## **Seeking the Lord (Quality: Good)**

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Date: 24 January 2016

Preacher: Seymour, Gordon (1928-2017)

[0:00] Let us commence our worship this morning with hymn number 796, Tunis Palestrina 605.

When we pray, or when we sing, or read, or speak, or hear, or do any holy thing, be this our constant care, with a fixed and constant faith, Jesus Christ to keep in view, trusting wholly in his death, in all we ask or do, holiness in all its parts, affections placed above, self-abhorrence, contrite hearts, humility and love, every virtue, every grace, all that bears the name of good, perseverance in our race, we draw from the Jesus blood.

796 When we pray, or when we sing, or we don't speak, or hear, or hear, or hear, the holy thing, may it is our power, set and fair, may the riches and false and faith, Jesus Christ to keep in view, trusting all we in his name, in all we ask for you.

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Let the Spirit be raised, praise the Lord Jesus Christ.

[3:51] Let the God in the earth rise, all that is the name of God.

Thou art faithful, true and just, and love is to be.

Amen

Where all things brighter each time Read this morning from the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 6.

The sixth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew. Take heed that ye do not your arms before men, to be seen of them.

Otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. Therefore when thou doest of thine arms, do not stand a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the sinophones and in the streets, that they may have glory of men.

Therefore I say unto you, they have their reward. But when thou doest arms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth, that thine arms may be in secret, and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.

When thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men.

Verily I say unto you, they have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to the Father which is in heaven, which is in secret, and thy Father which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.

When ye pray, here is not vain repetitions, as the heathen do, for they think that they shall be heard, for they are much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them, for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

[7:09] After this manner, therefore pray ye, our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Moreover, when ye fast, be not as the hypocrites of a sad countenance, for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast.

Verily I say unto you, they have their reward. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face, that thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father, which is in secret, and thy Father, which see it in secret, shall reward thee openly.

[8:37] Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal.

But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. The light of the body is the eye. If therefore thine eye be single, my whole body shall be full of light.

But if thine eye be evil, my whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness.

No man can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one, and love the other, or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other.

[9:41] You cannot soon serve God and mammon. Therefore I say unto you, take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, for what ye shall drink, nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on.

Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air, for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns.

Yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking forth and add one cubit under his stature?

Why take ye forth for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow, they toil not, neither do they spin.

And yet I say unto you, that even Solomon, in all his glory, was not arrayed like one of these. wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye little fay?

[10:56] Therefore take no thought, saying, what shall we eat, or what shall we drink, wherewithal shall we be clothed? For after all these things do the Gentiles seek.

For your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. that seek ye first, the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.

Take therefore no thought for the morrow, for the morrow shall take thought, for the things of itself, sufficient unto the day, is the evil thereof.

And the Lord bless his word, and help us now in prayer. Kind and ever-versive God, through mercy we are brought again into this banqueting house.

Dear friends, Lord, at Horthor, at Rhydon, also in their homes. And we do pray, Lord, that thou truly favour us to be in the Spirit.

[12:13] We've had those natural things, Lord, that have been a hindrance, maybe, to our arriving. And yet, Lord, thou hast watched over us each, and brought us here.

And we do pray, Lord, that we might sit down under thy shadow, with great delight, to feed upon the blessed, yet simple truths of the gospel, in that might be set our affections upon things above.

And how can we do that, Lord, as sinners, unless thy blessed Spirit enlightens and enlivens us, and exercises us, to pray unto thee, in a time when thou mayst be found.

O do deliver us, Lord, from their slackness, from their slothfulness, and grant, Lord, that thou truly favour us to feel the input of the Spirit, taking the things of Jesus and applying them, that our eye might be single, that our whole body might be full of that light, that Jesus Christ is the light of the world, to shine into our dark recesses of our heart, and to pour, Lord, upon us, with those blessings of grace from on high.

Whatever our age or our case may be, how we need, Lord, the grace to seek thee, and to find rest for our souls. We have, Lord, our ailments may be.

[13:48] We have those things, Lord, to perplex and dry our minds. O help us, Lord, to lay them aside. May we realise how secondary they are compared to that primary need of the Lord Jesus Christ to give us a clean heart, to renew a right spirit within us, to come with thankfulness and praises, Lord, for thy day, and the inclination of our hearts to come and hear the word of truth, or that word that endure forever.

