

“In Pursuit of God”

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Someone said that the conclusion of all human reasoning and logic is that:

1. God created man for himself.
2. Our hearts are restless until they find rest in Him.

God in pursuit of Man:

Before we begin man’s search for God, let’s consider the Lord’s pursuit of man. Look at:
John 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: **for the Father seeketh such to worship him.**

John 4:24 God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in **spirit and in truth.**

Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come **to seek and to save** that which was lost.

John 3:17 For God **sent** not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. (God could have eliminated all this unnecessary death and misery by simply prohibiting man to sin in the first place. Man would not have had to be saved-or-allow only those he chose to save to be born if Calvinism were true.)

Man, in pursuit of God:

Isa 55:6 **Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:**

Act 17:27 **That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: (Seek as a blind man looking for a light-switch.)**

Psa 63:1 A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah. O God, thou art my God; **early will I seek thee:** my soul **thirsteth for thee**, my flesh **longeth for thee** in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;

Psa 63:2 **To see** thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.

Psa 63:3 Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.

Psa 63:4 Thus will I bless thee **while I live:** I will lift up my hands in thy name.

Psa 63:5 **My soul shall be satisfied** as with marrow and fatness; and **my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips:**

Psa 63:6 When I **remember thee** upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches.

Psa 63:7 Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.

Psa 63:8 **My soul followeth hard** after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me.

Results of the man's proper response to the pursuit of God.

Heb 10:19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,
Heb 10:20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

Man, in pursuit of Godliness:

Psa 42:1 To the chief Musician, Maschil, for the sons of Korah. As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so **panteth my soul after thee**, O God.

Psa 42:2 **My soul thirsteth for God**, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?

1. The goal of Godliness is found in Philippians 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also **Christ shall be magnified in my body**, whether it be by life, or by death.
2. The example of Godliness
1Tim. 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifest in the flesh**, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory. (Christ was the perfect example)
3. The profit of Godliness
1Ti 4:8 For bodily exercise profiteth little: but **godliness is profitable unto all things**, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.
4. The teaching of Godliness
1Ti 6:3 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the **doctrine which is according to godliness**;
1Ti 6:4 He is proud, knowing nothing,
5. The gain of Godliness
1Ti 6:6 But godliness with **contentment is great gain**.
6. Follow after Godliness
1Ti 6:11 But thou, O man of God, **flee** these things; and **follow** after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

I heard Dr. Hutson say several times (when he knew he was dying with cancer), Lord if someday I am going to be like you, why can't I be like you now?