

Counterfeit Grace Vs True Grace: A Look at the Grace of the Triune God in the Soul

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Our text this morning will come from Exodus 33:16. Please turn with me to Exodus 33:16 and we'll read the text and ask the Lord's blessing upon it.

16 For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth.

Let us pray.

Dear heavenly Father, I thank thee, Lord, for thy attending mercies this day. Thank you, Lord, for thy healing. I thank you, Lord, that you have brought this people here this day and those who are listening also this day, Lord. We ask, Lord, for thy Spirit, thy Holy Spirit to search us this day that, Lord, as we examine thy word as you are pleased to reveal the depth that is in thy word this day, that you would search our hearts, that you would reveal thy work in our souls. O Lord, may we not take thy mercies and grace for granted but, Lord, may you be pleased to reveal the depth of what it is, what you have saved your people from. And Lord, indeed, reveal in this hour and the hour to come if we are thy people, O Lord. That if that mark of grace is in us and upon us, O Lord, may you make that calling and election sure this day for thy people and may you glorify your holy name. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Exodus 33:16 is in the middle of a really extraordinary passage. It had just happened that Moses went up into the mountain and spoke to the Lord and the Lord had given him two tablets of commandments. He had come down and he had seen what the people had done, they had made a golden calf and they worshiped the golden calf. And if you look at the end of 32, how 32 ended, it said, "The LORD plagued the people, because they made the calf, which Aaron made."

It was time. They were in the wilderness because the Lord had promised them a Promised Land and if you look at verse 1, it's an extraordinary thing what the Lord says. It says, "And the LORD said unto Moses, Depart, and go up hence, thou and the people which thou hast brought up out of the land of Egypt, unto the land which I sware unto Abraham,

to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, Unto thy seed will I give it." That sounds like it's a wonderful thing that the Lord said to him. He's saying, "I promised it. I'm going to fulfill it." But this is right after he put a plague on them.

Now, look at verse 2, he says, "And I will send an angel before thee; and I will drive out the Canaanite, the Amorite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite." Then verse 3 is where the key is today, "Unto a land flowing with milk and honey: for I will not go up in the midst of thee." Do you hear that? The Lord said, "I will not go up in the midst of thee; for thou art a stiffnecked people: lest I consume thee in the way." The Lord basically said to Moses, "I'm putting these people in your hand. You take them. My promise was to deliver them to that land. You take them to that land but I will not go with them and I will not go with you." And for you and I today, the promises in this word, it might be enough for you. You may read what the Bible has to say to the children of God and you may sit there and assent to them and say, "Yup, those are for me," but I forth to you today: if the Lord does not go up in your soul, it will be empty grace. Is there such a thing that people can have the notion of grace in their head and not have it in their soul? Of course there is. We are always around people speaking about grace. We're always around and you can even hear it at times on the tv, people speaking about God's grace. Well, what is God's grace?

Then we come to our text now and before we come to our text, let's pick up right here in verse 13. This is Moses speaking, "Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people." Moses stood between as a mediator. He stood between the people and he stood between them and God and he desired so much to take those people into the Promised Land because that was the Lord's promise to them and God told him that. He said, "Go and take them, but my presence will not be with you." And to some that's enough. That's where the examining of the Holy Spirit, I pray, comes in today. Is it enough for you to fill your head with graceful thoughts? What grace is? To sit amongst the people of God and say, "That's enough for me to know the definition of grace. To say that God's grace is upon me," but to not know the depth of what grace is? And it wasn't enough for Moses. Moses representing a child of God here. "It's not enough, Lord, that you send me to the Promised Land. It's not enough. I must experience your presence in my soul."

The Lord said in 14, "And he said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest." That what his promise now to Moses and in 15, Moses said, "And he said unto him, If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence." O Lord, if I don't feel grace in my soul, what good is grace? And we can sit and we can listen Sunday after Sunday or in our Bible reading and we can just sit and read grace and go, "Wow, grace is wonderful. I'm so glad that I'm saved by grace." I've heard that from people all my life. "I'm saved by grace." Well, what does it mean? What is grace?

Then we come to our text this morning in verse 16 and Moses says this, he says, "For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight?" How is it you're going to make it known, Lord? "Is it not in that thou goest with us?" Is it not

your very presence and the essence of you in the soul? Isn't that what grace is? "So shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth."

