**R807 – Rumination for July 19, 2020 by K.C. Ung**

The **T**heme: **God’s Presence** berita-bethel-ung.com

The **T**ext: *And He said,* ***My presence*** *shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.* Exo. 33:14

The **T**hots:

1. **Our Reassurance of the Presence of God/Jesus.**
2. The **P**resence of His **P**erson –
3. He is **E**ternally and **E**verywhere Present - *God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM:* Exo. 3:14
4. An **E**xplicit **E**xample in Jesus: *Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.* Heb. 13:8
5. As **E**xpressed by Jesus, Himself. *Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the* ***E****nd of the world.* Mt. 28:20
6. His **P**romise to be **P**resent:
7. *The LORD thy God, He it is that doth go with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.* Deut. 31:6b
8. *The LORD, He it is that doth go before thee; He will be with thee, He will not fail thee,*

 *neither forsake thee:* Deut. 31:8a

1. *The LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.* Josh. 1:9b

 *for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.* Heb. 13:5b

1. His **P**ersonal **P**ersuasion:
2. Deut. 31:6a - *Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them.*
3. Deut. 31:8b - *Fear not, neither be dismayed.*
4. Josh. 1:9a - *Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage;*

 *be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed:*

1. **Our Response to the Presence of God.**
2. Our **C**onduct should **C**onform to the Lord’s **C**onfirmation of His **P**resence: Heb. 13:5a, 6
3. ***Let*** *your* ***C****onversation be without* ***C****ovetousness* – He will be Sufficient.
4. *and* ***Be******C****ontent with such things as ye have –* He will **P**rovide.
5. **Be** **C**ourageous, He has the **P**ower to **P**rotect.

*So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my Helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*

1. Our **S**ufficiency **C**omes **S**olely and **C**ompletely from God. II Cor. 3:5

 *Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;*

1. Our **P**reservation is in His **P**resent **P**rovidence. Psa. 31:15 *My times are in Thy hand: deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me.*
2. **The Requirements when in God’s Presence. In the Presence of God…**
3. **Moses** was **R**equired to **R**emove his Shoes. Exo. 3:5 cf. Acts 7:33

God *said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.*

1. **Joshua** was likewise **C**ommanded to do so in the presence of *the* ***C****aptain of the LORD'S host.* Josh. 5:15

*And* *the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot;* *for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.*

1. **Isaiah** **R**ealised he was ***U****ndone* *with* ***U****nclean lips*. Isa.6:5

*Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips,*

*and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.*

1. God’s **P**erson is Righteous – *Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts* Isa. 6:3a
2. God’s **P**resence is to be **R**evered - *the whole earth is full of His glory* Isa. 6:3b
3. God’s **P**lace is to be **R**espected – *for the place whereon thou standest is holy.*
4. **Jacob** **R**ecalled God’s Presence.Gen.28:16-22
5. His **R**egret: *Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not.*
6. His **R**ealisation:  *And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place!*

 *this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.* 22:17

1. His **R**ising up early: *And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it.* 28:18
2. His **R**esolution: *And he called the name of that place Bethel…And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on,*

*So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God:* 28:19-21

1. His **R**emembrance: *And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house:*

 *and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.* 28:22

1. **The Remembrance when in His Presence:**
2. The **R**eassurance of the Lord’s **P**resence: Matt. 18:20

*For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them.*

1. The **R**emembrance of His **P**erson at the Lord’s Supper: I Cor. 11:24-26
2. *…Take, eat: this is My* ***B****ody, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me.*
3. *…This cup is the new testament in My* ***B****lood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me.*
4. *For as often as ye eat this* ***B****read, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come.*

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 807**

1. The last three to four months saw Christians forbidden to meet in their usual meeting places. Consequently, most met online via the Zoom/Skype/or some other similar platform. This was indeed a good God-blessed alternative to what was forbidden them physically. They could not meet physically but they could still do so virtually for fellowship and worship.

The question then arises. Is the seemingly practised observance of the presence of God in a physical gathering still observed in a virtual meeting at home – the atmosphere of reverence, the feeling of being in a sacred place, the sense of needing to move about and to talk with sacred decorum under the impression that one is in the presence of God?

Consider the normal common norm of a physical gathering. A member of the church would attend the meeting punctually in his/her “Sunday best” (or at least respectfully dressed) and sit or stand respectfully when the service is on and some would be “solemnly quiet” believing that they are in the presence of God. There will be no unnecessary talking, doing something else other than worshipping and quietly occupied with God.

Contrast this with attendance at a virtual gathering with the attendees in their respective homes. Note that while the description here may not be typically true yet to some extent it may be generally true. Many at the meeting would off their video or “hide” under a still or blurred background to prevent others from observing what they are doing at home. Under that shelter, they would not be properly dressed as they would when attending a meeting in church, they would be moving around perhaps still busy with their chores, and skipping in and out of the meeting rather than following what is going on and personally contributing to the worship in their own way privately. Some may even be disturbed by children or even adults in the vicinity to do things at their request.

Under such circumstances, can one really feel the presence of God? Can one feel what was said to Moses, Joshua, Isaiah, etc. regarding their presence in the presence of God?

God *said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.*

Would it not be good practice to insist that those taking part in a virtual service on line not to blot out the video of themselves? And how should the leaders encourage the members taking part in such services to practise observing the presence of God? **REFLECT.**

1. **Isaiah 6:1-5 (HCSB)**  -

1  *In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne, and His robe filled the temple. 2  Seraphim were standing above Him; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.
3  And one called to another: Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Hosts; His glory fills the whole earth.
4  The foundations of the doorways shook at the sound of their voices, and the temple was filled with smoke.
5  Then I said: Woe is me for I am ruined because I am a man of unclean lips and live among a people of unclean lips, ⌊and⌋ because my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of Hosts.*

Consider how Isaiah felt in the Presence of God.

How do you feel and how should you behave in the presence of God? **REFLECT.**

**Points to Ponder*:***

*The* ***P****resence of God demands our****P****resence whenever* ***P****ossible and also our* ***P****resents.*