

WHEN GOD WENT PUBLIC

One Month to Live, Part 4

October 16th, 2011

In Moses' time the people knew little about God and referred to Him as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; they didn't even know His name

When we pray and don't receive the answer we want quickly, we think either God doesn't love us or He is not faithful

We are constantly tempted to draw conclusions about God from our circumstances

God doesn't need a name – He is the one, the only, true, living, & sometimes silent God

Each of the plagues God sent on the Egyptians was aimed at things they considered sacred; God made a mockery of the Egyptian gods

Exodus 11:9 and Exodus 14:17

God allowed His people grow up among the world's most powerful nation, then demonstrated He was the one, true, all-powerful God

Exodus 14:18 and Exodus 12:12-14

The Passover foreshadows the coming of Christ some 1500 years later who would be the final sacrifice for sin when God would accept us because of the blood shed by Christ

When God went public, the first thing He did was demonstrate His power, then His grace & mercy showing God could be trusted

Exodus 19:20 pictures God's desire to dwell with mankind – with those who simply put their faith in Him

God gave Moses the law for a people He had already redeemed, who were already in

The law was not given as a means of getting into a relationship with God

Exodus 20:2

Note, the Lord was their God before they ever kept even the first command; they were already in

Exodus 20:3

When someone truly understands God's mercy & grace, they have little trouble with the things God asks

God gave the law to protect the people

God builds in provision for our failures

The Law serves as a constant reminder of our sinfulness and a constant reminder of God's holiness

The 10 commandments were never given as a means to get into a relationship with God; they were given to people who were already in relationship with God

There is no correlation in keeping the law/commandments & where a person spends eternity

Practical Application

Many were raised where relating to God was all about keeping the law/rules

There is something in us that wants to earn our way to God

We want to gain acceptance by God by how well we do

Any church that teaches there are things you must do to gain acceptance by God – other than place your faith in what Christ has already done for you – is hypocritical

God is in this for a relationship; He has initiated it, pursued it, and done all He can to make it as easy as He can for you to connect with Him

Question: If you are a Christian, are you still trying to earn God's acceptance by being good?

Question: Have you fully accepted your acceptance by your Father in heaven?

We play a game – on my “good” days God loves me; on my “bad” days He doesn't

Today would you say to God, “I accept Your acceptance of me.”

Some have never put their faith in Christ to gain acceptance with God

Your acceptance with God is totally dependent on what Christ did on the cross for you

Christianity is not, “Come join the good people.” But come join the forgiven people

John 1:29 (NIV) “[John the Baptist said] ‘Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.’”

My Next Step Today Is:

- Today for the first time I am putting my faith in Christ to gain acceptance with God
- As a Christian I will stop trying to earn God's acceptance and accept His acceptance of me through what Christ has done for me
- I/we plan to attend Class 101 with Pastor Russ on Sun, Oct 23rd after the 11:15 service
- I/we plan to attend the “Meet the Pastor's” lunch on Sun, Oct 30th after the 11:15 service