

WANT TO GET GOD'S ATTENTION?

1 Corinthians 1:17-2:2 Isaiah 66:1-2

Introduction: "Hey You!" "Pssst!" "Look at Me!" are just some of the words used to get one's attention. Children do things that often bring them punishment just to get a parent or teacher's attention. So, how does one go about getting God's attention? So much of what is done, or what is valued is opposite of God and is simply not God's way. Much is done by people "in the name of God" such as raising money and spending it for "godly" things, building buildings, seminars, studies, projects, rituals, ceremonies, creeds, confessions, and even laws imposed, all exclaiming for "god's glory." So, what exactly does get God's attention?

I. SOME THINGS DONE THAT DO NOT GET GOD'S ATTENTION:

1. All the beautiful, impressive, church buildings, ornate cathedrals, family life centers, "houses of worship" and such things don't get God's attention for "the heaven is His throne and the earth His footstool", so, just what can man build that is more impressive?
 - The decorative crosses, stained glass and such impress people but religious things don't.
2. Tithes, offerings and sacrifices brought which people bring to God don't get His attention.
 - God commanded such to be done in the first place, and to do so is simply obeying what God has already ordained, so those things are already expected.
 - Besides, just what kind of sacrifice would one make that God needs?
 - It is an honor for man to be allowed to enter the presence of God anyhow.
3. Rituals, ceremonies, special days, "holy days," and keeping the Sabbath are not going to get God's attention.
 - Keeping the Sabbath (or Sunday for the Christian) is a commandment to begin with.
 - God has warned through one of His preachers (Paul) about those things not being important. (Colossians 2:16)
4. Repeating the Lord's Prayer 47 times won't get God's attention, nor will long, finely worded, fancy prayers get His attention either.
 - God had rather a person get in a closet, shut the door, and there in the darkness and quietness of that little closet, the Two have a heart to heart talk.
5. Doing "righteous" deeds won't get God's attention. Jesus has already mentioned that "unless one's righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, it won't make any difference to God..." (Matthew 5:20).
 - God has already said that the righteousness of people are like filthy rags in His sight. He even calls them "dead works" that need to be repented of and left alone.
6. Fancy dressed, and self-important people in pulpits don't get God's attention.
 - How was John the Baptist dressed? How was Jesus dressed?
 - Appearance won't get God's attention.

II. WHAT DOES GET GOD'S ATTENTION?

1. Any body who is interested in God Word!
 - It was God's Word that created.
 - It is by God's Word that things are held in place.
 - It was God's Word that revealed Jesus Christ.
 - It is by God's Word that people are convicted of sin.
 - It is by God's Word that faith is given.
 - It is by God's Word that salvation is given.
 - It is by God's Word that man has hope of eternal life.
 - It is by God's Word that man is ASSURED of eternal life.
 - Anybody whose attention is turned to God's Word, gets God's Attention.

2. Anybody who stops trying to earn and begins to LEAN on God's GRACE gets God's attention.
 - God's Grace made the way for man's eternal salvation.
 - God's Grace chooses those to be invited into His Family.
 - God's Grace keeps those who become His Family.
 - Anybody who depends upon God's Grace and not his/her own works for salvation gets God's attention.

3. When someone appreciates, loves and obeys His Son, Jesus, that gets God's attention.
 - God's love for the world has been expressed through His Son, Jesus.
 - Man's salvation is the result of what God's Son, Jesus did.
 - Anybody who turns to God's Son, Jesus is going to get God's attention.

4. When God's Family, the Church, is recognized/honored, that gets God's attention.
 - Everything God has done has been for His Family.
 - Creation
 - Cross, Resurrection
 - Holy Spirit's Indwelling
 - Eternity in Heaven with God and His Son, Jesus.
 - Whenever God's Family/Church is loved and cared for, it gets God's attention.

5. Anything done to bring honor to God gets His attention.
 - The angels sing bringing honor to God.
 - The creation brings honor to God.
 - Jesus brought honor to God.
 - The Holy Spirit brings honor to God.
 - "...whatsoever is done in word or in deed done to honor God" gets God's attention.

CONCLUSION:

1. What gets God's attention? Interest in His Word, His Grace, His Son, His Family/Church.
2. God's ways and thoughts are not like anybody else's. Do it His way and it will get His attention.