So today I want to look at three things and I pray the Holy Ghost wants to look at three things. He examines us in the light of this passage first: the source of all of our blessings. The source of all the blessings and the fountain of all the blessings is God's grace. It truly is. But the fruit of God's grace is the second thing we're going to see and that is his presence. The fruit of the grace of the Lord being upon his children is his very presence. Then the one that I know everybody shudders at, but then the fruit of the presence of Christ being in you is what? Separation. It's separation and you will find it hard-pressed in the word of God to see where the Lord has not told his people that they are separate from the world. That's what grace does. Not grace in the head, grace in the head will never do it, but grace in the soul will.

So this morning I want to look at those three things and the first thing I want to look at is the source of all of our blessings and that is finding grace in God's sight. What does it mean to find grace in God's sight and immediately your mind should go to Noah. Genesis 6:8 says that, it says, "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD." And what does that mean? We love to quote that and I love to just sit there and ponder upon that. What does that mean that he found grace in the eyes of the Lord because the whole world had no grace? The whole world had no grace, in fact, the whole world was destroyed except eight on that ark, right? But even in that ark, all eight of them had something in common: they had grace in the head but only some of them had grace in the soul, Noah being one of them. We know Ham didn't have grace in the soul. He was cursed. But he had grace in the head. He saw God's grace. He sat there with Noah. He sat there on the boat and he saw that God had sent the floods. He saw all that God stirred him from, but did it touch his soul? You see, that's the difference. You could be surrounded by people that have grace in the soul and the whole time you only have grace in your head.

So what is grace? Grace is the free unmerited favor of God in the person, blood and righteousness of Jesus Christ that is manifested to his elect vessels of mercy only. That's what it is. That's a long definition. Usually we say, "Oh, it's free and unmerited favor." It's true but what is it? It's manifested in the Lord Jesus Christ's presence in your life. That's what grace in the soul is. It is the manifestation of Christ having done it all, Christ having paid the debt of your sin, Christ having saved you from a life of sin and a slavery to sin and a life of disobedience and a life of rebellion. Grace is free unmerited, that we have done nothing, nothing to gain that grace.

That's what this says, "For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight?" Lord, how is it today that you are revealed to your people in here in this room that we have found grace in your sight? O Lord, reveal thy Son. Most of the world knows of grace. They know what grace is. I had a conversation Friday night and it was really interesting to me. We're out there watching our sons play football and I was standing by someone and I was talking to someone and, you know, sometimes I get a little nervous when I'm out there watching my son because it's football. I said something to the person sitting there and I said, "You know, it's a scary thing out there watching

your son play football." And that person looked up at me and said, "Nothing is going to happen to him. Are you kidding me? Do you know how many prayers have gone up for him?" You see, that's grace in the head. Five minutes later, something happened to him. Not even five minutes later but two or three plays later. Experienced something out there and that's humbling.

Grace in the head takes grace for granted. It's always going to be there. We speak of grace all the time, "Oh, God's grace is so wonderful. It's just so wonderful." How is it manifested? Is it a fear of the Lord in your soul? Is it the Lord's presence that you know that while your son is out there, that the Lord holds him in the palm of his hand. I looked back at this person when they said that and I said to them, "How did that work for Job?" They looked at me and said, "What?" I said, "How did that work for Job who offered sacrifices every day for his children and yet God took them like that? How did that work for him? What about Job?" Of course, I got a religious answer to that. "Oh, that's because Satan was after Job." The dear one sees after us every day.

The grace of the Lord revealed to his children is the presence of Christ. It's the presence of the Lord. It's not a notion in your head that all the religious world has. And if you don't believe me, go on Sermon Audio and just listen to messages about grace, about a feeling of it, about a notion of it. You've got to have that thought in your mind and once you have it in your mind, you've defeated everything. Really? Is that what it is? Is that what is good? It wasn't good enough for Moses here. It wasn't good enough to just go and just go the Promised Land. You go. You get my promise. I will promise you. Go on in there. But it isn't good enough. He said, "Lord, what good is that promise without you?"

What good is grace without the presence of the Lord in our soul? That's the question for us today as we sit in this room. Is grace a notional thought that you have in your head this morning? As you got up this morning and you look around and you say, "Well, I'm thankful I'm saved by God's grace." Well, what does that mean? What are you saved from? Do you have something that you are saved from? And the Lord manifests himself in that grace in your soul to show you what you are saved from. He shows you the power of sin and he shows you what you are without grace.

