

## Finding God, The Map

by Hendrik Joubert

In **Hebrews 11:6** we learn that ***without faith it is impossible to please Him for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*** One not only has to believe in God, but also believe that He rewards ***those who diligently seek Him.*** This *complete* faith becomes the motivating power behind the search for God, or more specifically, for His favor – salvation. There are those who believe in Him but fail to seek his favor. Some are described in **John 12:42-43. *Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; <sup>43</sup> for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.***

Seeking God is not a subjective quest for the higher meaning of life, or self, it is a deliberate and objective search by means of a map revealed by Him. ***All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*** (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

***Doctrine*** and ***training in righteousness*** involve positive instruction while ***reproof*** and ***correction*** requires a judgment on the part of the one doing the ***reproving*** and ***correcting***. This judgment passed on the behavior of another is to be done according to the standard supplied by God – ***"Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."*** (John 7:24) – Not by the frivolous back-and-forth typical of human standards. (Matthew 7:1)

This map may be considered cryptic. Some will not find their way even though they have the map in hand. ***Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.*** (Matthew 13:13) Notice the advice Solomon receives from David: ***"As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts, and understands every intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever."*** (1Chronicles 28:9)

The obscurity lies not in the complexity of the map, but in the sincerity of the seeker. The challenge is to see God's simple directions free from human influence. Man, granted the power of choice, has to overcome self to submit to the Master of the universe. ***Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.*** (Matthew 16:24)

Jesus said that those who desire to find Him must be ***converted and become like children.*** (Matthew 18:3) Those who desire to please God should not reason with Him, but demonstrate their submission by their simple obedience to His word, as suggested by

the following question: "**Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"**  
(**Luke 6:46**)

Through Peter the phrase **diligently seek** – resulting from faith – is described as an *instinctive craving*, a longing for the **pure milk of the word** as **newborn babies**. (**1Peter 2:1-3**) This is the diet for those who wish **to grow**, and as some translations put it, **grow in respect to salvation**.

That the inspired word of God (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**) is the only standard is obvious from the declaration that it was given **that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work**. **Complete** and **thoroughly equipped**, as well as **every good work**, are terms and phrases which indicate that there is nothing lacking, but also that nothing may be added – if one is to demonstrate faith in God, that is. Those who add, or take away details contained in this map supplied by God will lose their way. **Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son**. (**2 John 1:9**) When men (councils or synods) make their own rules of faith, worship becomes vain: **'BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.'** (**Matthew 15:9**)

Searching the Scriptures in order to establish the will of God must be the most important duty of every man and every woman. Those who search the Scriptures to verify that what they have heard is actually from the God are considered **noble-minded**. (**Acts 17:11**) The Bible may be abused by many, however it remains available for all to study in order to see what God would have us do in order to please Him.