O Lord, we are such feeble hearers who do unstop our death here and do open our hearts, whatever our age is, and give us faith and believe that they are unable to do far more exceeding abundantly above all that we are able to ask or think, such as the infinite wisdom of God, and to realise, Lord, that all power is in thy hands, to reach forth to all the corners of the earth where thou hast been chosen over the vessel here and there to receive the word.

But as we join together, we do pray, Lord, thy blessing upon our causes. We know when minister brought low afforded the sovereign will of God, that they were able to revive us, they were able to confirm us, they were able to drive out the buyers and the sellers that we might be peaceful and alone.

O do it, the prayers, the silent prayers offered up, Lord, for a time of love that they would be sold upon each and every one in due time, the blessing of the Lord that maketh rich and added no sorrow thereto.

So we do thank thee, Lord, for thy goodness to us in bringing us here and pray, Lord, our blessed too wherever we are found around my word this day.

[15:51] And, Lord, we do pray too to remember in mercy this guilty laden nation, full, Lord, of pleasure, full of the lust of the flesh and pride of life.

O do, subdue it in our own hearts that we might truly by faith see Jesus and feel him to be the one thing needful to comfort their troubled hearts and say to us, be still and know the dying God, the God of all our circumstances, the God who guards us hearing ears, receptive hearts, do not leave us or forsake us because of their sins but shine through the gloom, Lord, and bless us with their grace to endure the even hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ.

Hear, now, Lord, we do pray the appetitions and the silent petitions and bless us together as we gather round my word that there might be a few hands for the purpose fall into our very souls.

Thank me, Lord, for the return of their deacon and ask thy blessing upon him. Lord, do be with each of our friends in their various circumstances of life that they might, Lord, hear thy voice, comforted and blessed indeed and help to continue.

Do now, Lord, forgive our sin and we ask of this for Christ's sake alone. Amen. Let us further sing hymn 765, the tune is Jackson's 163.

[17:47] And does thy heart the Jesus pine and make its secret moan? He understands the side divine and marks a secret groan. These pinings prove that Christ is near to testify his grace.

and cast our care upon him it's a pathway of tribulation it's a pathway where there's down sittings and uprisings and thoughts are far off but with faith we believe he knows and the simple humble way that the Lord Jesus preached this sermon what an example which we all as preachers fall short of but yet we would pray for that help of his spirit to believe as we read this morning this morning that he knoweth he knoweth what we're each in need of we get very cast down we even ponder sometimes is he there to hear don't you know something of this unbelief don't you know something when you doubt the reality there are things of God's presence that his eye is upon you that his ear is open to your cry and this isn't the word of God yet how can you and I believe unless he has manifested himself to us we dare not deny deny that he knows the way because we have been taught through the truth that it's his word though the bible is denied by many in the world and there are those that would try and analyse it and tear it to pieces but blessed be the Lord for that faith that you and I have and so there's not showing off before men that we're honouring

God but to be given grace that if it be the Father's will Jesus will come with a blessing upon their souls and to not be as the hypocrites who love to pray standing in the synagogues as it reads here in the corners of the street that they may be seen of men because he says they have their reward for many in the day and age that we live in that seem to be full of self-importance in religion but as the Lord deals with you and me as sons and daughters of God we know what it is even to seek the Lord to lay those matters before the sudden afflictions the sudden trials the disappointments and dashed hopes in life the circumstances in our families the lack of repentance among some of them that causes us much exercise of soul because we know different by what we've been taught but we cannot point a finger at them because there went you there went I and there we go you and go I when we might be tempted and attracted by the things of the world but blessed be the Lord because he does say and about these secondary things they'll all be added unto you such is the faithfulness of the Lord

Jesus Christ and such we would acknowledge his goodness and so he says you cannot serve God and mammon but we have to say bless the Lord my soul that all within me join and aid my tongue to bless his name whose favours are divine and his divine teaching of the spirit to number our days to apply our hearts unto wisdom and to forgive those that trespass against us and that can be a hard thing to forgive some that have insulted you and be very opposite to you and me in our ways and our pathway what a mercy to be given this grace the evidence that the Lord has a favour towards us and will never leave nor forsake us so it's asking and he tells you and me and it might be a word for the young ones especially our young friends up at

Ride that how we are to pray how we are to pray when thou pray hast enter into thy closet and when thou shut thy door pray to thy father which is in secret my father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly not to use vain repetition and yet you see how many do make the Lord's prayer vain repetition but so their hearts not in it and so we see the necessity of praying nothing is too great for the Lord nothing too small I think of our young people in their education in their early years and their growing up years in the difficult days that they encounter and the lack of teaching the truth by the scriptures in schools with what a mercy that the

