KNOWING GOD

LESSON 20

Title: The Jealousy of God

Text: Exodus 20:1-6

1. **Review:**
   1. It is not equivalent to surmise that when God executes wrath He engages in some wild-eyed fit or temper tantrum and temporarily loses control. That is man, not God.
   2. Just because the Bible uses terms to describe God that are normally used of man doesn’t mean we should attach all the connotations and limitations to God that belong to man.
2. **Establishing the Fact that God is Jealous:**
   1. To know God is jealous is to know and accept what God has revealed about Himself.
      1. You will never know God if you pick and choose what you please of His self-revelation.
      2. The reason for much confusion in the “Christian” world is people picking and choosing to accept those parts of Scripture that suit their fancy and rejecting those parts that violate their preconceived ideas and traditional thoughts.
   2. Biblical support:
      1. God clearly stated this attribute about Himself in Exodus 20:5.
      2. Moses spoke of God’s jealousy in Numbers 25:11, Deuteronomy 4:24, 6:15, 29:20, 32:16&21.
      3. Joshua’s great challenge to Israel was a reminder of God’s jealousy. (Joshua 24:19)
      4. The nation of Judah provoked God to jealousy. (I Kings 14:24)
      5. The prophets warned wayward Israel of God’s jealousy. (Ezekiel, Joel, Nahum, Zephaniah and Zechariah.)
   3. Get a concordance and run reference on the word *jealousy* as it relates to God and you will see that Exodus 20:5 is not an isolated instance. J.I. Packer points out that some people cannot “imagine God being jealous. Our imaginations, however, are not the basis for truth, God’s Word is.”
3. **Jealousy Has Two Natures:**
   1. Corrupt Jealousy:
      1. Proverbs 27:4 “Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy?”
      2. The word translated *envy* can be seen elsewhere translated *jealousy*.
      3. There is a jealousy that is totally greedy and mean.
   2. Proper Jealousy:
      1. J. I. Packer defines proper jealousy this way: “a zeal to protect a love relationship or to avenge when it is broken.”
      2. If a man has no zeal to protect his relationship with his wife it is surely not a love relationship.
      3. In the Gospel of John Jesus purged the temple in proper jealousy. “And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.” (John 2:17)
4. **God Is Jealous.**
   1. It is not that He was jealous and no longer bears that characteristic. God is immutable.
   2. God established a love relationship with believers and is jealous over us.
      1. His jealousy is provoked when you devote time elsewhere that belongs to Him.
      2. His jealousy is provoked when you take funds that are rightfully His and devote them elsewhere.
5. **Conclusion:** Like Elijah of old we should be jealous of God; meaning we should have a zeal for God to the point that what offends Him offends us. That is godly jealousy.