GOD In His Own Words

Pastor Toby Locke • Week 1 • 10/1/2023

Life’s Greatest Pursuit

Jeremiah 9:23-24, John 17:3

A Prophet’s Take: ***Jeremiah 9:23-24***

“Life-Goals” You ***COULD*** Chase:

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* A Personal \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + What He is inclined to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + What He \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

An Apostle’s Take: ***Philippians 3:4-10***

But, what about…

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Christ.

The Savior’s Take: ***John 17:3***

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Debrief Plan: 10/1/2023

**Icebreakers**:

1. What is your favorite Fall activity that you look forward to every year?
2. If you were setting off to Mars and could take only one luxury item with you, what would it be?

**Sermon Summary**: We humans find our greatest joy in chasing after things that we value – but it matters very much what we choose to pursue. Scripture finds fault with many common human pursuits before settling on a personal, intimate knowledge of God’s actions and passions as the most valuable pursuit we could choose.

**Discussion Questions**:

1. **Read Jeremiah 9:23.** Do the three pursuits listed in this verse add any value to our lives? If so, what are they?
2. **Read Jeremiah 9:24**. What value does “knowing and understanding” God deliver to our lives?
3. Why is pursuing an intimate knowledge of God a BETTER value than the alternatives listed in 9:23?
4. **Read Philippians 3:4-6.** What advantages/benefits did morality and religion offer to a guy like Paul?
5. What difficulties were added to Paul’s life when he made the choice to switch from morality and religion to pursuing a personal knowledge of Jesus? Could we face similar difficulties if we decided to make the same choice?
6. How is the pursuit of “gaining and knowing Christ” different from the pursuit of morality and religion?
7. Without having studied it yet in depth, where would you suspect we will need to turn in order to gain this personal knowledge of God and His son, Jesus?