Lord is able as we as we shut ourselves in in their closet as we as we come to a quiet place on our own and venture to ask God to see God and to knock upon the door of mercy that he might favor you and me with answers and we older friends still dependent upon a spirit of grace and of supplication to call upon me in the day of trouble and I will deliver thee and thou should glorify me such is the blessing of the gospel dear friends that we're never there's never anything too hard to pray for that the Lord would draw us give us a new heart exercise our minds in lifting up our hearts to heaven not literally this is actually actually girding up your mind that you might be laid upon your mind to pray to be prayerful to be exercised in your mind with those thoughts that you trust are heaven brought and pray that as the Lord

Jesus has bidden you and me to seek him you pray Lord for a place in the kingdom kingdom of pure where pure enjoyment reigns and not to be praying to man praying to God there is anything too hard for him to deal with you and me in our difficulties and you will meet difficulties in life's journey and will to the end of our time but nevertheless we don't stand on the street corners we want to certainly go into the corner dear friends in our lives in those spots and places where things seem to be too hard for us to humble ourselves and seek the Lord while he may be found and in the kingdom of God we shall realise as sinners that these things confront us in life and to be enabled to seek his righteousness when you and I think dear friends what words flow out of our mouth that are of the earth earthy but all to be enabled for the

Lord to lighten our darkness and pour in a spirit of grace and of supplication that we might ponder the paths of their feet that we might look to Jesus and see something of his holiness and sovereignty and majesty that is needed to be imputed to you and need to cover all our sins and our transgressions tokens that some of you can feel you received of his everlasting love blessed be the Lord so you see like he says about the Gentiles as their thoughts are saying what shall we eat or what shall we drink or where with all shall we be clothed but he said take therefore no thought for the morrow we need then to live truly a day at a time though we certainly try and make plans for their future for the

Lord to realise a day at a time but we know not what a day may bring forth but to be brought to the Lord's throne of grace believing that he sits on no precarious throne neither does he borrow leave to be this kingdom this is a perfect kingdom a pure delight where pure enjoyment reigns and all to be favoured to know something of that imputed righteousness the forgiveness of your sins and mine the evidence that you're born of God and that your treasure is above seeking them so we need the Lord to draw us do we not we need him to make himself attractive to ourselves his word to be attractive to realise that the Lord has granted us a humble home that he will cover with the mantle of his forgiving love all our sins and all our transgressions and how did he do that why he shed his blood on Calvary's tree and that blood cleansed it it's a fountain open for sin and uncleanness and now we read of a dying thief somebody reminded me from England on one evening in the week and

I said yes but there were two dying thieves there was one rewarded and one you know was punished for his sins and were no different one from another but all to have that blessed hope the Lord has taught you to seek a place in the kingdom a place of pure delight where pure enjoyment reigns and so he knowed he had needed these things yes they seek these things as he said all these things do the Gentiles see for your heavenly father knoweth he in need of all these things but he will be quite a day when he quite himself of the Lord and his difficulties then why not you why not me we know he was a king but he had a never dying soul and he could not take his kingdom to heaven but he needed to be in the kingdom of God the kingdom of God dear friends the kingdom of heaven which suffereth violence and the violent take it by force such will be the exercise of your soul

Lord draw me work in my heart both of will and do my good pleasure but show me a token manifest to me the love of Christ if you're shown the love of Christ your blessing for it his kingdom the kingdom of God is within you when he speaks to your heart and mind when he touches your heart when he shows you a token when you feel this is the Lord's doing is marvellous in your eyes what he has done for my soul yes you will have punishment for sin and but we need it sanctified to us to make us more willing in the day of his power to seek him the single eye that your whole body might be full of the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ Jesus what a refuge then for you and for me is to seek a place in the kingdom and for him to include to you his robe of righteousness lest the shadow of a spark shall not your soul be found he takes the robe the saviour brought and casts it all around that's what we need of poor needy seeking more than there is none your tongue and faith are first that either

Lord will hear them have we any evidence in our lives of the answers of prayer it's brought to our remembrance many occasions the Lord has seen our tears he's heard our weeping and our supplication and he's appeared to us and for us when there are things those impossible things that come upon us this God as you've honoured him will honour you and you bless him for him but seek him in all our ways to acknowledge him yes you shall have these things addled up he's determined what he will provide for you in life shall we and has he not provided for you will he not provide you and me but honour him and seek him with the whole heart that he may favour you with a token of his love my sheep hear my voice and God

