

## “The Problem of Pace”

---

### Dinner & Discipleship (Intro)

May 29, 2022

#### INTRO

“True religion confronts earth with heaven and brings eternity to bear upon time. The messenger of Christ, though he speaks from God, must also, as the Quakers used to say, “speak to the condition” of his hearers; otherwise he will speak a language known only to himself. His message must be not only timeless but timely. He must speak to his own generation..” **A.W. Tozer**, *Knowledge of the Holy*, p. vii

...yet another week of heart-wrenching headlines

***Where do you begin to make sense of life in general and your life in particular?***

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” ... “For this reason the gravest question before the Church is always God Himself, and the most portentous fact about any man is not what he at a given time may say or do, but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like. We tend by a secret law of the soul to move toward our mental image of God.”  
**A.W. Tozer**, *The Knowledge of the Holy*, p 1

***...When the Headlines of Life Hit—Do You Find Yourself Moving Toward God or Away from Him?***

**Psalms 46:1** God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

***...But what if you don't know this about God? ...***

“The message of this book does not grow out of these times but it is appropriate to them. It is called forth by a condition which has existed in the Church for some years and is steadily growing worse. I refer to the loss of the concept of majesty from the popular religious mind. The Church has surrendered her once lofty concept of God and has substituted for it one so low, so ignoble, as to be utterly unworthy of thinking, worshiping men. This she has done not deliberately, but little by little and without her knowledge; and her very unawareness only makes her situation all the more tragic. ...With our loss of the sense of majesty has come the further loss of religious awe and consciousness of the divine Presence. We have lost our spirit of worship and our ability to withdraw inwardly to meet God in adoring silence. Modern Christianity is simply not producing the kind of Christian who can appreciate or experience the life in the Spirit. The words, ‘Be still, and know that I am God,’ mean next to nothing to the self-confident, bustling worshiper in this middle period of the twentieth century.” **A.W. Tozer**, *Knowledge of the Holy*, p. vii, viii

**Jn 17:3** “In this is eternal life, that they understand and know Thee, the one true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou has sent.”

**Eph 1:16-19** I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, <sup>18</sup> having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might

**“Enlightened Hearts”!!** (Meaningful ownership of true insight and understanding of God and His ways)

**Jeremiah 9:23-24** Thus says the LORD:

“Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches,<sup>24</sup> but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.”

...When the troubles in Uvalde, in the Ukraine, or in YOUR Personal World arrive—How Deeply do I Understand that ***“the Lord practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth.”***??

## Psalm 46

**Psalms 46:1-7** <sup>1</sup> God is our refuge and strength,

a very present help in trouble.

<sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,

though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,

<sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. Selah

<sup>4</sup> There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

<sup>5</sup> God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;

God will help her when morning dawns.

<sup>6</sup> The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah

...In this Psalm—“Life Has Shown Up” and its events and experience awakens great opportunity for FEAR and VULNERABILITY!—Evil is Near! Suffering is Possible! ...v. 2-3 – the Things We Depend on Could Fail!! ...v. 4, 6 – Nations are RAGING! The City is Under Siege!

***...What Can Rescue Us in Such a Moment?***

***...An Accurate Knowledge of God!!***

***...In the day of Ps 46 ...the battle is over what knowledge is going to displace some other knowledge!*** —Will trouble, shifting earth and trembling mountains, and a city under siege rule the hearts of men?? ...or will the knowledge of God rule our hearts?

**Psalms 46:8-11** <sup>8</sup> Come, behold the works of the LORD,  
 how he has brought desolations on the earth.  
<sup>9</sup> He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;  
 he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;  
 he burns the chariots with fire.  
<sup>10</sup> “Be still, and know that I am God.  
 I will be exalted among the nations,  
 I will be exalted in the earth!”  
<sup>11</sup> The LORD of hosts is with us;  
 the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah

...In this Psalm—and In Our Day—there is “Movement Required” and a “Posture Commanded”!! v. 8 ...Come, behold the works of the Lord... v. 10 ... “Be STILL, and know that I am God” ...This Psalm offers a pathway to hope and security in life!—It is in our KNOWING of God!

***BUT!! ...Our Knowing is PRECEDED by our MOVEMENT away from “Life’s Threatening Noise” to a place of STILLNESS in the Presence of God that Invites KNOWING!***

## **Dinner & Discipleship**

This Summer ...We’re Seeking to Take on the GIANT Problem of PACE!! ...of the fact that Modern Man has created a pace and practice of life that is Spiritually Disruptive, Emotionally Overwhelming, and Physically Exhausting!

It may be the case that (1) Christians are assimilating to a culture of busyness, hurry and overload, which leads to (2) God becoming more marginalized in Christians' lives, which leads to (3) a deteriorating relationship with God, which leads to (4) Christians becoming even more vulnerable to adopting secular assumptions about how to live, which leads to (5) more conformity to a culture of busyness, hurry and overload. And then the cycle begins again.<sup>6</sup> And pastors, by the way, are the worst. He rated busyness in my profession right up there with lawyers and doctors." **John Mark Comer**, *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry*, p. 22

"I've discovered that such pacing skills are in short supply among Christian men, with the result that too many— especially those most committed to serving Christ in their families, in the workplace, and in the local church— are crashing or fading fast before their race is over." **David Murray**, *Reset – Living a Grace Paced Life in a Burnout Culture*, p. 11

"Ultimately, every problem I see in every person I know is a problem of moving too fast for too long in too many aspects of life." **Brady Boyd**, *Addicted to Busy: Recovery for the Rushed Soul*, p. 44

Mental health challenges in children, adolescents, and young adults are real and widespread. Even before the pandemic, an alarming number of young people struggled with feelings of helplessness, depression, and thoughts of suicide — and rates have increased over the past decade." said **Surgeon General Vivek Murthy**. (Dec 7, 2021 from <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/12/07/us-surgeon-general-issues-advisory-on-youth-mental-health-crisis-further-exposed-by-covid-19-pandemic.html>)

## Dinner & Discipleship (Summer 2022)

When: Beginning June 9<sup>th</sup> (Dinner from 6:15 – 6:45; Teaching & Discussion from 6:50 – 8:15)

Where: LCC

What: "Reset" for Men; "Refresh" for Women  
...Learning to Live a Grace-Paced Life