

## “Pace is a Presence Problem”

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### The Problem of Pace (Pt. 4 1/2)

June 26, 2022

*"When I say, 'Presence Problem' I mean the problem of our not engaging or noticing or sensing the presence of God among us!"*

**Deut 8:1-11** “The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers. ... <sup>7</sup> For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills, <sup>8</sup> a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, <sup>9</sup> a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. <sup>10</sup> And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.

<sup>11</sup> “Take care lest you forget the LORD your God...

...Pace has an impact on our “Mindfulness”, our “Awareness”, our “Engagement” of God Himself

...One Big Thing, Many Things, and the Presence of God

**Acts 3:18-20** But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. <sup>19</sup> Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, <sup>20</sup> that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus,

## What's the BIG DEAL?

**...There is a "Big Deal" in this passage.** Something so central, so important, so relevant to every person that it was "foretold by the mouth of all the prophets"

**Isaiah 41:21-26** Set forth your case, says the LORD; bring your proofs, says the King of Jacob.

<sup>22</sup> Let them bring them, and tell us what is to happen. Tell us the former things, what they are, that we may consider them, that we may know their outcome; or declare to us the things to come.

<sup>23</sup> Tell us what is to come hereafter, that we may know that you are gods; do good, or do harm, that we may be dismayed and terrified.

<sup>24</sup> Behold, you are nothing, and your work is less than nothing; an abomination is he who chooses you.

<sup>25</sup> I stirred up one from the north, and he has come, from the rising of the sun, and he shall call upon my name; he shall trample on rulers as on mortar, as the potter treads clay.

<sup>26</sup> Who declared it from the beginning, that we might know, and beforehand, that we might say, "He is right"?

(v. 26) **...Only the God who knows the very beginning and the very end is qualified to "play God" in our lives and in our world!**

**— The Bible is Foretelling and Laying the Foundation for ONE THING – One Person who is Doing One Particular Thing in All of Human History! ...the BIG DEAL of Life is linked to "the Person & Work of Christ"! ...this was THE Human Defining Action of All Time**

Immanuel came to dwell among his people and substitute himself for the lost. In his atoning work on the cross, Christ reconciled us to God by being present with man. He became man in this world to reopen access to the Lord so that those exiled from Eden may draw near to God once again (Heb. 4:16; 7:19, 25; 10:1, 19, 22; 11:6). **Lister, J. Ryan.** The Presence of God (pp. 29-30). Crossway.

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***THE Big Deal of Life involves the incomparable value of Sins Washed Away and Forgiveness Given—***

**Rev 1:4-6** Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood <sup>6</sup> and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

"Conversions of all kinds are commonplace in our world today. An alcoholic turns from drink to sobriety. Westerners afflicted with boredom renounce their way of life and seek meaning from Eastern gurus. ...Although these 'conversions' may be precipitated by dramatic crises and result in changed behaviors, they are not conversions in any Christian sense. If they do not have Christ as their cause and object and his service as their result, they are not Christian. If they do not involve turning from sin to God, on the basis of Christ's atoning blood and by means of the Holy Spirit's work, they cannot be called Christian." **David Wells**, *Turning to God*, p. 13

***...This "Big Deal Event" culminates in a HUMAN RESPONSE! ...***

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— **"Repent and turn back" ...THIS is the "Feel" and "Content" of a moment that must find each and every one of us!!**

"Too often people are invited to come to Christ and to join the church in such a simplistic way that the process of 'conversion' requires little by way of serious thought, little by way of a call to sacrifice, and little by way of a commitment to serve. Then one wonders why there is so little evidence of transformed lives, families, and communities. ...When Jesus issued the Great Commission, he did not tell his followers to go into all the world and ask people to raise their hands or to fill out a decision card. Rather, he enjoined them to make disciples, baptizing them and teaching them to obey everything he had commanded. This requires an intensive and sustained investment in the lives of disciples, to the end that every aspect of a person's life is supernaturally converted and reoriented in turning to God." **Douglas Birdsall** (quoted in *Turning to God*, p. 10)

## A Doorway ...Not a Final Destination

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From Genesis to Revelation, God's covenant voice calls a people to relationship, a call that reverberates throughout the Scriptures until it crescendos in John's prophetic vision (e.g., Gen. 9:1-15; 12:1-3; 15:6ff.; 17:19; Ex. 19:1ff.; 24:3-8; 2 Sam. 7:12-13; Jer. 31:31-34; Matt. 26:28; Luke 22:20; Heb. 8:6; Rev. 21-22). This covenant picks up where Adam left off, with God's creating a people and place for the enjoyment of his presence. This divine purpose pervades every covenant ratified and culminates in the new covenant arrival of Christ, the new and better Adam, the one who accomplishes what Adam could not. **Lister, J. Ryan.** *The Presence of God* (pp. 24-25). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

**THIS is Our Destination—Experiencing, Receiving, Renewing the PRESENCE OF GOD!**

## Turning to ONE THING ...that Sets the Pace for Everything!

The restoration of God's presence—or we could say his relational nearness—once lost in the fall is one of the most pivotal acts in the story of redemption. As John shows us, the final hope of history is that “the dwelling place of God is with man” and that God “will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God” (Rev. 21:3). **Ryan Lister**, *The Presence of God*, P.24

### DAVID's One Thing:

**Psalms 27:1-8**

- 1 The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear? The LORD is the  
stronghold of my life; of whom shall I  
be afraid?
- 2 When evildoers assail me to eat up my  
flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is  
they who stumble and fall.
- 3 Though an army encamp against me, my  
heart shall not fear; though war arise  
against me, yet I will be confident.
- 4 One thing have I asked of the LORD,  
that will I seek after: that I may dwell in  
the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life, to gaze upon the  
beauty of the LORD and to inquire  
in his temple.
- ...7 Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be  
gracious to me and answer me!
- 8 You have said, “Seek my face.” My heart  
says to you, “Your face, LORD, do I  
seek.”

### MOSES' One Thing:

**Exodus 33:1-4, 7-15**

- 1 The LORD said to Moses, “Depart; go  
up from here, you and the people whom  
you have brought up out of the land of  
Egypt, to the land of which I swore to  
Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying,  
‘To your offspring I will give it.’

<sup>2</sup> I will send an angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanites, the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. <sup>3</sup> Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; but I will not go up among you, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people.”

<sup>4</sup> When the people heard this disastrous word, they mourned, and no one put on his ornaments.

<sup>7</sup> Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. <sup>8</sup> Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise up, and each would stand at his tent door, and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent. <sup>9</sup> When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the LORD would speak with Moses. <sup>10</sup> And when all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise up and worship, each at his tent door. <sup>11</sup> Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend...

<sup>12</sup> Moses said to the LORD, “See, you say to me, ‘Bring up this people,’ but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.’ <sup>13</sup> Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.” <sup>14</sup> And he said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” <sup>15</sup> And he said to him, “If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here.

This Message is Related to “Pace” because Pace gets overwhelmed by seeking to find “Many Things” that will add up to become our Soul’s Delight ...God’s revelation is that we first need to find ONE THING that Enables us to Enjoy Many Things!