I come dear friends as a poor sheep we know sheep have no life eternal life but he's he's likening sheep unto poor sinners sinners as unto poor sheep and they're brought to feel their dependence upon the good shepherd of the sheep my sheep hear my voice and so will you hear his voice he teaches you to seek the law he teaches you to realise the vital necessity of having a place in this kingdom of having a covering for all your sins his imputed righteousness righteousness and so he takes the robe and casts it all around as we said just now evidences of the promises these first things first in your life what a mercy even in your younger years to be enabled to bring your hard things your impossible things to the

Lord he makes a way for you where there seems to be no way and as he gives you a providential blessing so you realise this is the hand of God this is the voice of the Lord shepherd who says come follow me and the aim of your soul is to know that he has called your name to be recorded in the Lamb's fair book of life and look to him for that wisdom and guidance from above and his dealings with you and me down through life's journey and we come to the end of our lives to be favoured with that abundant entrance into this kingdom kingdom of immense delight where pure enjoyment we can't imagine what pure enjoyment is can we there are so many upon the earth that think they've had an enjoyable time but this is pure enjoyment this is perfect love which casts out fear this is the love of Christ which is rich and free fixed on his own eternally and so will he not give you me faith to believe it the substance of things hoped for the evidence of those things that are not seen and he says look unto me or the ends of the earth salvation how vital it is to be delivered dear friends from hell the place dear friends where all the wicked will go even if they have acted in a religious way it's what the Lord has persuaded your soul to believe in because he says all that the father giveth me shall come to me and him that cometh unto me

I will in no wise cast out oh this is the secret dear friends of your life's success in walking in the fear of the Lord in bringing your hard things here try it whatever promise the Lord gives you and gives you here try it this tribulation the Lord himself has said it they have good cheer he says in the world you'll have tribulation they have good cheer I've overcome the world we find difficult don't we how to answer those in the world that dispute their religion that dispute religion generally you know not how to tackle some of these people that seem to be a head full of knowledge high and mighty in their religion full of self-righteousness and pride but we don't need to argue with them we need dear friends to hold fast that that we believe in that Jesus has said come unto me all ye that labour and have elated

I will give thee thanks it's the burden and cares of this world where you and me down maybe at times but see this the Lord says seek ye first the priority as we started out with of knowing the Lord Jesus of receiving his word believing in his word and searching his word he said to the Jews search the scriptures when ye think ye have eternal life we want to more than think we have eternal life we want to know it we want the Lord to give us a promise and whatsoever that promise is given you and me it will be tried you'll have fiery trials with even with your earthly things that he's added to you he will supply your need according to his riches in glory by Christ

Jesus but in supplying those things you'll be tempted and tried because Satan will follow the blessing with very much authority in what he knows but he has no love he has no love dear friends of the Lord he has no love to Jesus his believers but he does his utmost dear friends to try you and me to be even despairing this is when faith works in your it's how everyone that disappears of life but you had something that's drawn you to follow him haven't you not have you not and so he draws you and the Lord you know that where sin has abounded and doesn't have grace shall much more abound grace is sufficient strength made perfect in weakness you glory in your infirmities because had you not real infirmities sanctified you wouldn't be praying would you they go together trials make the promise sweet trials give new life to prayer trials bring me to his feet to lay me alone keep me there you know you won't be very high and mighty in your religion you'll be very cast down when wilt thou come

Lord and drive out this enemy of my soul who's so active tempting me trying me alluring me drawing me aside but the Lord's allurements are more powerful I will lure them into the wilderness and speak comfortably unto them this is what the Lord will do if you seek him with the whole heart and your will so despairing to I mean you have no other thoughts Jesus revealed I love to me show me it open drive out this devilish thing that tempts me and allures me and tries me deliver me from the wilderness that can soon allure me and draw me aside from the love of Christ for where I need Lord to serve thee and not mammon you cannot serve God and mammon it be divided in your loyalties and so will I and this is a temptation to your that we we've set our loyalties dear friends from one and the other or we have to say

Lord do me my refuge in my stream my desires are all before thee feeble they may be wicked and weak though I am those feeble desires as Jesus inspires it still causes you and me to seek and this is what we want to seek that the Lord knoweth all things concerning you and me in this morning hour he knows what sore temptations mean for he has felt the same and he is the same toward you and me and you may say with the Lord's prayer thy kingdom come thy kingdom come thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven we need grace to say that don't we we need grace to read that prayer I believe it's so glibly used