Look with me over to Isaiah 1 for a moment. Isaiah 1. Speaking of these same people in Israel now, we're speaking of the same people, but look at verse 4, "Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward. Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint." That's what grace reveals. Grace reveals to the child of God that he's sick and he's in need of a Savior every moment of his life and that the Savior saves him from his sins but the blood must constantly be applied. That song we sang, "Nothing but the blood of Jesus." That isn't one time we had, "Oh, the Lord applied his blood," but we have to be shown that daily because we're still sinning. That's why we have this fountain open for us that Zechariah saw. There is a fountain open for the people of God and that's what we bathe in by the power of the Holy Spirit daily to apply the blood to our conscience that we know that that grace is a grace in our soul.

Look at verse 6, "From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores." This is the difference between the child of God and the world. That one I was talking to on Friday has the world in their heart. Has the world in their soul. That's what grace is. No, grace saves to the uttermost because of what we deserve without it. This is what we are. Grace nowadays is what we've done. This is the prayer we've made. This is what we've done. We're going to protect these people because of what we've done. If that's all you have, that's the grace in your head. That's not in your soul and the Lord in his faithfulness revealed that two minutes later when Andrew got hit going over the middle. A little eye opener there, but he was merciful as the Lord is.

"They have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment." Grace is needed. That's where the child of God, he's emptied to see what he is without grace. Without grace. This is what I am, I'm going to constantly go this way. That's what the Apostle Paul said in Romans 7, "That's what I do. Without the grace of God, O wretched man that I am, I need the grace of God." Yes, you do and that grace, the Lord says there, is faithfulness in himself. He can swear by no other.

We must have the power of that grace in our soul to subdue the leprosy of sin that attends us every day. That's feeling and applying, the Holy Spirit does it every day for the child of God. But he's brought to show his weakness. I was reminded of that this morning as I was walking upstairs and that's the verse the Lord brought to me because I'm not feeling too well today and I cried out to the Lord for strength because I feel pretty weak and that's what he revealed, that his strength is made perfect in my weakness and to glory and to rest in the infirmities that the Lord gives us, that the power of Christ would rest upon me. That's what I desire, the power of Christ to rest upon me, to rest in me. That's what grace is. That's what grace revealed is.

Until one is revealed grace in the heart and in the soul, the grace in the head isn't going matter, but what does it mean "found"? Have you ever known a found grace in the eyes of the Lord? This says the same thing back in our text here. Let me turn back over there. Back in our text it says, "and thy people have found grace." What does that mean "found"? Well, it shows us that there is no merit in it of ours. It's not earned. It's not something that we've worked for. It just miraculously happens. It's just like Ephesians tells us, "You who were dead in sins and trespasses," and then the Lord quickens you to life and we have that on record of all the saints in the word of God, how the Lord just came and in the day of his power and that's how grace was revealed. That's how grace comes. Grace doesn't make an appointment with you and you check your calendar to see if it's okay for that time of grace in your life. The Lord sends his grace as he does his mercies. They are new every day and there are new manifestations of them every day for the child of God.

But what does "in God's sight" mean? How is it? You know, when you hear that we find grace in God's sight, now think about how God's sight is. What is it that God sees? I know what it is that I see. I see a broken down sinner. I see one that is vile within. I see

one that has no merit in him whatsoever. I see one that would continue to sin and sin and sin and gripe and complain and murmur. That's what I see in myself. But grace in God's sight, he sees me in his Son. He sees me, the vision of grace for God is in the head. He sees his Son. He doesn't see us that way. He doesn't see us as we see ourselves. We are accepted in the blood in the beloved where without spot or wrinkle. These are the Scriptures that Jude said that without spot or wrinkle. If we see ourselves, we see the spot. We see the wrinkle. But the Lord in his sight, he sees his Son. He sees his Son's righteousness. He sees his Son's holiness. He sees his Son and us being in his Son. That's what grace in God's sight means and I don't know about you, but that's a comforting thing. Comforting to see that the Lord's sight is not like my sight which is very short-sighted, I should say.

