to one of our own creations.
2. How can we let one of these influences become a higher priority than God?

vi. There is no other no other God

vii. Understanding this!

- Firmly grasp this!
- Know the total foolishness of allowing any other god control our lives!
- This is the beginning of a close friendship with the LORD God.

2. The Sovereign LORD God

a. Sovereign by virtue of who He is

- i. Because He is the creator
- ii. Because is the all-knowing God

- b. Sovereign in His purpose
 - i. Because of His purpose for righteousness
 - ii. His is the only God and His purpose will be accomplished

3. The Choice Of Honouring Him

- a. The foolishness of competing with God
 - i. Not only is it illogical
 - ii. Why would we dare to defy God?
 - iii. Why would we turn down His salvation?

- b. His astonishing attention to us
 - i. He reaches out to us.
 - ii. **1 Tim 2:1** I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone— [2] for kings and all those in authority, (there are some of the other powerful influences in our lives) that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. [3] This is good, and pleases God our Savior, [4] who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. [5] For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, [6] who gave himself as a ransom for all men—
 - iii. Premier Christy Clark really doesn't have time to build a close relationship with us
 - iv. But God not only does
 - v. He made a huge sacrifice to make that possible, even while were still rejected or belittled His friendship
 - vi. The Creator of the Universe, The Creator of all powers, the One and only God, wants you to enjoy the closeness to Him, to know the pleasure of being His friend.
- c. **ILL** Francis Chan and his non-relationship with his father, finally understood God the Father's desire for a relationship when he became a father.

1 Kings 8:22 Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in front of the whole assembly of Israel, spread out his hands toward heaven [23] and said: "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below—you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way.

GOD AND GOD ALONE!