

Pursuing God's Presence in Our Lives

Rev. Victor Ramoy | Exodus 33:1-23

MESSAGE

Watch the sermon. As you watch, use the outline to follow along or take notes on anything that stands out to you.

NOTES

We all have fears, whether they are rooted in the anxieties of our everyday lives or the uncertainties of the future. In Exodus chapter 33 we find the Israelites facing their greatest fear: that of losing God's favor and presence in their lives. This profound and intimate encounter between Moses, the Israelites, and God serves as a powerful reminder of how our actions and attitude can impact our relationship with our God Almighty.

THREE BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES ON HOW WE CAN PURSUE GOD'S PRESENCE

1. **Avoid sin and evil that drive away God's presence (v. 1-6)**
 - The withdrawal of God's presence doesn't mean God abandons His children entirely. He is omnipresent.
 - Sin can and will affect the condition of our relationship with God and disrupts our fellowship with Him.
2. **Take responsibility to cultivate an intimate relationship with God and ensure your own spiritual well-being (v. 7-11)**
 - Moses took the initiative to set up the Tabernacle of Meeting outside the camp (v. 7). This demonstrates the importance of actively seeking God and creating opportunities to encounter Him. The people sinned, but Moses chose to do what is needed, and that is to get right with God.

- A meaningful and deep relationship with God requires our intentional efforts and consistent commitment to our own spiritual growth and well being.
3. **Pursue God above material provisions knowing that our deepest longings can only be satisfied in a deep and abiding presence of God (v. 12-23).**
 - Moses knew that entering the promised land without God's presence was meaningless. Notice in verse 14 that he only found genuine rest when God's presence or favor was on him.
 - A valuable lesson to learn is to make choices that prioritize your spiritual well-being and relationship with God, even when faced with opportunities for material gain or success, because there are things in life that money can never buy (Mark 8:36).

REFLECT and DISCUSS

1. Take a few minutes to talk about the message. What part of the teaching had the most impact on you?
2. How does sin affect the depth of intimacy and the sense of God's approval in your life? How can you avoid sin and evil?
3. In what ways can you take initiative in cultivating and nurturing an intimate relationship with God?
4. Do you agree that material success is not enough without God's presence? Why or why not?

PRAYER

Close your time together with prayer.