**“Flickering Lamps – Christ & His Church” (Blackaby)**

**Week 3: ‘Christ’s Presence and His Church’**

**October 7, 2020**

**Last week: Started chapter 3**

1. **Christ in His Church**
2. **Six Differences Christ’s Presence Makes in a Church**
3. **Christ’s Presence Reflects a Relationship**
4. **Christ’s Presence Brings Joy (Psalm 16:11)**

“There is a marvelous medicinal power in joy. Most medicines are distasteful; but this, which is the best of all medicines, is sweet to the taste, and comforting to the heart. This blessed joy is very contagious. One dolorous spirit brings a kind of plague into the house; one person who is wretched seems to stop all the birds from singing wherever he goes . . . [But] the grace of joy is contagious. Holy joy will oil the wheels of your life’s machinery. Holy joy will strengthen you for your daily labor. Holy joy will beautify you and give you an influence over the lives of others.” Spurgeon

1. **Christ’s Presence Transforms Our Service**

“Serving Christ is a high honor and one that should bring enormous joy and satisfaction. However, when we take our eyes off of Jesus, serving Him can become drudgery and our efforts can actually dishonor Him…Unless people’s eyes are riveted on Christ, serving Him can become a burden rather than a delight.”

**Serving for the wrong reason**

**Serving with the wrong attitude**

**Serving becomes a burden**

**Biblical examples:**

Luke 10:38-42 (Martha)

Luke 15:25-32 (Older brother)

1. **Christ’s Presence Brings Peace**

“…it was through such dark circumstances that God proved He does some of His greatest work when I am in my weakest state **(2 Cor. 12:9-10**)….What made all the difference was Christ’s presence. I could lose my money, my health, my job, and even my wife, but no one could remove Christ’s presence from me.”

1. **Christ’s Presence Brings Focus**

**Wrong questions:**

* “What do you think we should do?”
* “What did you think of last Sunday?”

**Right Questions:**

* “As you have been praying and seeking the mind of Christ on this matter, what has He shown you?”
* “What did you see God doing in the service last Sunday?”
1. **Christ’s Presence Brings Accountability**

“One final difference that Christ’s presence makes in the church is seen when we sin.”

“The only remedy for sin is repentance.”

“Church members do not just get too busy to spend time with God. They forsake meeting with their Savior. They need to repent. People do not just fail to follow through on their commitment to the church. They break a promise to God. They don’t need to rededicate; they need to repent.”

**2 Cor. 5:10** “For we must all appear before the judgment set of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”