

## God's Vision for Us

### Introduction:

During October, we have discussed the Assurance of Our Salvation. One of the things I have hoped to accomplish in this series is to change our view of God. Contrast the way we view God with the way we view Jesus. Every characteristic we associate with Jesus, we can and should associate with God. God is kind, compassionate, merciful, helpful, understanding, full of grace, forgiveness, and mercy. We must never doubt or take for granted – God's patience.

### I. Consider what God did for Israel.

- A. God took an out of control, undisciplined, disorganized, distrustful people to work with.
  - 1. As people cross the Red Sea, God faced enormous challenges.
    - a) Ex. 32:21-33:6 – people come close to exceeding God's patience.
  - 2. This is a people that had to learn the basics of right & wrong.
  - 3. Ex. 32:1-6 - God had to redefine the concept of who/what to worship.
  - 4. Delivered them from terrible slavery – only to hear incessant griping, complaining, and an eagerness to go back to Egypt.
- B. God had 2 objectives:
  - 1. To get them under control.
  - 2. To eventually lead them to a genuine relationship with the One, True, God.

### II. A Practical Example...

- A. Think of someone you know who is out of control – want to lead that person to a successful life & relationship. What must happen?
- B. First...he must accept the fact that he is out of control.
  - 1. He must discover a new concept of "good" and "bad."
  - 2. He begins to take responsibility for his actions & life.
- C. Overtime, he develops a new heart & mind.
  - 1. Only when these things happen, is he capable of building and sustaining a relationship.

### III. This is what God wanted with Israel.

- A. He wanted to transform out of control slaves into people capable of sustaining a relationship with Him.
- B. Hosea presents a picture of how a loving God wanted relationship.
  - 1. Hosea 11:1-4 – God wanted a relationship – not control.
  - 2. Hosea 14:1-4 – God is *still* trying to move them toward a relationship.
  - 3. Hosea 14:9 – with all of God's love, they never entered a relationship with Him.

### IV. God wants a relationship with us!

- A. He has come to us, while we were enemies of the cross – Rom. 5:6-8.
- B. God desires to help us discover a new concept of "good" and "bad."
  - 1. Eph. 5:8-10 – He wants us to elevate our perspective.
  - 2. Col. 3:1-2 – to view life from a higher plain.
- C. God patiently wants for us to be transformed.
  - 1. Rom. 12:2-3. He longs for us to be transformed...to think differently.
- D. Somewhere, each one of us is in the midst of this process.
  - 1. God is able to see long-term. He sees what each one of us *can* be.
  - 2. He is patient. He is loving. He hopes for the best.

### Conclusion:

- A. Think of God's hope & desire for each of us. A loving & sustained desire for a relationship.
  - 1. Do you share that desire? Are you earnestly working toward that goal?
  - 2. What if you mess up? Seek God's forgiveness & try to do better.
  - 3. Be concerned about your growth & maturity as a Christian.
- B. When you are, you can live your life with full assurance. Are you?