

**Seekers or Peepers: First Session****Grace Doctrine Church**

1821 South River Road • St. Charles, MO 63303

August 28, 2011

**“Seekers or Peepers”**

**Or, “Why all those books and tapes you gave out never got used.”**

Good morning! I have a question to ask you. It does not matter if you are here locally or watching by streaming video or on a DVD. Maybe you will hear this via mp3 but the question is the same, why are you here? Please answer that question to yourself, because it is critical that you understand your motivation for attending church or listening to a message on disk.

Several weeks ago, our Pastor, Bobby Thieme, made mention of the **Magi** who traveled from Persia seeking to worship the King of the Jews. He called them **“seekers of truth”**(**Ps.119:45 “I will walk around free because I sought out your doctrines.”**) He has used this terminology. These statements caused me to reflect for a moment on the many years I have traveled and presented the truth to thousands of teenagers as well as adults and how many actually were seeking answers. Most unfortunately, are just taking a peek into the spiritual side of life. **Curiosity is not + Volition! Curiosity must become conviction to be valid. Conviction must turn into Cognition if spiritual grow is to appear.** Here is where we find the difference between the winner and the loser. **Winners** are driven to learn and apply. **Losers** are content to dabble a little

before moving on. They just take a peek at the information before walking away. Usually they have an angle or a need that requires an instant solution, but they are not in it for the long haul. It requires too much effort **(it is not the effort but the lack of attention)** and does not allow for them to be the center of attention. **( Don't get me wrong, we all like to be noticed but I am speaking of those who want to be the center of attention at every function)**

One of the traits of the **HPD personality ( Histrionic personality disorder)** is attention seeking. They demonstrate an **excessive need for approval**. They can be lively and dramatic, even enthusiastic, but **they are seeking attention** from you. They are not in it for a lifestyle of learning and applying God's word. They have taken the material you offered but they were not seeking what you were suggesting. This may help explain why so few actually grow to become Pivot material. **(We thought there was a spark of +V but we were misled)**

Seeking is the favorite pastime of many people in America. As a matter of fact, I think we are an **addicted nation of seekers**.

For example, over at the mall across the street, many will come today seeking something. Some do not even know what they are seeking; they just want to fill an empty space in their lives. **"They spend money they don't have to buy things they don't need to impress people they don't even like."**

They call it, **"The American Dream."** People flock to America seeking happiness only to find it is a well-promoted mirage.

Some come seeking "Fame". Today's reality based shows are the perfect platform for instant "stardom." **American Idol**, and other talent based shows are the road to fame or a ticket to a lifetime of total humiliation and internet mockery.

Every year, thousands of young people flock to New York and Los Angeles, seeking to make it big in the entertainment business or the fashion world. Fortune and fame are promised to the brave seekers who risk all and give all in the illusive chase.

What they are seeking is a life of happiness with meaning and purpose. Some will find a career, some will lose their way but most will find the same thing John D. Rockefeller found when he said, **“I have made millions but they have brought me no happiness.”**

The purpose of this message is to encourage you in your search. The question I wish to ask is, **what are you seeking?**

In **First Chronicles 16** David penned a song of Thanksgiving for bringing the Ark of the Covenant to the tabernacle he had erected in Jerusalem. In **verse :11** we find these words, **“Seek the Lord and His strength, seek his face evermore.”** The NET Bible translates it, **“seek the Lord and the strength he gives! Seek his presence continually.”** The Hebrew word for **“seek”** is the **Qal Imperative of “DA RASH”** and it means to **“inquire of” “to consult”**. This is a direct command from God the Holy Spirit through King/Priest David. In the NT, the word **ZETEO/ za-te-o ζητέω** is used for seeking. This is done by thinking (**info in and info analyzed**), reasoning (**weighing the cost**), and praying (**under the F/HS**) then coming to a conclusion. God speaks through scripture. **Matt.6:33 “But seek (pres/act/imper) ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added PROSTITHEMI προστίθημι (fut/pass/indic) to you.”**

**Our first (seek ye first) mandate is to make Priority number one, seeking the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. ( the imputation of +R (II COR.5:21) to you through faith in Christ and his eventual righteous rule on this earth.)**

**There is a condition for seeking answers from God. Hebrews 11:6 “But without faith, it is impossible to please Him. For he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of them who diligently seek him.”**

**Faith...** This is a non-meritorious system of perception based on confidence in the authority and veracity of another. It is not based on ones on knowledge such as rationalism or empiricism. **Eph.2:8-**

9 “For by grace are you saved through faith and that not of yourselves: It is the gift of God (salvation) ...”

