



On the Same Page

“Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.” (Psalm 139:7–8 NAS95)

Forever-Family Fellowship

We will teach and practice truth-and-love relationships with brothers-sisters in Christ that must survive/thrive in the present because we believe that these relationships will last forever

All-Week-Long Worship

As the local body of believers gathers each Sunday for worship, we will inspire a worship experience for all age groups that will travel with you all week long. What we do on Sunday will assist you in your singing, in your praying, in your devotion, and in your witness.

Conversely, it is as you worship all-week-long that you will be prepared to enter into gathered worship on Sunday.

Day-to-Day Discipleship

As followers of Christ, we are disciples every single day. Respect for and commitment to Scripture is essential. We will show you how to interact with and respond to God's Word, both as individuals, and in groups.

Moment-by-Moment Mission

God, the Architect of the world and of our lives arranges appointments and interruptions. Each of us is called to represent His Son for the glory of His Name. We will cultivate a mind-set for moment-by-moment mission, whether close to home, or far away.

The Unavoidable-ness of God

My working definition for “worldliness” is **to act as though God does not exist or that He does not matter**. If you were to accept that definition, you might agree that much of the world is addicted to worldliness, as are many professing Christians when there is a separation between their profession and their practice.

So as I seek to make the case for **the unavoidable-ness of God**, I must face the objection that many, many people are avoiding Him just fine every day of the week. They are acting as if they have nothing to fear from Him, and stand in no need of what they might gain from Him. He is completely avoidable, and it is being proved every day.

But that is not true universally, in one sense. And in another sense, it is not true at all. Let's take these one at a time.

First of all, there are many **Christians who find God to be completely unavoidable**. They may have once thought that they could live quite well without Him, but something changed their point of view. Somehow, they came face to face with the reality of God, and they found Him to be, well, unavoidable. They heard the Gospel, and they could not un-hear it. They believed, and their perspective of themselves and of the world, and of God, all changed. God was now unavoidable. So the unavoidableness of God is not universal. It has dawned upon many people, though it may not as yet have dawned upon you. But it will, sooner or later, and that leads us to the second point.

Second, **God's unavoidable-ness will one day be established in such a way that no one, not one person, will deny it**. There is coming a day, based on God's revelation of Himself that you may have not yet considered, when God will reveal Himself in a glorious and unmistakable way through the second coming of His Son, Jesus, the Lord of Glory. He will

come to bring final deliverance to His people and to vindicate God in such a way that ***“every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”*** (Philippians 2:10-11). Those who bow and confess, which will be **everyone without exception**, will do so because there will be no other option. I will call it **the unavoidable-ness of God**.

Other things are predicted to be unavoidable in our lives. Death and taxes come to mind. The ups and downs of war and peace, gain and loss, heating and cooling - these things seem to be unavoidable. But sometimes, a war can be avoided, at least for a time and in a particular place. You and I, or bigger entities like science and national powers, may affect these things, **but have no control over the unavoidable-ness of God**. When He chooses to appear, He will indeed appear. We don't get to vote on it.

And so, as with lesser unavoidable things, you might think about getting out ahead of it. If a financial disaster is looming, you could arrange finances to avoid the worst of it. And if God's appearance in glory is coming, you can prepare for it. **God has given very detailed instructions on how to be prepared**, and it has to do with faith in Jesus. He is the Agent designated by God to prepare us to stand **justified** in judgment as opposed to **condemned**. He is the only Agent who is able to vouch for us, and without Him we will find ourselves alone and completely vulnerable to the wrath of God. **Why? Because we, His creatures, treated Him as though He doesn't exist, or doesn't matter**. It is a practice that is not honoring to God, and is not good for you.

Glorious Freedom by Richard Sibbes

Well, you see, therefore, that the grace wrought in the gospel it is not a mere persuasion and entreaty, &c., but a powerful work of the Spirit entering into the soul and changing it, and altering and turning the bent and inclination of the will heavenward, whereas corruption of nature turns the soul downward to things below.

Notes:

Sunday School classes for youth and adults meet each Sunday, 10 a.m.

Ladies Bible Study meets on Tuesdays, 10 a.m. with a study of Ezra and Nehemiah

Weekly Worship @ 11:00 a.m.

This Sunday, March 23, Bob will preach on the 10th Commandment (Exodus 20:17) in a message called **The Invisible Sin**.

Last Sunday, March 16, Bob Riddle spoke to us concerning one of the 9th Commandment. The message is called **My Brother's Keeper** (Exodus 20:16).

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