

## What Does God Require? Walking with God

- I. Introduction
  - a. Based on a sermon by Sewell Hall I heard at the Annandale lectures in November 2010
  - b. Knowing what is expected of us is very important
    - i. Entering marriage
      1. Not just what I'm going to get
      2. What will be e
    - ii. Job interview/duties
      1. What will they ask in the interview?
      2. What will be required of me in this job?
    - iii. Text or exam at school
      1. What questions will be asked?
      2. What do I need to know to pass?
      3. What will cause me to fail?
  - c. Biggest examination of all – Final Judgment
    - i. Fear God and keep his commandments – Eccl. 12:13-14
      1. Secret things – good & baid
    - ii. All will appear before the judgment seat of Christ – 2 Cor. 5:10
    - iii. An awesome thought!
      1. No final exam can compare
      2. Even standing before a judge being sentenced to prison or freedom
      3. If this judge
        - a. Accepts us – then eternity w/ him
        - b. Rejects us – we are lost forever
    - iv. What does God want from me?
  - d. The list
    - i. It is easy to list things that God requires b/c the Bible is full of commands and prohibitions
      1. Be baptized – Mk. 16:16; Jn 3:5
      2. Attend services – Heb 10:25
        - a. How many services? Different answers!
        - b. Cartoon: Pearly gates – “Wed. night doesn't count!!!”
        - c. Jms 4:17
      3. No lying or stealing
      4. Study the Bible
      5. Teach others
    - ii. But, if we try to make a list, we find everyone's list is different
      1. Many believe in heaven or hell
      2. And the vast majority are sure they are going to heaven
      3. But their opinion of what was required would vary widely
    - iii. Making a to-do list was the solution of the Pharisees

1. Took the laws of the OT and compiled them into basically a list of do's and don'ts
    - a. If you did all the do's and didn't all the don'ts you would be alright
  2. But God requires more than that!
    - a. Matt 5:20 – you must be more righteous than that!
      - i. A shocking statement
      - ii. The Pharisees were already the most righteous people anyone could think of
    - b. How righteous they were – Luke 18:12
      - i. One Pharisee said, “I fast twice a week and give tithes of all I get”
    - c. Do we need to do more?
      - i. Fast three times a week
      - ii. Give a fifth instead of a tenth?
      - iii. Is this how we exceed the righteousness of the Pharisees?
      - iv. Wash our hands twice before we eat??
    - d. Exceeding the righteousness of the Pharisees
      - i. Righteousness is not a matter of doing all the do's and don'ting all the don'ts
      - ii. It is a matter of getting your heart right
        1. Having the right motivation
        2. And the right spirit for what you do
- II. Why did God make Man? God made us? But why!??
- a. God is love – 1 John 4
    - i. Love requires an object
      1. Car – not enough, does not respond
      2. Goldfish – love you when you give it food
      3. Dog – much more satisfying response
        - a. If it won't bark or smell or chew like a dog that is great
        - b. Almost human
        - c. The more human it is the better object of love for us
      4. Personal response –
        - a. Talk, laugh or even argue with us
        - b. Respond completely to us
        - c. Or not respond if they choose!
          - i. If they have no choice then their response is meaningless
    - ii. If God is love,
      1. Then he desires objects of love
      2. Who can respond fully
      3. By choice
      4. Let us make man in our image after our likeness – Gen. 1:26a

5. Someone like himself who could respond to him in love
- b. Adam and Eve – Gen 3
  - i. He created man and woman
    1. Gave them a perfect
  - ii. V.8 – God comes walking in the garden
    1. v. 9 – he calls to Adam
    2. What did he want? Someone to walk with him
      - a. He had come to walk and he wanted a companion
  - iii. Sad Fact – the end of v. 8 – they were not fit to walk with him b/c they had sinned
  - iv. The holiness of God!!!!
    1. Cannot be compromised
    2. He cannot fellowship w/ sin – 1 Jn. 1:5
    3. Adam and Eve had sinned & therefore were not fit to walk with God
  - v. But God did not give up
    1. Love suffers long & is kind, seeks not its own – 1 Cor 13:4
    2. Sacrifices to maintain relationships
    3. He made a provision for them – we are not told the details of this
  - vi. But Abel made sacrifices for His sin
    1. He had sins of his own and was unfit to walk with God
    2. Heb 11:4 – But God declared him to be righteous
    3. He offered a sacrifice which God accepted
    4. Abel sacrifice was offered by faith
    5. That faith was accepted as righteousness
    6. Through mercy
    7. Once that happened, he could walk with God

