

Recognize God

Introduction:

- A. [Shane Holiday at Jackson's Orchard]
- B. Have we been recognizing God in our life?
- C. Deuteronomy 33:26-27
- D. *"To truly live for God, we must recognize His work in our lives."*
- E. Moses' final words:
 - a. Chapter 33 is known as the "blessing of Moses"
 - b. It is a passage bookended by praise to God...
 - c. [*"These are the last words that ever Moses wrote, perhaps the greatest writer that ever lived upon the earth. And this man of God, who had as much reason to know both as ever any mere man had, with his last breath magnifies both the God of Israel, and the Israel of God."* – John Wesley]
- F. From Moses' praise there is something here that we need in order to recognize God...
- G. 2 Facts that we need to recognize about God:
 - I. We must recognize the only true God.
 - a. Israel needed to understand their true Helper.
 - i. There was not another like their God (26a)
 - 1. Moses was pointing out the uniqueness of God...
 - 2. Compared to the gods of Egypt and the gods of the Canaanites...
 - 3. Their God was real, alive, and active in their lives.
 - 4. They needed to see that God is unparalleled in nature, purity, holiness, goodness, wisdom, power, faithfulness, providence, or grace!
 - ii. God had displayed Himself through the heavens as their Helper. (26b)
 - 1. *"rides the heavens"*
 - 2. God is pictured here as a soldier on a lookout for the defense of His nation...
 - 3. Moses points them to the "clouds" for a reason
 - a. It was a counter to the pagan god Baal of the Canaanites
 - b. But also it was a reminder of God's work in the past: to defend them from the Egyptians & lead them in a pillar of a cloud...
- iii. They need to realize that this God were their God.(26a)
 - 1. *"Jeshurun"*
 - 2. Lit. – "the upright one"
 - 3. This was a name give to the children of Israel
 - 4. Thus Moses wanted them to identify the Lord as their unique God...
 - 5. However, history shows that they couldn't live up to this name.
- b. As Christians, we too serve the God like no other.
 - i. We must know that no other God can take the Lord's place.
 - 1. God doesn't want to share His place of reverence in our hearts...
 - 2. *"Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire."* – Heb. 12:28-29
 - 3. If we are God's people we do not need to act as the world does...
 - 4. *"whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things."* – Phil. 3:19
 - 5. What can take the place of God? – Money, career, a noble cause, a lifelong dream, etc....
 - 6. But we must understand that our God it the true living & all fulfilling God!
 - 7. [The desperate desire to find happiness]
 - ii. We must see that God still sovereignly helps us.
 - 1. God is still in the business of helping His Saints...

2. *“Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” So we may boldly say: “The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”* – Heb. 13:5-6
 3. God is till that riding soldier overlooking His children!
 4. *“But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.”* – 2 Thess. 3:3
 5. What a comfort it is to know that God is guarding us even from Satan!
 6. [U.S. Drones]
 - iii. We must be sure that this God is our God!
 1. Remember God is the God of Jeshurum!
 2. We are either His people or we’re not...
 3. **Eph. 2:1-5**
 4. We are born dead in our sins...
 5. But if we have received Christ, we have received grace!
 6. Thus we are made saints...
 7. **Eph. 2:19**
 8. [Got to have the tickets]
- “This brings us to our 2nd fact...”

II. We must recognize the security that God provides.

a. Israel needed to understand their Refuge.

- i. Their eternal God was their place of security. (27a)
 1. “refuge” - God is looked upon as a place
 2. Lit. – “dwelling place” or “fortress”
 3. It was a picture of true security and safety that God provided for them now & in the future in the Promised Land
 4. The God who was in the heavens was also with them on the earth.
 - a. They needed to remember that in God, they could weather any storm.

- b. Israel would come to look upon God in this fashion.
- c. *“Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.”* – Ps. 90:1

ii. God was sustaining them in His arms. (27b)

1. [This verse inspired “Leaning On The Everlasting Arms”]
2. This is more of a picture of the safety and comfort God would bring them as they journeyed on with Him
3. God’s “arms” were under them ready to catch them and keep them from falling...
4. Thus He would bear them up under whatever they faced.

iii. They were conquering their enemies by God’s power. (27c)

1. Since God had set them free from Egypt they had seen victories over their enemies...
2. God was the source of their victories, then & He would be in the future too...
3. “*Destroy*” – Lit. = “bring to nothing”
4. God was going to be using Israel to bring about His holy judgment on the pagan nations in the Promised Land.

b. As Christians, we too have a security found only in God.

i. We must realize our security in God.

1. The Son of God is the Christian’s refuge.
2. *“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.”* – Rom. 8:1
3. No one can condemn or spiritually hurt us, because we are safe in Christ!
4. Not only is God our spiritual refuge, but God is still in the business of helping us through physical trials.
5. Hear the words of Paul...

6. *“But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!”* – 2 Tim. 4:17-18
 7. We can walk boldly in this life, because nothing happens outside of God’s good pleasure!
 8. **[The blessing of a safe home]**
 - ii. We must lean on the everlasting arms.
 1. Because we are in the arms of God we can have confidence in our salvation!
 2. *“Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.”* – Jude 1:24-25
 3. We won’t fall away, because God holds us up and won’t drop us!
 4. But also being in God’s arms means that we can weather the storms of life...
 5. *“And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”* – 2 Cor. 12:9
 6. Yes we are weak, but He is strong!
 7. By His grace we can weather afflictions, temptations, trials, & challenges...
 8. **[Hymn]**
 - iii. We must see the victory God has provided.
 1. God has given us the victory of our real enemies...
2. *“Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* – Rom. 8:27-29
 3. But as delivered saints, we still have marching orders when dealing with sin...
 4. *“Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.”* – Col. 3:5-7
 5. Israel had to illuminate the pagans in the land; we have to illuminate all act of disobedience from our life!
 6. God is not done thrusting out the enemy yet either...
 7. *“And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly.”* – Rom. 16:20a
 8. One day Satan will forever be gone!
 9. **[WKU comes up short 43-42, But we don’t with God!]**

Conclusion

- A. Have you recognized God’s presence in your life?
- B. Are you truly in a relationship with God?