

IN HIS PRESENCE

Morgan County Correctional Complex, July 28, 2007

Introduction for Rickey Beamon

Good Morning.

Mr. Rickey Beamon is going to be bringing us a message today entitled *In His Presence*.

[Comments about message]

I came to realize that to be in the presence of God can mean different things depending on the context of the encounter. There is a physical and spiritual reality to be considered.

The heavenly hosts abide in God's literal presence. The angel who foretold the coming of John the Baptist said to Zacharias, "I am Gabriel, that stands in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings." [Luke 1:19]

Even the arch-deceiver, the god of this present evil age [2 Corinthians 4:4], appears before the Father's throne to accuse the brethren. We find an account in Job 1:6 of "a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them."

Fortunately for us we have an advocate sitting at the very right hand of God's throne, interceding for us daily as our high priest.

"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:" [Hebrews 9:24]

Through the power of God's Spirit, our Lord bridges the gap between our physical plane of existence and God's spiritual reality. By His Spirit, He is always with us.

He tells us in Matthew 18:20, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them"

And in His instruction to the apostles, He reiterates the promise of His presence, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations; baptize them into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; and teach them to obey every command which I have given you. And remember, I am with you always, day by day, until the Close of the Age." [Matthew 28:19 Weymouth]

For those abiding in the perfect will of God, these are promises of protection, reassurance, and guidance.

The psalmist says to God, "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore." [Psalms 16:11]

And God tells his children, "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee." [Isaiah 43:2]

These are comforting, yet sobering words for true believers. To know that our Lord is always there to help in time of need, goes hand in hand with His awareness of our sin.

When our Lord admonished Asa, a king of the ancient nation of Judah, He told Him through the prophet Hanani, "... the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars." [2 Chronicles 16:9]

Asa relied on the power of another king, rather than the ultimate power of the Creator God.

In the book of Jeremiah God seems somewhat astonished at this rebellious nation, addressing them in chapter 5, verse 21, He says, "Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not: Fear ye not me? saith the LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence ..."

For those aware of God and His commandments, the fear of the Lord should be a guiding force. Job tells us, "Therefore am I troubled at his presence: when I consider, I am afraid of him." [Job 23:15]

Unfortunately, the fear of the Lord is often experienced in hindsight. It was only after sin entered the natural world that "Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD." Of course God, in His omnipresence, knew where His created children were, as the psalmist asks in chapter 139:

"Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, And thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, Surely the darkness shall overwhelm me, And the light about me shall be night; Even the darkness hideth not from thee, But the night shineth as the day: The darkness and the light are both alike to thee." [Psalms 139:7-12 ASV]

There is no place to hide from the presence of God. This should serve as a warning to those who persist in their sins. Scripture tells us: "... the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God." [Deuteronomy 4:24] This aspect of God presence will become undeniably known to mankind at the return of Jesus Christ.

In the book of Revelation, chapter 14, verse 9, we find the third angel saying with a loud voice,

“If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:” [Revelation 14:9-10]

In Second Thessalonians, “the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power ...” [2 Thessalonians 1:7-10]

And in Psalms, “As smoke is driven away, so drive them away: as wax melteth before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God. But let the righteous be glad; let them rejoice before God: yea, let them exceedingly rejoice.” [Psalms 68:2-3]

Even in the day of destruction, the saints of God can rejoice in His presence. As Mr. Beamon shares with us his insight into God’s presence, I hope that each of us will search for the dross in our lives, the things that will not stand up to the “consuming fire” that is our Lord.

Please open your Bibles to Jude, verse 1. When you’ve found your place, please stand for the reading of God’s word:

Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called: Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into [an excuse for immorality], and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not. And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. Even as Sodom and Gomorra, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities. Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee. But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves. Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of [Korah]. These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you,

feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever. And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his [holy ones],

To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage. But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they [who cause divisions], sensual, having not the Spirit. But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy [Spirit], Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh. Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and **to present you faultless before the presence of his glory** with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.