

Groping for God Upon Less-Than-Green Grounds

by Bryan Anthony

The key to transitioning rightly is seeking God Himself, rather than relying on our own wisdom and rationale, and trusting in His sovereignty.

Scripture: Psalm 27:8, Proverbs 3:5, John 21:22, Acts 17:26, Romans 8:28

Topics: "Sovereignty Of God", "Faith In Trials"

Description

Bryan Anthony preaches about God's intentional placement of His children in specific times and boundaries, emphasizing the importance of seeking and groping for Him in the midst of life's transitions and trials. He highlights that God's reality often opposes our idealistic wish-dreams, urging believers to focus on seeking God rather than longing for greener pastures or worldly accomplishments. Anthony encourages the congregation to trust in God's wisdom and sovereignty, reminding them that He is always near and at work in their lives, even in seasons of silence and turmoil.

Transcript

"... and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and boundaries of their habitation, that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us...." -Acts 17.26-27

There are times in the life of a saint when the Lord will bring him into transition and move him from one place to another, one function to another, or one occupation to another. Often the minds of believers are occupied with searching for the next transition, hoping for another position, looking over the horizon to some idyllic destiny. We hope for a picturesque scenario, where there is no turbulence or trial, no uncertainty or mystery, and where all the pieces of the puzzle seem to fit together effortlessly and without thought.

God, in dealing with His children, will have none of this. He is bent on establishing reality, and His reality is ever and always opposed to our idealistic wish-dreams, particularly those aspirations that are not grounded in a jealousy for His glory. He has "determined" our appointed times and boundaries, which is to say, it is in His calculated purpose for us to live in the specific generation that we live in. It is in His design for us to abide within the physical boundaries wherein He has placed us. If we are willing to follow Him wheresoever He calls us, and we have yet to hear a word of some great transition, we must conclude that

He has us where we are for a significant reason. And that reason is supremely this:

".... that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him.... "

The current press and trial of life, whatever it may be, is most likely a "determined" tool meant for the refinery of the saint, and it has been initiated by the great Potter Himself. Have we been vessels of pliable clay, or are we hardening our hearts towards His dealings? We are too often looking for the greener grass on the other side, when the real purpose of being on this side is that we "would seek God," "grope for Him and find Him," exactly as He is.

If you are gripped with anxiety about the future, about entering ministry, or pursuing some higher position of occupation, you are missing the point of your present location and orientation. The real key for transitioning rightly is not in seeking all the options set before you in your own wisdom and rationale, but in seeking God Himself. He will permit the most exquisite and painstaking sufferings in our lives, if they are necessary to bring us to the place where we are quickened to seek and grope for Him.

We may see others advancing in areas where we feel we should be advancing, but the word of the Lord to us is the same as it was to Peter, when he coveted John's long life in light of his own foreseen martyrdom:

".... what is that to you? You follow Me!" (Jn. 21.22)

Often the seasons in which He seems most absent are the seasons when He is present and at His greatest work in our souls. His silence is not evidence of His standoffishness, as much as it is a Fatherly kind of waiting upon us, to see if we will respond as His sons in the test that He has permitted. When that press and turmoil is upon our hearts, do we turn inwardly, looking for an answer within our own shoddy logic? Do we look to flesh and blood, or do we "seek God", "grope for Him and find Him?"

The promise holds true for us all, "He is not far from each one of us."

Look not to that idyllic world of your own contrived destiny. Look not to what men say you are entitled to by virtue of any worldly accomplishment. Look not to despair or fear or bewilderment in the face of the weighty trial. Seek God. Grope for Him, right from the ground He has placed you upon in the here and now. That is the central issue. He is the central issue. Your transition, position, and destiny are totally secondary to seeking and beholding the Lord of History. And if He knows how to oversee the whole of history, He is wise enough to lead His sheep through the hills and valleys of our lives.

He is trustworthy, dear saint, and when we seek His face on "less-than-green" grounds, all things work together for our conformity to the image of His Son.

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