

## How Is Your Relationship with God?

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • October 25, In the year of our Lord, 2015  
Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Kevin Michael – No suggestions

### Prelude:

#### I. How is your relationship with God?

- A. On the one hand, it is mysterious, because
- B. we cannot see God smiling at us, but then again
  - 1. we can read His word and
  - 2. see what He says about our relationship with Him.

#### II. That word He gave to us

- A. that we might know how much it means to Him
- B. that we be His children, but
  - 1. that word also reveals somethings
  - 2. that need addressing.

### Persuasion:

#### I. How is your relationship with God?

- A. Do you have one?
- B. Do you give it much thought?
- C. Does affect your daily life?
  - 1. What you think about God affects
    - a) how you view life and
    - b) how you live life.
  - 2. It affects everything.
    - a) How can it not?
    - b) If He created each of us, and
      - (1) if He created the heavens and the Earth, and

- (2) everything in them,
  - (a) then what we think of Him, or perhaps
  - (b) fail to think of Him,
    - i) affects everything about our lives.

D. God put the idea of eternity in our hearts.

1. Ecclesiastes 3 shows that He created us with this desire for eternity,

**11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end (Ecc 3.11).**

2. This longing leads us to search for all the things that promise life.
  - a) Ultimately we realize that it comes from knowing our Maker.
  - b) Every person discovers at the gates of death
    - (1) that nothing in this world worked to give us eternity, but
    - (2) we have to work on that relationship now.

E. God wants us.

1. He does not need us, but
2. He wants us as His children.
  - a) Look at what He has done in creation for us.
  - b) How many edible foods are there for humans?
    - (1) I have read that from 10,000 to 30,000 foods are edible.
    - (2) Praise God that you are not a cow or a horse,
      - (a) eating grass day after day.
      - (b) Running with the wind like a horse sounds exciting, but
        - i) eating what he has to eat to so run,
        - ii) does not appeal to me. Does it to you?
3. The blessings of the Spirit that He gives

- a) say even more that the God of heaven wants us.
  - b) How about His ultimate gift of His Son Jesus Christ?
- F. In light of His superabundant gifts toward you,
- 1. how is your relationship with Him?
  - 2. Do you think it should be the priority of your life?
    - a) What are you going to do or where are you going to go,
    - b) when you get to the end of life's journey, and
      - (1) you have all of eternity before you, but
      - (2) before eternity begins you have one-on-one time with the Lord?

## **II. Is Your Relationship with God Good?**

- A. Do you find it comfortable one moment, scary the next?
- B. Is it questionable?
- C. Does it need improvement?
  - 1. You can call on Him at anytime,
  - 2. including during times of trouble.
    - a) Sometimes people think that it is the wrong time to turn to Him,
    - b) especially if they have not been faithful to Him, but
      - (1) He uses times of trouble to show us that we need Him.
      - (2) Why does He allow times of trouble?
        - (a) *Sometimes* it is what He has to do to get our attention.
        - (b) What does He have to do to get your attention?
  - 3. Shatter your pride during trouble and seek Him.

## **III. You Can Know that You Know God**

- A. I know of nowhere in the Scriptures where the Lord says
  - 1. we can feel that we know Him.
  - 2. Feelings can deceive.

B. You need something rock solid that makes you know that you know Him.

1. First John 2 provides that rock solid evidence,

**3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him (1Jo 2.3–4).**

2. Are you doing His commandments?

a) Most of us would immediately reply with something like this:

(1) I try, but I fail.

(2) I don't know, et al.

b) In the Letter of First John, a few words before John wrote those words,

(1) informed us that we have all sinned, and

(2) that if we claim not to have sinned,

(a) we are lying.

(b) Pay close attention to First John 1,

**6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us (1Jo 1.6–10).**

3. First John 2 did not state, therefore, that we have to do it perfectly.

a) The Holy Spirit knows that we cannot do it perfectly.

b) However, what is your intention?

(1) Do you look to keep His commandments?

(2) Or do you look to avoid them?

- (a) You cannot excuse lack of intention to keep His commands
- (b) by arguing that no one can do it perfectly anyway.

C. Problems do not mean you have a problem in your relationship with God.

- 1. Remember Job.
- 2. Remember the apostles.
- 3. Remember David.
- 4. Remember Jesus Christ.

### **Exhortation:**

#### **I. To improve your relationship with God:**

- A. First, praise Him daily.
  - 1. God honors those who honor Him.
  - 2. You will know when that happens.
- B. Second, during troubles lean on Him and see what it does.
  - 1. While undergoing Photo Dynamic Therapy,
  - 2. I pass the time praying and it makes the therapy manageable.
- C. Third, find someone who has a good relationship with God and
  - 1. find out what that person does.
  - 2. Either ask or just imitate what you see.

#### **II. Did you start off well, but then it cooled down?**

- A. Find out why.
- B. Do what you have to do to reignite it.
  - 1. Someday we will be face-to-face with eternity.
  - 2. What then will be the most important thing?
    - a) We will then realize that our number one priority in life
    - b) should have been our relationship with God.
- C. Whatever you do, let your relationship with Him consume you.

1. Do not be satisfied with it merely being okay.
2. He lets it consume Him.
  - a) Look at Jesus during His ministry.
  - b) It was all about
    - (1) doing the will of God and
    - (2) serving man.

### III. God's relationship with us appears to be His top concern.

- A. Is that not the point of the Bible?
- B. Is that not the point of sending Jesus?
  1. What Jesus labeled as the greatest commandment,

**30 "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment" (Mark 12.30).**

2. highlights our relationship with Him
  - a) from His vantage point.
  - b) He loves us totally, and
    - (1) He wants us to love Him
      - (a) with all that we are and
      - (b) with all that we have.
    - (2) Can you do that?
    - (3) Can keep yourself from doing it?