

## BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD

Lesson One Handout

September 15, 2009

Foundational thinking for our prayer lives and our Christian walk:

Right thinking about God and right thinking about ourselves. WLC "We are to pray with an awful apprehension of the majesty of God."

What does it mean for something to be full of awe? How would you define the word "awe?"

*Isaiah 6:1 In the year of King Uzziah's death, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple.*

*2 Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings; with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.*

*3 And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."*

*4 And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke.*

*5 Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."*

*6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, with a burning coal in his hand which he had taken from the altar with tongs.*

*7 And he touched my mouth with it and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away, and your sin is forgiven."*

"Open book prayer" means praying with our Bibles open.

Our prayers wander off course when we become confused about our own natures or about God's nature.

Romans 6:15 *"What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be!*

*16 Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?*

*17 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed,*

*18 and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.*

*19 I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.*

*20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.*

*21 Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death.*

*22 But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.*

*23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

What does it mean to present ourselves to God as "slaves to righteousness," or "slaves for obedience?" What does Carol mean on page 10 when she says that true freedom is in presenting ourselves to God as His slaves for obedience?

Looking at 1 Samuel 15, what was Saul's basic mistake? What was the point of Samuel's statements to Saul? Look also at Exodus 32 and the incident of the golden calf.

*Exodus 32:3 Then all the people tore off the gold rings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron.*

*4 And he took this from their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, and made it into a molten calf; and they said, "This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt."*

*5 Now when Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a feast to the LORD."*

*6 So the next day they rose early and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings;*

Did God take this sin lightly? Why does God take wrong thoughts about Him so seriously? How is our Christian walk affected by wrong thoughts about God?

Bryan Chapell, in Praying Backwards says this:

"We pray believing that God is all powerful, all wise, and infinitely loving – and that we are not. We tell God our desires for matters large and small, but always our greatest desire is that His will be done. We yield to God's will because we believe that the Good Shepherd will provide only the very best."

Pray from Psalm 145: Praise and thank God for these things, ask for the ability to obey Him, pray for His will to be done, pray about things in your own life that are reflected in this Psalm, praise Him for who He is and what He does.

*Psalm 145:1 I will extol You, my God, O King; And I will bless Your name forever and ever.*

*2 Every day I will bless You, And I will praise Your name forever and ever.*

*3 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; And His greatness is unsearchable.*

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*4 One generation shall praise Your works to another, And shall declare Your mighty acts.*

*5 I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, And on Your wondrous works.*

*6 Men shall speak of the might of Your awesome acts, And I will declare Your greatness.*

*7 They shall utter the memory of Your great goodness, And shall sing of Your righteousness.*

*8 The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, Slow to anger and great in mercy.*

*9 The LORD is good to all, And His tender mercies are over all His works.*

*10 All Your works shall praise You, O LORD, And Your saints shall bless You.*

*11 They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom, And talk of Your power,*

*12 To make known to the sons of men His mighty acts, And the glorious majesty of His kingdom.*

*13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And Your dominion endures throughout all generations.*

*14 The LORD upholds all who fall, And raises up all who are bowed down.*

*15 The eyes of all look expectantly to You, And You give them their food in due season.*

*16 You open Your hand And satisfy the desire of every living thing.*

*17 The LORD is righteous in all His ways, Gracious in all His works.*

*18 The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth.*

*19 He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them.*

*20 The LORD preserves all who love Him, But all the wicked He will destroy.*

*21 My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD, And all flesh shall bless His holy name Forever and ever.*

Next week's homework:

Pages 21 – 23 of chapter 2, and all of chapter 3