### III. Walking with God

- a. Mic. 6:8 – What does the Lord require of you??
  - i. Do justly
  - ii. Love mercy
  - iii. Walk humbly with your God
- b. What about the Pharisees?
  - i. They did so much good and didn't do so much evil
  - ii. They neglected the weightier matters of the law
  - iii. Matt. 23:23
    1. It was good to do all those things
    2. But not to leave the other undone
    3. What did Jesus say they left out?
      - a. Justice – Do justice
      - b. Mercy – Love mercy
      - c. Faith – Walk humbly with your God
      - d. These are directly parallel with the requirements of Mic. 6:8

- e. And in contrast to the attitude of when have I done enough to please God?
    - i. Mic 6:6-8
  - c. Saints who walked with God
    - i. Enoch – Gen. 5:22; by faith Heb 11:5
    - ii. Gen. 6:9 – Noah
    - iii. Abraham – Gen. 18:16; friend of God -James 2:23
    - iv. David – after God’s own heart
    - v. Paul - 2 Cor 5:7
  - d. Does that mean perfection?
    - i. Phil 3:12
      - 1. What was Paul doing wrong?
      - 2. Wherein was he failing or incomplete?
      - 3. What more could he do?
      - 4. What was he seeking? V. 8-11
        - a. Gain Christ
        - b. Be found in him
        - c. Know him
        - d. Fellowship of his suffering
        - e. Conformed to his death
        - f. Resurrected
      - 5. He had Righteousness v. 9
        - a. Not according to works of the law
        - b. But according to faith
        - c. Much more that do’s and don’ts, isn’t it?
        - d. Was by faith, not by sight
      - 6. What about us?
        - a. Like a Pharisee, I can say ..
          - i. Attend all the services?
          - ii. Pay our bills?
          - iii. Attend Wed?
          - iv. Teach classes?
          - v. So on
        - b. Have you attained? Are you satisfied?
          - i. Have you gained what Paul was seeking?
          - ii. Know him more
          - iii. Suffer for him and die be resurrected -  
Colossians 1:24 NKJV I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church,
          - iv. Paul wanted to suffer as much for Christ as Christ had suffered for him
- e. What does it take to walk with someone?
  - i. I don’t hate anybody, but there are some folks that I would rather not take a walk with

- ii. I love them, but I get along with them better at a distance
- iii. A special love/affection/fondness
  - 1. Must really love the lord
- iv. Faith/Trust
  - 1. Believe he is – Heb. 11:6 – just after the discussion of Enoch
  - 2. See him as really – Heb 11:27 - Moses saw him who was invisible
- v. Agreement – Amos 3:3
  - 1. 1 Jn. 1:9 – We must walk in the light as He is in the light
  - 2. Earthly walk
    - a. Time
    - b. Place
    - c. Direction
    - d. Speed
  - 3. We must agree with God – NOT the other way around!!!!
- vi. Justification –
  - 1. Necessary to walk with God, b/c of his holiness
  - 2. Based on faith by the grace of God
  - 3. Rom. 5:1
- vii. Communication
  - 1. Conversation
    - a. Listening – 1 sam. 3:9
    - b. Speaking – Psa 55:22
    - c. When we are walking or traveling with others we can become closer to them than at nearly any other time
      - i. Unburdening their soul to each other
      - ii. We can unburden our souls to God if we are walking with Him
    - d. Even silence can be significant
      - i. The length you can be silent comfortably is an indication of the depth of the friendship
      - ii. Small talk necessary with some
      - iii. A close friend – a sense of togetherness that does not require constant speech
      - iv. Hab. 2:20 – keep silent before him
      - v. Total acceptance of what he says as being true and right
- f. Jesus walked with God
  - i. He never said I have not attained
  - ii. He had perfect fellowship and oneness with god
  - iii. How were God and Jesus one?
    - 1. Will - John 6:38
    - 2. Words – John 14:8-10, 24
      - a. Jesus displayed every quality of God in human form