But now we move to the next head. We've talked about "For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight?" but the next part is, "is it not that thou goest with us?" The fruit of grace of Christ in your soul is the presence of Christ in your soul and as I've hinted on throughout this message, Moses could not go without the Lord's presence with him. He would rather stay in that wilderness, he would rather stay there with those stiff-necked people. He would rather sit there in the wilderness and be subjected to all the things they were subjected to in the wilderness than ever go into that Promised Land without the presence of his God. Without the Lord there with him. What good would it be for me to go? What good is the promise without the promise keeper? What good is it without the manifestation of God?

Now, that's the question as we sit in these seats today: has the Lord brought us in grace there? Has he brought us to see that all the promises and things that we read in the word of God, that that's exactly what they are is just promises. They're words because if the Lord doesn't manifest himself in them, if the Lord doesn't manifest himself in the promise, his presence isn't there to nurture the child of God, to reveal himself in it, what power is there in it for the child of God? Is it just living and going out every day and saying, "Okay, well, God's grace is upon me. Let me go and live my life." Or is there something deeper? Is there something deeper than that? Is experiencing the grace of Christ in your soul, is it the need of him every day because of this warfare that we have? Is it because of the world always coming in on us wanting our time? Is it because of Satan always accusing us day and night right in front of the Lord? Is there something the child of God needs more than just the promise or is the promise enough for you? Is it enough for you in your head to know that, "I'm saved by grace"? And just walk around and tell everybody, "Yup, I'm saved by grace. Yup, without the grace of God, there go I."

What does that mean? What does it mean in your soul? What have you ever experienced in your soul that says that God's grace is there? That you have been emptied of yourself and the Lord has filled you with himself? Moses as a child of God here, was not satisfied with a dry doctrine. He wasn't satisfied with a doctrine of, "You're going to go to the Promised Land." It's dry without Christ. It's dry without experiencing Christ in it. Without his Lord going with him, the very presence of the Lord is what makes the life of the child of God the life. That's what gives him life and that's what separates the children of God from dead professors. We must feel the presence of him in our souls.

You know, if you look at the wilderness and you look at all that they went through, the children of Israel, and they went through that wilderness where it was dry. They went through that wilderness where the sand was hot and the sun was scorching and they went in there and there are times they didn't have food, times they didn't have water, and God kept manifesting in a miraculous way. In a miraculous way. Manna would rain down. Water would come forth out of a rock. Then when the fiery serpents came, he manifested the brazen serpent that they would look upon to save them. Miracles. Miracles. Miracles. Do you think it's going to be any different for you and I today? And if you've ever been shown the depth of your sin and the depth of who you are without Christ, you know faith is a miracle. The grace of the Lord in your soul is a miracle because you won't choose him. That thing we read in Isaiah a while ago, head to toe, putrefying sores, the iniquity over and over, that's what we are. That's what the Lord reveals. "No more can ye, you can't do this without me." You're in need of a Savior. You're in need of one to heal you from head to toe and we're not talking physically here even though we definitely need that too.

The miracles that the Lord performed for them physically for the people of God today, they are spiritually. They are in their souls. Have you ever been in a trial or hardship or affliction and you just had a sweet manifestation of peace in it? You just knew the Lord's presence was with you and you knew the Lord was carrying you through it. And you knew you were brought to say, "Lord, I know that you've got something to reveal to me in this." It's hard. It's difficult while it's going on but that sweet little crumb of grace, the manifestation of Christ in your soul that his presence is there, it's not in your head because the head tells us that every time. "Oh, well, you know, this is going to end. This is going to end favorably. If I'm his child, he's going to come." Like I said, don't go reading Job. I mean, it ended well for him but there were a lot of messages from the beginning to the end for Job's soul. A lot of things the Lord gave and a lot of things the Lord took away and the Lord's name was blessed in all of it. Maybe not by Job the whole time but his people are brought to see the goodness of the Lord in all things.

But let me ask you something about those miracles that happened: can you live upon the past miracles in your life? Can you live upon God's grace that he's done in your past life? Now, think about that. The children of Israel were led out of bondage, out of being whipped every day and making straw and brick. The Lord provided all of those plagues and the last one at the Passover and they went to the people's doors and the people opened up their doors and they gave them all their gold and they gave them everything and what a great deliverance that was and they just handed everything over to them and they left those people and they went out there and God's favor was abundantly on them. Now, how far did they go until they started murmuring again? It wasn't far, "Oh, we would have been better off if we were back in Egypt again." In bondage? "Oh yeah, well, at least we would have had a meal," and then the Lord would rain manna down and he'd give them manna and he'd give them manna every day and they'd say, "Oh, we're sick of this manna."

