

**Subject: *God Is Our One Attraction***

**Scripture: *Isaiah 26:1-4***

This has been a difficult and uncertain time for many people, even in our churches, but some good things have taken place. This has given us the time and opportunity to re-think our priorities. What is really important in life? What is really important in church?

Back in September 2014, I read a statement by John Snyder in his introduction to the first Behold Your God book. He wrote about the time he and his family lived in Wales and came to learn what a church might be when God is the great and only attraction. That statement really grabbed me, and I've thought about it many times since then. We say it often at Liberty that God is our only attraction, but what does that really mean and why is it important? I want to explore that subject in this sermon.

God should be the one attraction of every church.  
God should be the one attraction of every family.  
God should be the one attraction of every person.

Think about this. God is the one attraction in heaven. Shouldn't He be the one attraction on earth? Jesus taught us to pray, "Thy will be done in earth, even as it is in heaven," and that means God is to the center of attention on earth as He is in heaven.

The Bible describes the heart and mind of the wicked and ungodly person like this:

**Psalms 10:4** *The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.*

At the opposite extreme, godly people have learned to focus their hearts and minds on God. The purpose of this message is to move us in that direction so that God is in reality our one attraction. We want to be like the psalmist:

**Psalms 86:11** *Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.*

**Psalms 119:2** *Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.*

### **1. The PROBLEM of having God as our one attraction**

The problem of God as our one attraction is that we have too many distractions. We are easily distracted and have trouble keeping our focus on the Lord. If you are target shooting with a gun or a bow and arrow, you need to hold steady, focus on the target, and not be distracted. We have a problem making God the one attraction in our church, in our family, and in our personal lives because we have so many distractions. We have so many things that pull us away and drag us away from God. We need to be careful how and where we are distracted from God because whatever gets your attention will get you.

A. The world distracts us from God

**1 John 2:15** *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

**Psalms 1:1** *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*

**Ephesians 2:1-3** <sup>1</sup> *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; <sup>2</sup> Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: <sup>3</sup> Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

In his classic, *Pilgrim's Progress*, John Bunyan called the world by the name "Vanity Fair." "Vanity" because it is empty and worthless. "Fair" because it is attractive.

B. The flesh distracts us from God

**Romans 8:5-6** <sup>5</sup> *For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

**Luke 10:41-42** <sup>41</sup> *And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: <sup>42</sup> But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.*

C. The devil distracts us from God

Scripture describes the main work of Satan as deception and destruction.

**John 8:44** *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

But the devil is also the master of distraction. He wants to get our hearts and minds on bad things instead of good things. If he can't do that he will get our hearts and minds on good things instead of the best things. The devil will use anything he can to distract you from God. He will use your job, your hobby, your friends, and even your family.

2. **The PRIVILEGE of having God as our one attraction**

Turn to **Isaiah 6:1-3**

Turn to **Isaiah 40:9-28**

This is the heart of a chapter in which Isaiah describes some of God's magnificent attributes. God is compared to His creation. He is compared to the great nations of the earth. He is compared to idols or false gods. He is compared to the world's great leaders, and the chapter tells us there is no comparison. A. W. Tozer said: "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." As we look at Isaiah 40, this is what ought to come to our mind as we think about God.

- Vs. 10, God is the strong ruler – Behold His power and authority.
- Vs. 11, God is the caring shepherd – Behold His tenderness and love.
- Vs. 12, God is the creator and sustainer – Behold His greatness.
- Vs. 13-14, God is the all-wise God – Behold His wisdom and understanding.
- Vs. 15-20, God is the great and incomparable God – Behold His uniqueness.
- Vs. 21-28, God is the sovereign and all-powerful God – Behold His control and personal involvement.

Because of who God is and what God does, He is worthy of our love, obedience, and worship. Our God is a great God. Our God is a good God. There is none like Him. We have the privilege of knowing and serving Him. Isaiah said to the people in verse 9, "Behold your God." Can you say this is your God?

### **3. The PROMISE of having God as our one attraction**

We have the promise that God will comfort us (40:1).

We have the promise that God will strengthen us (40:31)

We have the promise that God will keep us in perfect peace if our minds are stayed (fixed) on Him (26:3).

Song "Like a River Glorious"

*Stayed upon Jehovah, hearts are fully blest*

*Finding as He promised, perfect peace and rest.*

How can we make sure God is our one attraction?

Focus on God the first part of every day.

***Psalms 5:3*** *My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.*

Focus on God the first day of every week.

***Psalms 57:7*** *My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise.*

***Exodus 20:8*** *Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.*