

Sermon Outlines

The Face of God

*“When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee,
Thy face, LORD, will I seek.” (Psalm 27:8)*

We can only think of God in terms applicable to man. These are the highest we have or can have at present; so we read of different parts of the human body applied to God. Compare Bible anthropomorphism.

- a) Feet indicate progress (Gen. 3:8; 2 Cor. 6:16)
- b) Hand - work (Neh. 2:8; Eccles. 2:24)
- c) Arm - strength (Deut. 33:27; Mk. 10:16)
- d) Mouth - speech (Deut. 8:3; Matt. 4:4).
- e) Chief of all, the face of God is mentioned (ex. 33:11; Deut. 34:10). As the face is a most important part of man, so references to God's face are most suggestive.

1. **God's Presence**

- a) The word “face” is used for God's Person and Presence.
 - i) Cain fled from the face of God. “Hide face” - lose sense of presence - Jacob, Manoah.
 - ii) Old Testament word “presence” - face (Ex. 33:14; Psa. 16:11)
 - iii) Shewbread - of face - Angel of His face (Isa. 63:9)
 - iv) So face - presence. Photograph of someone is good, but presence better.
- b) God's Presence all in all to us.
 - i) Salvation (Psa. 42:5; Rest (Ex. 33:14); Power (Psa. 114:7); Protection (Psa. 31:20); Joy (Psa. 21:6).
 - ii) Courage (Isa. 43:2); Success (Josh. 1:5); Heaven (Rev. 22:3, 4).
 - iii) So contrary: Cain (Gen. 4:14); Samson (Judg. 16:20); David (Psa. 51:11); Destruction (2 Thess. 1:9); Sin (Isa. 59:2).

2. **God's Will**

- a) The word “face” expresses God's Will, Desire, Purpose
 - i) A look or word - almost every indication by face.
 - ii) Approval, displeasure, wish, indifference.
- b) God's Will needed by us:
 - i) His Word - “speak” - “I will hear” - “inquire”
 - ii) His Fellowship (Psa. 32:8); Light (Psa. 44:3)
 - iii) So contrary - “set face against” - “rebuke of countenance” (Psa. 80:16). Cf. Psa. 89:15; 90:8
 - iv) Good shown by light of countenance (Psa. 4:6)

3. **God's Character**

- a) The word “face” is used to denote an index of character
 - i) Physiognomy if not phrenology shows whether weak, fickle, strong, good.
 - ii) We find much in a perfect human face - so also and more in God's face.
- b) God's character to be received and reproduced.
 - i) Light: intellectual and moral (Rev. 1:16). A face “lit up” is full of intelligence and sincerity.
 - ii) Warmth, sympathy, interest, love.
 - iii) Cf. (a) and (b): if only (a) possessed - over-anxiety; if only (b) possessed - too great vivacity; but combination brings rest and peace and often real beauty.
 - iv) Strength - balances other three - or else faulty.
 - v) All four make up good face - so also God: Truth - Love - Peace - Power.
 - vi) This is for us if we seek (Psa. 24:6 - “beholding” (2 Cor. 3:18; Num. 24:17)

Conclusion

1. What?
 - a) Dwell in His Presence
 - b) Discover His Will
 - c) Delight in His Character

2. How?
 - a) Seek (1 Chron. 16:11)
 - b) Abide (Psa. 11:7, R.V.)
 - c) Pray (Psa. 31:16)
 - d) Look (Jude 21)
 - e) Obey (Psa. 89:15)

3. In the Present (Acts 6:15)

4. In the Future (1 Cor. 13:12)

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