- i. Jn. 1:18 -
      - b. Including the words of Gdo
    - 3. Works – John 5:19
  - iv. What is the result? They were one! John 10:30
  - v. He wants us to be one also! – John 17:20-21
    - 1. One
      - a. Brother, I love you? In spite of differences?
      - b. No, as Jesus and God are one
      - c. And in Christ
        - i. Not in one denomination
        - ii. Not in one congregation – Unity there is also req'd
        - iii. “One in us” – just like God & Christ
          - 1. Will
          - 2. Words
          - 3. Works
          - 4. If you and I do that, we are in Christ and become one in Him
          - 5. We cannot fail to be one if we are fully united in Christ
- vi. Is obedience unimportant?
  - 1. It is required
  - 2. By what?
    - a. By love – 1 Jn. 5:3
      - i. Why – not to be righteous in our own right
      - ii. To show love / bc we love
    - b. By faith – James 2:17
      - i. By works faith is made perfect
      - ii. Incomplete until faith obeys
  - 3. When when have true love and faith
    - a. We desire to do his will
    - b. And are confident that what he wants is best
    - c. These you ought to have done without leaving the others undone
      - i. Luke’s account (11:42) – you passed by the love of God
  - 4. God wants obedience based on faith and love - John 14:15
  - 5. Like parents
    - a. Words of love mean nothing if they are rebellion and untrusting
    - b. On the other hand, even obedience is discouraging if it is servile and not motivated by true affection
    - c. When they are growing up we have to accompany everything with threats and rewards to get obedience
    - d. When they mature

- i. They do thing we would never ask them to do
- ii. B/c they love us and they know that we need or want it done
- e. That what God wants
  - i. Love him so much that we will do anything to please him
  - ii. And so sure of who He is that we are confident that what He wants is best
- f. The proper attitude motivates proper obedience and ensures close fellowship with God - John 14:23

#### IV. Conclusion - Adam and Eve

- a. What if they had come out to him instead of hiding...
- b. Would God have had dinner with Him?
- c. It happened to Abraham – Gen. 18
  - i. Three men – two were angels, one was the Lord
  - ii. Abraham made preparation and had a meal with God
  - iii. Righteous by faith – didn't run and hide
- d. What about us? – Rev. 3:20
  - i. Is Jesus in our heart?
    - 1. Don't think
      - a. attendance
      - b. liberal contribution
      - c. means Jesus is in your heart
    - 2. It is possible to do a lot of right things and avoid a lot of wrong things yet be no more than the Pharisees
  - ii. Why are you doing what you are doing?
    - 1. Tradition?
    - 2. To be seen of men?
    - 3. To feel better than others?
    - 4. Or because
      - a. You love him with all your heart
      - b. You are trusting him to save you not because of what you have done but because of his great mercy and love
      - c. You desire to please him
      - d. You desire to have fellowship with him
  - iii. If this is true, then he is already in your heart, and you are of those most precious and blessed souls who are walking with God
  - iv. If not, you are not what you need to be to pass the test of judgment
    - 1. Matt. 5:25 – If you make peace with your adversary on the way, in this life, you will have no fear when judgment day comes
    - 2. You will be accepted on the basis of your faith in and love for God
      - a. Obedient, trusting love and faith

3. Open the door to him and seek out that close relationship with Him
- v. If you are not a Christian, you can become and begin your walk with God tonight
  1. Come to him, with love and faith
    - a. That turns away from sin
    - b. That confesses to men your faith in him
    - c. That will submit to baptism to have Jesus blood wash your sins away
    - d. So that you can spend the rest of your life on this earth walking with Jesus
    - e. And live forever with him after this life
- vi. Invitation

V.