

## Seeing God

### Introduction:

- (Turn to 1 Tim. 6.)
- Recently in Bible class we studied about God making His glory pass before Moses (Ex. 33:18-34:9).
- The Bible has a lot to say about seeing God.
- Preview

### Nobody Can See God in This Life

- **God dwells in unapproachable light** (1 Tim. 6:16).
  - God's unapproachable light is His pure and perfect nature and character.
- **"No man has seen God at any time"** (John 1:18a; 1 John 4:12a).
- **What about Moses?**
- Moses saw God:
  - When God made His glory pass before Moses (Ex. 33:23).
  - When the covenant was being ratified (Ex. 24:9-11).
  - When he regularly spoke with God (Ex. 33:11).
- How do we reconcile those passages with the passages that teach no one can see God?
  - **Moses didn't see God's face** (Ex. 33:20); he didn't see God's full glory.
- **The reason man is not allowed to see God is because we're sinful**
  - **Isa. 6:5**

### God's Appearance is Beyond Description

- **Even visions of God are almost too wonderful for words.**
  - Ezekiel saw a symbolic vision of God, and even that was almost beyond words (Eze. 1:26-28).
  - This is typical of the descriptions of God's appearance, whether it be here in Eze. 1 or Dan. 7 or Rev. 4.
    - We could say the same for the description of the glorified Christ in Rev. 1.
      - Sublime in every way imaginable.
        - Imagine the most beautiful thing you've ever seen and multiply that times ... infinity.
      - Yet all of these descriptions are merely descriptions of how God appeared in a vision, not in person.
- **When we finally get to heaven, there will simply not be words to describe what our eyes will behold when we see God as He is.**
  - Yet His *appearance* is not what ultimately matters. His glory and love are what really matters.

### To See God One Day, We Have to Purify Ourselves

- **The reason: He is pure** (1 John 3:2-3).
- This is why we are told to imitate God and Christ.
  - If we want to be *with* God, we have to be *like* God. Same with Christ.
  - Ask yourself whether you are imitating God and Christ.
- **Take sin seriously. Strive to eliminate it from your life!**
  - **2 Cor. 7:1**
- **But purification means more than eliminating sin; it also means loving one another** (1 John 4:11-12, 19-21).
- All of this doesn't mean, of course, that we have to become sinlessly perfect in order to see God.
  - Ultimately purification is only possible through the blood of Christ.
  - Being pure as God is pure means that serving God involves more than just talking the talk; it requires walking the walk.
  - Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people.

### Seeing Jesus is Seeing God

- **Jesus has revealed the Father** (John 1:14-18).
- **The Father abides in the Son** (John 14:7-10).
  - The apostles had already seen God by seeing Jesus.
  - Song: "What if God were one of us, just a stranger on the bus trying to make his way home?"
- **Therefore we don't need to see God now.**

### Actions Steps:

- Based on the points above, here are three action steps:
  1. **DESIRE to see God.**
  2. **LIVE to see God.**
  3. **REJOICE to see God now . . . revealed in Christ!**

### Conclusion:

- God spoke to Job in a whirlwind. Job said, "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; But now my eye sees You; Therefore I retract, And I repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:5-6).
  - We don't want to say that on judgment day.
- Are you ready to see God? How prepared are you? How pure of a life are you living? Have you been washed in the blood of the lamb?
- If you are found by God to be holy and blameless, you will be allowed to dwell in God's unapproachable light and to see Him as He is!