

Prayer that Pleases God (Exodus 33)

Intro.

Presence of God withdrawn (32:34-33;6, Isa 50:10, 11; Job 23:8-17, Isa 2:8, Jer. 2:18. 2 Kings 18:4)

Prayer Tent (33:7-11) (outside the camp)

Prayer for God's Favor (33:12-33)

- a. Request 1 with a Reminder – Let me know *Thy ways* (Phil. 3:8-11)
- b. Response 1- *My presence* (Psa. 73:25, 26, 28)
- c. Request 2/Response 2 (33:16,17)
- d. Request 3/response 3 (*Thy glory*)

Life Response/Applications

1. The loss of God's presence in a church or in one's life is rarely perceived. At least the sons of Israel laid off their outward ornaments and mourned about their sin and loss. But God offered a glimmer of hope as He does today.
2. Idolatry chokes out the presence of God and His Word even today. We need to realize that we have many idols in our culture and our lives. And sometimes, we even worship some thing or person that God used to deliver us instead of Him alone.
3. Prayer is a continuous dialog with the Living God throughout the day. It is rooted in God's Word and His love, clothed with stillness and meditation in the power of the Holy Spirit, but executed in obedience with the assistance of the Holy Spirit. It should be a joy not a chore. The result is we become a friend of God (John 15:14, 15), and God will share His most intimate thoughts and plans with us and will be concerned with our views.
4. Can we pray "let me know Thy ways that I may know You and find favor in Thy sight? " No conditions attached! The order of the three requests still holds today: Thy ways or paths, Thy presence, and Thy glory.
5. Finally, there are many applications here: lingering before the Lord, prayer life encouraging others to pray, boldness before the throne of grace, tested by God in prayer, prayer for others.