I feel it's truth we know but when the spirit applies it this won't be repetition this will be a blessed time when Jesus puts the words in your mouth what you are to pray for in your closet no one near to hear you no one near to answer you but Jesus only and he does barely exist the other truth he exists and he will come and honour them that try to seek him with the whole heart and above all they know that to seek the kingdom of God they want his imputed righteousness to cover all your sins and mine all those sins of past present and yet to come because this is the security of your soul and mine to know the truth and the truth to free you me from the condemnation of the broken law dear

Jesus shine into my heart speak to one only make the crooked things straight and rough places plain and the darkness light before you before me and so we don't want to blow trumpets do we do not sound a trumpet when thou doest thine arms we don't want to show the world what we do do we we want to go to our closets we want those secret moments of rest in prayer that wonders do bring relief in deepest trace prayer can force the passage through iron bars and blazing gate you know the Lord knows your heart this morning young or old what a mercy if he's changed your heart or he's changing it beginning to make you to realise the word becomes a lamp to your feet and a light to your path in those difficult situations you see all men have trials but some know not

God they won't happen to reign over him or over them they want to do all the flesh inspires them to do in the world but all to be seeking to seek him to know his will in the pathway you take in your in your education in your early days in the in the world seeking employment seeking to live honourably to take up those things dear friends that are God honouring and not to be left in the devilish businesses of the world such as they're going on around us dear friends but to see that the Lord will guide you by his counsel and afterwards receive you in the glory so you see we we won't act just with a sad countenance or a hypocrite who disfigure their faces that they may appear unto men to fast he says spirely I say unto you they have reward we are to appear not unto men to fast but unto thy father or where we do need to be delivered from an act of religion but to feel to be worth to walk worthily of him and to see to know and do his will and to be favoured to receive his crumbs at the master's table that encourages you to see he says pour not on myself to long lest it seek me lower look to

Jesus kind and strong mercy joy of power for I am the Lord I change not therefore his sons of Jacob are not consumed he's a saviour and he saves unto the uttermost all those that come to God by him is this where you're looking don't look to your treasures that the Lord has bestowed upon you whether little or great upon you that won't save your soul what shall a man give in exchange for his soul the gold and the silver are his the cattle upon a thousand hills love we hear of some man has spent a great many millions upon a lady what is that what is that dear friends to be this is what we want this treasure in an earthen vessel that the essence of power may be of God and not of us look to Jesus how solemn to live a life dear friends of reasoning and carnal reasoning seeking to get gain that will never do us any good when it comes to our death it's the love of

Christ dear friends it's those tokens that he has spoken revealed to you and me to make you wise unto salvation pour not on thyself too long lest it seekly love look to Jesus kind and strong mercy joy and power for the Lord to know the Lord's love but he's gone to prepare a place for you and come again receive you unto himself that where he is shall ye be forever what is this world of you and me it is but a short space of time all is vanity of vexation of spirit yes we have a kind of mind and we're interested in these things we want that separation the object of your souls is Jesus crucified for me he says come all the gracious impitations of the gospel such as for you and me seek the

Lord while he may be found and call upon his name in the day of trouble and his righteousness shall be imputed son thy sins are forgiven thee daughter thy faith is saven going peace you can't buy it it's without money and without price oh everyone the thirst is coming to the waters he that hath no money buy ye milk and money without price wherefore does she spend money for that that's not we know we need money as a cash as a dear friends as a token in the world but the Lord knows you're in need of he knows what you're in need of before you ask a thing bring your hard things to me he says and I will hear them blessed Jesus but seek ye first seek ye first a minister wrote it in their bible my first marriage the kingdom of

God didn't know much about it then I hope I know a little more because I feel to mourn my ignorance but there are those things and you will have received them they shall to sell that the Lord might favour you to guide you by his counsel and afterwards receive it glory well I have but there is none upon earth that I desire beside them we love our families of course we do but how much is the love of Christ the love of Christ dear friends revealed to you will get your place in the kingdom of a pure delight where pure enjoyment reigns or may we ever be seeking this place seeking the Lord while he may be fair call upon him while he is near and it says all these things shall be added unto you and

Why dost thou now give thanks to us be there?

Now Jews have bought his Hebrew God Now his Son Until and I In heaven's trouble yet we know, as he continues to live my hope, and as he nor his promise, that thou shalt prove the love of God that thou art.

[58:55] He who has done the native and dead, will help me all thy daddy's bruise, and give me many woes to raise.

Amen.

Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.