

## In What or in Whom Do You Fear and Hope?

[In What Does God Delight and Desire?]

Lesson 2, part 1 -- Sunday, February 4, 2007

Psalms 33:1-22 -- Student Handout

### Key Questions:

1. What is the underlying **motivation** in any person, much less a teenager, that compels them to stand strong -- boldly without fear -- in the face of opposition from their enemies -- and as in the case of Paul in Galatians -- from even his closest friends & mentors?
2. What makes people **WANT** to **stand out** from the crowd when most are desperately fighting to **blend in** with the crowd?

Reflection: Each person here needs to ask themselves the following questions:

1. Is there observable differences in my attitudes and behavior compared to my non-Christian friends?
2. Why do I so easily cave into what everyone else is doing or desiring ... even after I told myself when I was alone that I wouldn't ... why do I feel so spineless around the crowd?
3. In what do I **delight**? What are the ultimate desires of my heart?
4. What are those things in which I **boast** when with friends?
5. When challenged by others, what is it that I find myself **defending** b/c it is so important to me?

### Today's Question:

1. What really motivates you to feel, think, believe, value and act the way you do today?
2. Whom do you really fear and in whom do you really place your hope?
3. Who is bigger in your Mind: God or Men?

Let's see what God has to say about this topic: **Psalms 33:1-22**

### Main Points:

1. The more \_\_\_\_\_ & important my God is to me the more motivated I am to \_\_\_\_\_ and fear Him (1-9)
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ is the natural motivation of those who acknowledge and meditate on the powerful works of a sovereign God (8)
  - c. Joyful \_\_\_\_\_ and creative \_\_\_\_\_ is the natural motivation of those who acknowledge and meditate upon the truth that God is just, faithful and loyal in His love toward us (4-5)
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ is the natural motivation of those who acknowledge that God's \_\_\_\_\_ & holy plans for those He loves (10-12)
2. In contrast, if I believe that the power and importance of men around me is greater than my God, then I am more motivated to fear \_\_\_\_\_ & try to please/\_\_\_\_\_ them (10)
  - a. I believe that men have the power and ability to accomplish whatever it is that they conspire to do; it causes me to be afraid. (Ps 33:10. Also 2:1-2, 40:4, 146:3-4, 147:10)
3. Fear of God's righteous judgment and hope in His grace brings blessing. (Psalms 147:11)
  - b. Look at all the ways God wants to bless those who trust in Him and His grace. Psalms 146:5-10 says:
    1. <sup>7</sup>Who **executes** \_\_\_\_\_ for the oppressed;
    2. Who **gives** \_\_\_\_\_ to the hungry.
    3. The LORD **sets** the prisoners \_\_\_\_\_ .
    4. <sup>8</sup>The LORD \_\_\_\_\_ *the eyes of the blind*;
    5. LORD \_\_\_\_\_ those who are bowed down
    6. The LORD \_\_\_\_\_ the righteous;
    7. <sup>9</sup>The LORD \_\_\_\_\_ the strangers;
    8. He \_\_\_\_\_ the fatherless and the widow,
    9. But He \_\_\_\_\_ the way of the wicked.
    10. <sup>10</sup>The LORD will **reign** \_\_\_\_\_, Your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!

- c. Hope in God keeps man from the snare of death (Ps 91:3-4)
4. Fear of man's \_\_\_\_\_ (or harm) ... and hope in his acceptance and protection becomes a \_\_\_\_\_ .
- a. Hope in your own abilities and strengths is \_\_\_\_\_ . (Psalms 33:16-17)
  - b. Hope in anything other than \_\_\_\_\_ invites a snare into your life (Proverbs 14:27, 29:25)  
\* *Snare* =
- c. Question: What snares have I allowed in my life?

**Self-Examination**: How does Scripture say you can know whether you Fear and Hope in God or Man?

**God says you know whom you fear and hope by:**

1. Who and what you \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in (Psalm 147:10-11)
2. By what you \_\_\_\_\_ about (Psalm 10:3-4, 20:7)
3. Who and what you \_\_\_\_\_ as most important to you (Isaiah 1:17, 23)
  - a. What are you always “defending” to your parents and friends as most important to you ... and you can't live without it? Is it God and His righteousness .... or ??

**Review of Today's Main Points**:

1. Our behavior will never change until our \_\_\_\_\_ changes.
2. According to scripture, we are greatly motivated by whom we \_\_\_\_\_ and in whom we \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. \_\_\_\_\_ God and \_\_\_\_\_ in His grace, greatly pleases Him and brings Him glory.
4. Trusting in our own \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ does not please God because it brings man glory.
5. Trust in God will bring \_\_\_\_\_ ; trust in man will bring a \_\_\_\_\_ that brings death .
6. You can know today in whom you fear and in whom you place your hope by:
  - a. Who and what you \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in
  - b. By what you \_\_\_\_\_ about
  - c. Who and what you \_\_\_\_\_ as most important to you