Miraculous graces over and over again but can you live on them? Does it keep us from murmuring and complaining? Does it keep us every day from going, "Oh, I remember when I used to walk this way and God's grace changed me and I don't do those things anymore. That's all I need today. I'm saved by grace." No. No. No, it wasn't enough and it wasn't enough for Moses at this time either. "Lord, you faithfully have done this all this time. You have produced yourself in many ways but if your presence doesn't go with me." The whole chief end of this was what? The Promised Land and it's interesting as I sit up here now and the Lord is plowing my heart and I'm thinking about this passage, I'm thinking about today's religion and how it promises the Promised Land to everybody. Promises heaven to everybody. "Just make a confession. Just make this. Just make that." And the thousands of people are okay with that. "That's good. I'll sign my name on a card. I'll give some money to this. I'll do this. I'll do that and I'm saved." And for those people, most of them coming out of Israel, it was the same way. "God, you do this for me. Okay, I'm happy for a while." And that Promised Land is all we want. Well, do you know what? That generation never saw it. They all died in the wilderness.

You know, the Promised Land and the metaphor that it stands for with heaven, for you and I today, I hope as you sit in that seat that heaven is worthless without Christ's presence. It's worthless without God's presence. What good is it? Is that all heaven is for you? I was raised that way, by the way. I was raised that heaven was whatever it is that you made it. When I was a little boy, I liked football and basketball and baseball. Heaven is football, basketball and baseball. When somebody died, you're going to see them again in heaven and we're all going to have a big party and that's what heaven is. You're raised that way and you think about it, "Oh, that's what heaven is." But the child of God in this life is shown that heaven is nothing without the presence of the Lord there. That's what makes heaven heaven to the child of God is the unbroken communion with he and his Lord. There is no more pain. There are no more tears. There is no more sorrow. It's just uninterrupted communion with me and my Lord. That's heaven. That's heaven to my new nature and I pray it's heaven to you today, that the Lord's presence must go up with you in your soul.

That's the fruit of the Lord's presence. The fruit of grace in the soul is the Lord's presence in your soul. It's not what everybody says it is and it's just the little blessings in this life. "Oh, I found \$20 on the ground. Oh, that's God's grace. Oh, my team won this week and that's just God's grace." God's grace for the child of God and that's who Moses represents here, "Lord, your presence must go with me. Your presence must be felt in my soul. I need the presence of you, Lord, in my soul."

That leads us to the last heading. "For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight?" Lord, what is the manifestation of grace? Well, "is it not in that thou goest with us?" It is the presence of Christ. It's the presence of the Triune Lord in our soul. The presence of the Holy Spirit to reveal Christ. The presence of the Father and all of the blessings that he bestows through his Son. That's the manifestation we need every day. We need him every hour to reveal his presence to us. But what does the presence of Christ and the Triune God in your soul produce? Well, according to this passage in verse 16 at the end, he says, "so shall we be separated." And I

want to say something real quick before we even go into this head. I want you to see something at the beginning of 16. It was "I and thy people," and I have to say this because it's heavy on my heart: the only thing, the only thing that unites the people of God together is the presence of Christ in their souls. We can try to be united in carnal things but it will never take place. If you wonder why sometimes you're at odds with people that attend this place, the answer in the Scriptures is: Christ, the Holy Spirit binds the people together by Christ. If there is not a manifestation of Christ in the soul, there will be no unity. There can be unity in carnal things all day long but for the people of God, and that's what Moses says, "I and thy people." What is it that's going to unite Moses with the people of God? It's the presence of Christ. It's the presence of the Triune Lord in the soul.

When he uses terms like this, "so shall we be separated," that "we" is plural too. That's the church he's talking about and all of the Lord's children when the Lord reveals himself to them as enough in their soul and that means his presence is with them, they will be separated. They will be separated spiritually. They have to be because the only thing that unites the people of God with each other is the essence of Christ in the soul, the Holy Spirit revealing Christ in the one to the other and the other to the one. That's what unites the people of God together. When we argue, when we are at odds, it's because Christ is not manifested on both sides of the people.

