

SHEPHERD'S COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday ABF – January 13

“The Knowledge of the Holy”

by A.W. Tozer

PREFACE

“Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” Psalm 46:10

If you don't have a copy of Tozer's book, you can read the Preface online @
www.heavendwellers.com/hdt_knowledge_of_the_holy.htm

1) Pastor Tozer opens by saying “True religion confronts earth with heaven and brings eternity to bear upon time.” What do you think of this statement? (You don't need to write an extensive answer—jot down a few thoughts and be prepared to share them in class.)

2) Tozer writes, “The Church has surrendered her once lofty concept of God and has substituted for it one so low, so ignoble, as to be utterly unworthy of thinking, worshipping men.” (See Isaiah 63:17.) Do you agree? If you agree, to what extent do you believe this to be true of the Church today? (Tozer penned this book in 1961 or 47 years ago!) Do you think that you (or our church) have substituted a high view of God for one too low of Him in any way?

3a) “The low view of God entertained almost universally among Christians is the cause of a hundred lesser evils everywhere among us.” What are the “hundred lesser evils” Pastor Tozer is referring to? Are you (or are we as a church) guilty of any of these lesser evils? If so, what is the solution for us?

3b) A hundred years ago or more, the term “Christian” was synonymous with “God-fearing person.” Do you think that most people today who attend church are “God-fearing” individuals? (See Acts 9:31.) How do you know if you are a God-fearing person?

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4) A.W. Tozer also claims that, in general, we Christians “have lost our spirit of worship” and that “modern Christianity is simply not producing the kind of Christian who can appreciate or experience the life in the Spirit.” Do you think we have lost our spirit of worship? Our study of the Holy Spirit last semester, and our ongoing efforts to “be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18), will be necessary to increase in our “knowledge of the Holy.”

5) Finally, Dr. Tozer states that “a rediscovery of the majesty of God will go a long way toward curing them. It is impossible to keep our moral practices sound and our inward attitudes right while our idea of God is erroneous or inadequate. If we would bring back spiritual power to our lives, we must begin to think of God more nearly as He is.” Do you agree? Why or why not?

Aiden Wilson Tozer (April 21, 1897 - May 12, 1963) “Born in La Jose (now Newburg), a tiny farming community in western Pennsylvania....In 1919, five years after his conversion, and without formal theological training, Tozer accepted an offer to pastor his first church. This began forty four years of ministry, associated with the Christian and Missionary Alliance (C&MA), a Protestant evangelical denomination; thirty three of those years were served as a pastor in a number of churches....Tozer served as pastor for thirty years at Southside Alliance Church in Chicago (1928 to 1959), and the final years of his life were spent as pastor of Avenue Road Church in Toronto, Canada. Living a simple and non-materialistic lifestyle, he and his wife, Ada Cecelia Pfautz, never owned a car, preferring bus and train travel. Even after becoming a well-known Christian author, Tozer signed away much of his royalties to those who were in need.” Wikipedia

“What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things” (Philippians 3:8).