OUR MOTIVATION

For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God. John 12:43 (KJV)

Why do we do what we do? Why do we go to work? Why do we go to church? What is our main motivation in life? Our text indicated that there were many of the chief rulers who believed on Jesus but would not confess him because they feared the Pharisees would throw them out of the synagogue. They loved the praise of men more than the praise of God. Their motivation was the praise of men. It is a hard thing to take up a cross and carry it all day long and not be seen. It is not easy to follow Jesus without anyone knowing about it. You may think it is hard to please God, well I will guarantee you if your mission is to please man you are already set to fail! Many people attempt to be crowd pleasers but it is a losing effort. Few politicians ever get one hundred percent of the votes. Comedians cannot receive peace from making their crowds to laugh. I recall the old Smokey Robinson lyrics “There’s some sad things known to man but not too much sadder than the tears of a clown when there’s no one around.” What is accomplished if you’ve made everyone laugh or if you’ve made everyone smile yet you are still sad inside?

To please God is to find peace. Jesus said “If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.” John 14:23b. This is a true inner peace. When this becomes our motivation then we have peace with God and peace with ourselves. Man will go nuts if his main motive in life is only to please others.

Pleasing others and helping others is not always the same thing. If you are a doctor and have a patient come to you with a leg that is hurting very bad, after some test you find that the leg is broken and surgery is required to fix the problem, you know that the patient does not want to have surgery so you tell the patient to go home and take an aspirin. You may have pleased the person but you have not helped them. To love people is different from loving the praise of them. My parents loved me but they disciplined me out of that love. They were not always my best friends but they were the best parents I could have had. There were lots of times that they did not please me but there was never a time they did not love me.

Let us seek the praise and pleasure of God more than the praise of man. It holds benefits for us both now and hereafter.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram