

# God's Vision for Us

2006044

## Topic 1045 (Assurance)

### Introduction:

- A. During October, we have discussed the Assurance of Our Salvation.
  - 1. We can live with confident expectation.
  - 2. Heaven is ours. We are going there. The faithful Christian can approach it in confidence.
- B. One of the things I have hoped to accomplish in this series is to change our view of God.
  - 1. Too often, we may view God from an inaccurate, unfavorable perspective.
  - 2. Contrast the way we view God with the way we view Jesus.
    - a) Jesus is compassionate & understanding. We often think of God as judgmental and demanding.
    - b) Jesus relates to us. God things we are weak.
    - c) Jesus forgives. God evaluates.
    - d) Jesus intercedes; God takes vengeance.
    - e) Jesus represents divine kindness. God represents strict absolutes.
- C. If we are not careful, we can create an unfavorable impression of God.
  - 1. Every characteristic we associate with Jesus, we can and should associate with God.
  - 2. God is kind, compassionate, merciful, helpful, understanding, full of grace, forgiveness, and mercy.
  - 3. We must never doubt or take for granted – God's patience.
  - 4. Upon consideration, the depth of His patience – exceeds our comprehension.
- D. When we begin to view God from new perspective, it can radically change our lives for the better.
  - 1. When we begin to understand God's desire for us, it can prompt us to look to the future with hope, optimism, and trust.
  - 2. Our spiritual lives *can* rise to the next level.

### I. Consider what God did for Israel.

- A. God took an **out of control**, undisciplined, disorganized, distrustful people to work with.
  - 1. As people cross the Red Sea, God faced enormous challenges.
    - a) Ex. 32:21-33:6 – people come close to exceeding God's patience.
  - 2. This is a people that had to learn the basics of **right & wrong**. (10 commandments)
  - 3. God had to redefine the concept of who/what to worship.
    - a) Ex. 32:1-6 – golden calf erected...believe it was the god that led them out of Egypt.
  - 4. Delivered them from terrible slavery – only to hear incessant griping, complaining, and an eagerness to go back to Egypt.
- B. Mt. Sinai – God gave an out of control people a legal system.

1. It regulated their lives completely.
  2. It was specifically designed for Israel. Their situation & their needs.
- C. God had 2 objectives:
1. To get them under **control**.
  2. To eventually lead them to a genuine **relationship** with the One, True, God.

## II. A Practical Example...

- A. Think of someone you know who is out of control – want to lead that person to a successful life & relationship. What must happen?
- B. Consider a good woman who falls in love with an out of control man.
  1. Man has no clue as how to build or sustain relationships.
  2. Absorbed in self indulgence. All his friends share in his self indulgent lifestyle.
- C. But yet...the young lady sees in him things worthy of her love.
  1. Desires a permanent, successful marriage relationship.
  2. What must happen for this out of control man to become capable of building and sustaining a successful marriage?
- D. First...he must **accept** the fact that he is out of control.
  1. He must discover a new concept of “good” and “bad.”
  2. He must learn that “good” is not always defined by his personal pleasure.
  3. This new understanding leads to a new perspective in life.
  4. Begins to view life, people, and himself differently.
  5. Begins to take **responsibility** for his actions & life.
- E. Overtime, he develops a new **heart** & mind.
  1. His thinking has changed. Feelings have changed.
  2. Only when these things happen, is he capable of building and sustaining a relationship.

## III. This is what God wanted with Israel.

- A. He wanted to transform out of control slaves into people capable of sustaining a relationship with Him.
  1. Ex. 20 – He gave them a law.
    - a) They needed a new understanding of good and evil.
    - b) God wanted them to live in successful, fulfilling relationships with Him.
    - c) God wanted a people motivated in all they did by their love for the God who freed them from the ravages of slavery.
    - d) God wanted a people who belonged to Him by choice – not by necessity.
  2. This is what He wanted – but never got it as a whole.
    - a) yes...some individuals did develop a relationship with God – Moses, Joshua, Samuel, David, Elijah
    - b) But, rarely did relationship with God characterize an entire generation.
    - c) Israel never truly came under control, never truly grew and matured from a control life to a relationship life.
- B. Hosea presents a picture of how a loving God wanted relationship.

1. Hosea 11:1-4 – God wanted a **relationship** – not **control**. Listen to God's love for this rebellious, unappreciative people.
2. Hosea 14:1-4 – Hear how God is *still* trying to move them toward a relationship, even though it is late & they love evil.
  - a) Hear God's yearning to forgive.
3. Hosea 14:9 – with all of **God's love** for them, they never entered a loving relationship with Him.

#### IV. God wants a relationship with us!

- A. He has come to us, while we were enemies of the cross – Rom. 5:6-8.
  1. We were out of control – living in self indulgence.
  2. He patiently took us, exposed us to His standards to bring us under control.
- B. Through the law of Jesus Christ, God desires to help us discover a new concept of “good” and “bad.”
  1. He wants us to understand how “good” IS NOT defined by personal pleasure.
  2. Eph. 5:8-10 – He wants us to **elevate** our perspective.
  3. Col. 3:1-2 – to view life from a **higher** plain.
- C. As we move through life – God patiently wants for us to be transformed.
  1. Rom. 12:2-3. He longs for us to **be transformed**...to think differently.
  2. He wants us to develop a changed heart and mind.
    - a) Where we motivated to serve Him with love because He has freed us from bondage of sin.
- D. Somewhere, each one of us is in the midst of this process.
  1. God is able to see **long-term**. He sees what each one of us *can* be. What we *can* become.
  2. He is **patient**. He is **loving**. He hopes for the **best**.
  3. Praise God that He is kind, compassionate, merciful, helpful, understanding, full of grace, mercy, and forgiveness!
  4. Praise God for his patience!

#### Conclusion:

- A. Daughter's comment about a boy. (Cute) My reaction...*oh brother...what am I going to do in a few years if she brings someone like that home?*
  1. Then I think...what would have been Carl King's first reaction to the skinny, cocky, goofy kid his daughter Becky brought home that October day 15 years ago?
  2. Thank God for his patience as I've grown into who I have – much due to the influence of his daughter...
- B. And, I think of God's hope & desire for each of us. A loving & sustained desire for a relationship.
  1. Do you share that desire? Are you earnestly working toward that goal?
  2. What if you mess up? Seek God's **forgiveness** & try to do better.
  3. Be concerned about your growth & maturity as a Christian.
- C. When you are, you can live your life with full assurance. Are you?
- D. INVITATION