

Seeking God in life: A daily Practice

Bible illustrates people who loved to live in communion with God. There are others who never have any space for God in life. People of different religious traditions all over the world find various means for knowing God. Bible is the answer for everyone. God takes initiative in seeking man who hid from Him in the Garden of Eden, Adam, where are you? (Gen. 3:9). Jesus Christ, the Son of man came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). There are several references in the Bible requires us to seek God because it had been the nature of humanity to go astray from God. It's true with the Israelites in Babylonian captivity too (Jer.29:13).

- Context: Jeremiah, the prophet of the new covenant, predicts Judah's Babylonian exile and ultimate restoration under the Davidic Messiah. Jeremiah's letter to the exiles of 597 B.C (29:4-33) is followed by God's message of Judgement against the false prophet, Shemaiah (29:24-32). Hananiah was deceiving people with a false utterance that they would be delivered in two years from Babylon (28:1-5).
- Message: Jeremiah, the true prophet proclaimed that the people in exile would be delivered after completion of 70 years (29:10). It was fulfilled during the reign of Cyrus, the Persian emperor who captured Babylon in 538 B.C (Ezra. 1:1-7). The Lord's gracious gift of prosperity is contingent on his people's willingness to repent. God declares "you will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart, I will be found by you" (29:13). 'Seeking God' means seeking God's presence for everything in life. Here, one turns to God with a consistent commitment and devotion. It involves trust, love, and a total surrender for selfless service.
- Promise: Jeremiah declares the divine plan of God regarding those in captivity. The Lord has not forgotten His people. It is a promise to prosper, not to harm them (29:11). God has assured hope and future for those seek Him with whole heart. The prophet was warning those who look for short-cuts (false prophesies and idol worship) for deliverance, instead, encourage them to trust in living God.

Are we in captivity of self-centeredness, relying on false prophets, material prosperity, pride in profession, power and position? Jesus Christ said, seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all the essential needs will be given in life (Mat. 6:33). Anyone who earnestly seek God must believe that He exists and that He rewards (Heb. 11:6).

God bless you.

In His Glorious Ministry,

Rev. K. P. Mathew

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