

“SEEK, AND YE SHALL FIND”

All men, everywhere, are seekers. Whether it be fame, fortune, power, or pleasure, man is always seeking something. Not all who attempt to seek these things achieve their goals. Many who made their life's quest a pursuit of fame, riches, or power have failed. It is not these physical desires for which Jesus refers when He says, “ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you” (Mat. 7:7). Jesus has promised providential care regarding our physical needs (Mat. 6:25-32). However, His ultimate concern is for our souls. Jesus calls upon us to “seek” salvation and He presents to us a road-map – “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it” (Mat. 7:13-14). Those who have failed in their hunt for wealth and might have failed in yet another way as well. While making this material life priority number one, they have failed to “seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness” (Mat. 6:33). The Kingdom of God is the Church of Christ (Mat. 16:18-19; Col. 1:13) and God's righteousness is His plan by which man can be saved and thus seen as right in God's eyes (Rom. 1:16-17). God's plan to save includes faith (Heb. 11:6), which comes by hearing the Word of God (Rom. 10:17), repentance (Luke 13:3), confessing that Jesus is the Son of God (Acts 8:37), being immersed in water in order to be forgiven of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16), and continuing to live faithful unto the end (Rev. 2:10). God's plan of salvation and His Church are inseparable, for once an individual obeys these initial commands, God adds him to the Church (Acts 2:47), which is the Kingdom. Those who have been added by God to His Church are to continue to “seek ye first the Kingdom of God.” We do this by centering our lives in the Church. Our number one priority is the promotion, advancement, and glorification of God, the Father, His Christ, and Jesus' beautiful bride (Rev. 21:2). In order to glorify God, we must only promote and advance the Cause of Christ as He has authorized us in the New Testament. Any unauthorized promotion of the Church is just as sinful as blatant neglect (Col. 3:17). Jesus put us first, “in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8). The least we can do is put Him first in our lives by being obedient to Him and by only doing such things as He has authorized (Mat. 28:18).

The command to “seek” is not new with God. God commanded Noah to seek “gopher wood” and to follow the pattern for the ark which God had given him (Gen. 6:14-16). God says, “thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he” (6:22). Noah was a faithful seeker. Moses commanded the children of Israel, “hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I teach you, for to do them, that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers giveth you. Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you...if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find Him, if thou seek Him with all thy heart and with all thy soul” (Deu. 4:1-2, 29). Today, in the New Testament age, we are commanded to *seek* the truth. Jesus says, “if ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32). God commands: “*seek* ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness” (Mat. 6:33), *seek* true worship (John 4:24), “*seek* peace” (1 Pet. 3:12), *seek* to please God rather than men (Gal. 1:10; Acts 5:29), and “*seek* those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth” (Col. 3:1-2).

Some who seek after fame, fortune, power, and pleasure do indeed find it. In this life, they may be considered to be the ones who succeeded. Sadly, however, if they did not seek first God's Kingdom and God's plan to save, they have failed. It is not a sin to possess wealth, fame, or power. Spiritually, their failure lies within the heart. Jesus says, "lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Mat. 6:19-21). Those who "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:14) are the truly successful. God is looking for individuals who "in an honest and good heart, having heard the Word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience" (Luke 8:15). These are "true worshippers," who worship "in spirit and in truth" and "the Father seeketh such to worship Him" (John 4:24).

- *Brad Green*