That's what unifies the people of God together. That's what Moses says here. He says, "so shall we," the people of God, the church, "be separated." But I want you to notice something about the separation: it's universal. "I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth." The child of God in his life is brought to see that his walk here is a very lonely walk because almost all the people that he comes in contact with will fall by the wayside and the relationships that we gather in this life and we meet with in this life and the acquaintances that we make, they're going to fall by the wayside and the reason being is because there is not a unity of the Spirit there. For the people of God only is what I'm talking about. They will be unified with the people of God in spirit. That's what the Holy Spirit does. That's what Moses is saying here.

When the presence of the Lord is felt and known in the souls of his children, then they will be separated from the world. They will be separated from the life that's outside of Christ and that is what the Scriptures say. We're going to go to probably the most well known one here in a moment. Amos says, "How can two walk together if they don't agree?" What do you think agreeing is? In dry doctrine? No. You think it's in how the weather is? No. We can walk and talk about the weather all we want but you're going to go your way and I'm going to go my way. What is it that unites the people of God together is the unity of the Spirit. The Spirit leads to who? What does the Spirit testify of? The Lord Jesus Christ. He searches the deep things of God. He's searching for Christ. That's how we have unity with one another, Christ in them, the hope of glory. Christ in us, the hope of glory. That's what I hope all of us in here, our unity is in Christ and Christ alone.

So now we come to what Paul said in Corinthians. Hold your finger there, we're coming back. 2 Corinthians 6. We know these passages but in light of what we've heard today, we'll read these passages. 2 Corinthians 6 and we're going to begin in 14. "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers." What makes that unequal yoke? One has Christ, one doesn't and that will always be an unequal yoke. The two will never agree together and let me tell you something, this is the beauty of this, is that the Lord manifests this. The Lord brings this forward. That's the reason. It isn't because of anything we do or anything that we see. It's what the Lord manifests in the soul of the child of God.

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" Very good questions, Paul. Very good. How can the two walk together? They don't.

"And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?" And this is what the Lord teaches his children over and over again as you make these alliances and you make them out in the world and things, you're going to be brought to see that you're not going to be able to walk together much longer with that person. Why? That's what the Lord does. I'm not talking about what you do. I'm talking about what the Lord does. There will come a time where you won't be able to walk together the unity that the people of God have is in Christ and Christ alone. That's the power of Christ in the soul. He's the separator. He's the divider. Why do you think we can't divide the wheat from the tares? The Lord says we can't tell them apart. That's right, we can't but the great discerner of truth can. The great light can. He shines the light on the darkness.

"And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father," now here's the prize. This is the prize of the presence of Christ being in your soul. Oh, that old nature is rising up and going, "Oh, I don't like that. I'm going to be lonely. I'm going to be desolate." The new nature is sitting there and saying, "Lord, you're going to manifest yourself to me?" I desire that. Don't you desire the manifestations of Christ in your soul? That he'll be a father unto you? "And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." That's what separation, true separation is. It's the leaving of it. The leaving of the world behind and the separation in the soul where the Lord has set residence there. Where the Lord has set up his kingdom there. Where the Lord has revealed himself there. Where the Lord is found to commune with his people.

That is the effect of the presence of the Lord in the soul: it is separation. Separation from all that's unclean and anything not of his faith is sin and unclean. Anything not of him is unclean and praise be to God we have a great revealer who does such a thing for his people. We walk and grope in the dark not knowing what's good for us, thinking we know what's good for us, but the Lord humbles his people and he brings them to him and he reveals to them that he in their soul is what they desire more than anything. More than

all the riches in the world. More than all the rubies and diamonds. More than all the names and the prestige. More than everything else. It pales in comparison to the presence of the Lord in his soul for the child of God.

Our text one more time, Exodus 33:16,

16 For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth.

Dear heavenly Father, most gracious and holy Lord, may thy Spirit search our hearts this hour. May you reveal, O Lord, thy presence in our souls. O Lord, make thyself precious in our sight this time and, Lord, keep us from the idols, keep us from ourselves and, Lord, may you unite thy people together in thee and thee alone and may your name be glorified. O Lord, reveal the power of grace to thy people this day to manifest yourself in our souls to the praise and glory of thee. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.