

Series Name: 'The 24 Things That You Are Doing Right and How to Use Those Things to Deepen Your Relationship with Christ

Month: December 2009

Message: Biblical Christian or Cultural Christian?

Isn't There Room For Both?

From the book 'The Man In The Mirror': 'Biblical Christian is someone who penetrates , understands and applies the word of God'

Job tries to penetrate and understand

Paralysis by analysis

Job 3:20 "Why is light given to those in misery

Job 4:17 "Can a mortal be more righteous than God?
Can a man be more pure than his Maker?



We do not have to worry about being just and pure

Rom 5:8 "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

But 42 chapters later – Job 'gets there'

: 3 "Surely I spoke of things I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me to know.

: 5 "My ears had heard of you
but now my eyes have seen you.

So after all of this 'back and forth' –of all of his penetrating it comes down to a simple acknowledgement

Luke 11:10

For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

So Morley defines the 'cultural Christian' as someone who pursues the God we want instead of the God who is

Culture threw a lot at Joseph ; attempted murder, sold into slavery, jail, running households for the Pharaoh, to being the ruler over all of the land (Gen 42:6)

It could have been/would have been easy for Joseph to pursue the God who he wanted

Gen 39:3

When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did,

Joseph saw the God who is and applied the word of God

In Gen 39:9 "How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?"

Again, focusing on the God who is

Gen 41:16 "God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires. "

It is easy in culture to NOT focus on the God who is:



Eph 2:8-9 "For it is by grace you have been saved,
through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of
God—not by works, so that no one can boast

Can we be both biblical – that is, to be well informed without being penetrating – as Joseph was (it is not in me, it is in God) and natural – Job 42:2 'I know that thou can do all things' ...

Can we make it that simple?