

Sermon Notes

Things That Matter:

Beautiful Produce in an Age of Crop Failure

#2 – “For the Christian, Devotion is the Name of the Game”

I. Introduction

A. Today’s focus is upon devotion.

1. What is meant by devotion?
2. Synonyms for the term “devotion”
3. It is observable.

B. Words from Ezekiel – Ezekiel 36:26-27

1. To be born again – Ephesians 2:1-5
2. To walk in Christ’s ways – Philippians 2:5-8

C. New life in Christ

1. Rebirth into Christ is a one-time event. You are or are not born again.
2. Growing in Christ is another matter.
 - a. Sanctification ebbs and flows. It is not a straight line into maturity.
 - b. Not a rocket trajectory – more like the stock market.
3. This series of messages is about growing in Christ.
 - a. Devotion to Christ
 - b. John Owen
 - c. Paul’s remarks – I Corinthians 10:31
 1. Note the term “glory”.
 2. God has purposed that we exhibit His qualities.

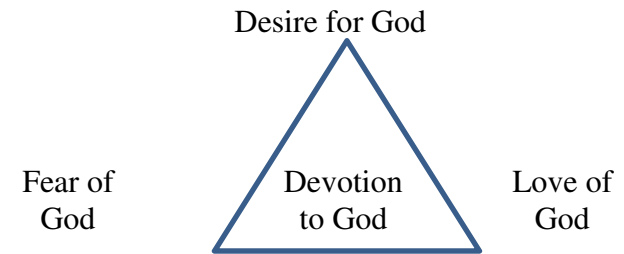
D. Glory for us?

1. I Corinthians 2:4-7
2. Kim Riddlebarger
3. Richard Pratt
4. We are meant to look like our Dad.

E. Devotion prevents the commands of God from becoming burdensome.

II. Three essential elements of devotion.

A. Jerry Bridges diagram



B. The Fear of God

1. Note in vogue today even in the Evangelical church.
 - a. “God-fearing” is out.
2. Fear of God
 - a. Jeremiah 32:40; I John 4:18
 1. John Murray
3. Fear of God should be understood in two ways.
 - a. First: fear characterizes the unsaved – Rom. 3:18; 1:18
 - b. Second: We do not fear the wrath of God, but we should be conformed by the discipline of God.
 1. Phil. 2:12; I Peter 1:17
 2. Reverence and the 1225
 - c. The testing of God’s people – Revelation 15:3-4

C. Love of God

1. Explained – I John 4:8-10
2. Atoning Sacrifice
3. Every day is a good day – because God loves you particularly and as an individual.
4. Paul’s encouragement to Rome (Romans 8).

D. Desire for God – Psalm 42:1-2

1. The movie “Lone Survivor”
 - a. Further explained by David – Psalm 27:4
2. Reflection upon the attributes of God, but he also sought God for himself. – Psalm 63:1
 - a. Paul – Philippians 3:10
3. Jerry Bridges – “The heartbeat of the godly person.”

III. Closing thought

- A. Note Jesus’ parting words to the church of Laodicea – Rev. 3:20
1. The importance of sharing a meal.
 2. How could God save a wretch like me?