

LIMITING GOD
Text: Psalm 78:35-41

INTRO: In O.T. times, God sought to bless Israel, both physically and spiritually, but Israel missed many of the blessings that could have been hers by her disobedience of the will of God. The same principle has always been valid.

I. ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS & SOME PHYSICAL BLESSINGS CAN BE REFUSED.

A. Christ wanted to bless Israel during His earthly ministry.
Matt 23:37-38, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! 38 See! Your house is left to you desolate.

B. He wanted to bless the RYR with everlasting life.
Mark 10:21, Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, & said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me."

C. Jesus healed individuals who desired to be healed.
When Jesus saw [a man who had been infirm for 38 years] lying there, & knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" (John 5:6).

D. God wants all men to understand His will. Eph 3:4; MT 5:6

John 7:17, If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.

II. MANY CHRISTIANS LIMIT GOD TODAY.

A. By unforgiveness. READ MARK 11:25-26.

B. By not praying. James 4:2. READ MATTHEW 7:7-11

Prodigal son, Luke 15:29-32.

C. By not giving as we should. Matt. 6:33

Luke 6:38, Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom.

Mal 3:8-10, "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.

III. THE UNSAVED LIMIT GOD BY NOT COMING TO CHRIST IN OBEDIENCE TO HIS GOSPEL.

But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life. (John 5:40).

The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son & sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding: & they were not willing to come (Matthew 22:2-3).

A. Many limit God by not believing in Christ. JN 3:16-18.

John 8:21, 24

B. Many limit God by not repenting of their sins. 2 Pet 3:9;

Acts 17:30-31; Acts 11:18 (r. to life)

C. Some limit God by unwillingness to acknowledge Jesus in the presence of others. JN 12:42; MT 10:32-33

MK 8:38; ROM. 10:10

D. Many limit God by refusing to submit to baptism for the remission of sins.

But the Pharisees & lawyers rejected the will of God
for themselves, not having been baptized by him.
(Luke 7:30).

READ ROM 6:3-5 - Eph. 1:3; MK 16:16; 1 Pet 3:21

La Porte, TX, June 13, 1976
Humphrey, AR, July 19, 1976 (meeting)
Texas City, TX, December 2, 1976
Cedar Park, TX, May 31, 1977 (meeting)
Springhill, LA, October 23, 1980 (meeting)
Shiloh, Mexia, TX, October 29, 1980 (lectureship)
Exton, PA, September 23, 1984
Exton, PA, June 3, 1990
Shiloh, Mexia, TX, July 7, 1996
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, April 11, 2004