

Cyclical = Revival

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE

Scripture: Exodus 33:2-3, 15

Introduction

It's very easy to find substitutes in the day in which we live. Our supermarkets are filled with sugar substitutes, margarine, and various other products which serve to take the place of other products which are more expensive.

One must pay a premium price to keep the presence of God. Moses realized that the presence of God was the mark of distinction for the nation of Israel, and that without God's presence Israel would become just another nation.

I. Angel no substitute for God's presence

A. Angels will not allow worship of self

1. *And Manoah said unto the angel of the Lord, What is thy name, that when these sayings come to pass we may do thee honor?*

And the angel of the Lord said unto him, Why askest thou thus after my name, seeing it is secret?

Judges 13:17-18

2. No real fellowship to be found with angel
Angel would have gotten job done

- 1. Enemies would be driven out
- 2. Things would be smoothly done

C. God's presence Israel's mark of distinction

- 1. Had directed them from Egypt
- 2. Furnished protection at Red Sea
- 3. Shekinah presence led them from place to place
- 4. Without God's presence, Israel wandered aimlessly -- *BECAME A PEOPLE WITHOUT A CAUSE*

Seeking at the B. surface, this would have been good. No conflict, no end of life

SUBSTITUTES
 PHILOSOPHY
 RITUALISTIC WORSHIP
 EMOTION
 CHURCH INVOLVEMENT
 RELIGIOUS PHENOMENON

II. God's presence requires a premium --- soul searching

A. Sinfulness felt

1. Isaiah at his call

Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.

Isaiah 6:5

2. Job

Wherefore, I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.

Job 42:6

B. Constant repentance necessary

1. David

- a. Sinned repeatedly
- b. Had spirit of repentance
- c. Earned title 'man after God's own heart'

2. Keeps channels of communication open

III. Jesus Christ is Immanuel---God with us

A. Christ is God's presence in bodily form

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

- 1. Was walking, 'living proof of God's desire to be present with men
- 2. His mission---to place man in fellowship with God

B. Religious order wanted religion and not God's presence---

- 1. Satisfied with the angel
- 2. Tried to eliminate God's presence in the form of Christ

CAM = TO BREAK ALL BARRIERS BETWEEN GOD & MAN

III. Christ is Immanuel--God with us

C. His death, resurrection, and ascension brought God's presence in the form of the Holy Spirit.

It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

John 16:7

Conclusion

It would be easy to be satisfied with an angel. We could be satisfied with religion, ritual, or good works. To do so is to be satisfied with the angel.

God desires men who are satisfied only when basking in His presence. This means not being satisfied with the status quo. It means reaching a new plane of spiritual experience each day. It means saying as Moses did, "If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up from thence."

Exodus 33:15