**MET...Randolph Yeager** “But without faith, to please him is impossible; because it is necessary that he who comes to God believes that He exist and that he is a rewarder of those who are always seeking to know more about him.”

### Let's get some principles down:

1. **Lost man is not seeking after God.** **Romans 3:11** “There are none who seek after God.” This passage is Paul quoting David when he wrote **Ps.14:2** “the Lord looks down from Heaven upon the children of men to see if there are any who understand, who seek God. **Vs :3** “they have all turned aside and together become corrupt.”
2. People will turn to God when in a jam but what they really want, is a quick way out! (Remember 9-11 and how full the churches were after the event)
3. The truth is God first loved you. We read in John's Gospel **Chapter 3 verse 16** “ For God so loved the world that he gave his uniquely born son so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life.”
4. He gave you the ability to know him, no matter whom you are or where you are located. **Romans 1:20** “since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse” **Ps.19** “The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech and night unto night reveals knowledge.”
5. When you finally realize there is a God who put all this together and controls it, you may want to know him. **Isaiah 55:6-7** “Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his ways and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord and He will have mercy on him and freely forgive them.”
6. The search to know him will lead to His anointed son, our Savior Jesus Christ. **John 14:6** “I am the way the truth and the life. No one

comes to the Father except through me” **Jn.10:9a** “I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved.” **Jn.6:47** “Most assuredly I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.”

7. The search starts with God consciousness (seeking to know God) and ends in a gospel hearing.

- a. Whenever there is positive volition at the point of God consciousness, there is always opportunity for Gospel hearing.
- b. Our Father sends missionaries to +V (**individuals or nations**) wherever it is located. **Our Pastor has made that clear in these last few weeks. (He reveals Himself to the seekers)** How does He do this??? **Through His Word!!** Missionaries carry the **Word of God (this is how He speaks)** to the indigenous population who are seeking to know Him. Bobby has clearly taught us that God reveals Himself through His Word (scripture). Without scripture, we never understand the God we seek to know. **PS.138:2 “For you have magnified your word above your name.”**

**Illustration:** Let me give you an example. In the Western Pacific, off the coast of mainland China lies an island known to you as Taiwan. The Portuguese who discovered it in 1590 called it “Formosa” (beautiful island). On that island lived native aborigines called “mountain people”. The natives had a spark of +V at God consciousness. In the early 1600’s Dutch missionaries came and ministered for over forty years. Men like George Candidus and Robert Junius had tremendous response to their message. Hundreds were converted, churches were planted and more than 5000 were baptized. God Consciousness responded to Gospel hearing. A small inconspicuous island was provided truth by our gracious God because He always honors +V. That island is still a haven of freedom in a region of demonic oppression through communist China. (Blessing by association)

So, as I said, faith is the condition required on our part if we expect direction from God. The equation is simple, **no faith=no answers.**

Listen to **Proverbs 8:17** “I love those who love me and those who **seek** (SHACHAR/ PIEL STEM (sha-khar) to seek early) **me early will find me.**”

**SEEK HIM EARLY (before the distractions of the day)**

**PS. 63:1** “O God, thou art my God, **early I will seek thee, my soul thirst for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a land where no water is.**” (Jn.4:14 “but whoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst, but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life”.

**Seeking God our Father is akin to seeking Wisdom. One of the amazing results of meeting God is acquiring wisdom.**

The passage I am about to read is a hymn of praise about the wonder of “WISDOM” In this passage; “**wisdom**” is a metaphor for God. Listen to **Prov.8:23** “**I have been established from everlasting, from the beginning before there was ever an earth.**”

Now here is the mandate from “Wisdom”: **Prov.8:32** “**listen to me my children, for happiness belongs to those keep my ways. (Our Lord taught this in Luke 11:27-28)** “**Hear instruction and be wise, do not disdain it (ignore or treat with contempt) vs :35 “whoever find me finds life and obtains favor from the Lord”** Then the warning from “WISDOM” (GOD) “**but he who sins against me, wrongs his own soul; and those who hate me love death.**”

**Principle:** Whenever you offer doctrine or doctrinal resources to someone, be it your child or an acquaintance, you are offering wisdom that leads to ultimate contentment and happiness.

**Question:** Why would anyone reject the opportunity to have what could guarantee them a life of happiness?? One word, **Arrogance!**

**Prov. 28:5b** “**those who seek the Lord understand all.**”

**Prov. 30:5** “**every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in him.**”