

Are there "Seekers"?



ARE THERE "SEEKERS"?

Selected Scripture

THE BEATLES' REVOLUTION

- ▶ A relational revolution: "With a little help from my Friends!"
- ▶ A financial revolution: "Help."
- ▶ A spiritual revolution: "Nowhere Man."
- ▶ A job revolution: "A Hard Day's Night."



"THE CHURCH GROWTH MOVEMENT"

- ▶ The basic concept has been around since Finney.
- ▶ Use the right marketing methods, and you can build a church.
- ▶ Charles Finney: "there is nothing in religion beyond the ordinary powers of nature. A revival is not a miracle, nor dependent on a miracle, in any sense. It is a purely philosophical result of the right use of the constituted means ... A revival is as naturally a result of the use of means as a crop is of the use of its appropriate means." [Lectures on Revivals of Religion, 4-5]



"THE CHURCH GROWTH MOVEMENT"

- ▶ The move toward creating church growth began in earnest in our times at the beginning of the 1950s and 1960s.
 - ▶ Bus ministries
 - ▶ "If you want to grow your church, bus in the kids and the parents will soon follow."
- ▶ In the 1970s church musicals came along that were designed to attract young people.
 - ▶ The philosophy was, "if you attract young people in their formative years, you will keep them in the church as they mature, and you may attract their families as well."

"THE CHURCH GROWTH MOVEMENT"

- ▶ In the 1980s, Bill Hybels, pastor of Willow Creek Community Church in the suburbs of Chicago, started a new form of church growth.
 - ▶ He referred to it as "seeker-sensitive services."
 - ▶ The basic idea was that there are millions of non-Christians out there who are seeking the truth.
 - ▶ The services of the church should be designed to attract them, and once you attract them, you can begin to influence them with the gospel.

REAL CHURCH GROWTH

- ▶ Jesus promised his church would grow.
 - ▶ Matt. 16:18 – I will build my church.
 - ▶ Rev. 5:9 – every tongue, peoples and nations.
 - ▶ Matt. 13:31-33 – the parables of the mustard seed and the leaven predict that the church will experience great growth.

Are there "Seekers"?

I. GOD GRACIOUSLY INVITES—EVEN COMMANDS—MEN TO SEEK HIM.

- ▶ [Is. 55:6ff](#)
- ▶ Heb. 11:6 - 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 those who seek Him.
- ▶ [Acts 17:26-27](#)
- ▶ [Rom. 1:18-20ff](#)

II. THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE WHO APPEAR TO BE GENUINELY SEEKING GOD.

- ▶ [Is. 58:1-9](#)
 - ▶ Seeking external religion without any true change of life and heart.
- ▶ [John 5:39ff](#)
 - ▶ Seeking eternal life from God, not through His Son, but by their own efforts.
- ▶ [John 6:24-26](#)
 - ▶ Seeking temporal blessings.
- ▶ [John 11:56ff](#)
 - ▶ Seeking Jesus as a form of entertainment.
 - ▶ Cf. [Ezek. 33:30-33](#)

III. THERE ARE NO TRUE SEEKERS WITHOUT DIVINE INTERVENTION.

- ▶ [John 6:44, 65](#)
- ▶ [Rom. 3:10ff](#)
 - ▶ From Ps. 14:2-3, 53:2-3
 - ▶ 10 – our morals are corrupt
 - ▶ 11a – our intellects are corrupt
 - ▶ 11b – our wills are corrupt
 - ▶ 12 – our behavior is corrupt
 - ▶ 13-14 – our mouths reveal our depravity.
 - ▶ 15 – we are prone to violence
 - ▶ 16 – we damage and destroy whatever we touch.
 - ▶ 17 – our lives are filled with conflict
 - ▶ 18 – there is an inherent lack of submission to, reverence for, worship of, and obedience to the true and living God.

IV. GOD IS ALWAYS THE ONE WHO SEEKS.

- ▶ [Gen. 3:7-10](#)
- ▶ John 4:23 - "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.
- ▶ Rom. 10:20 - And Isaiah is very bold and says, "I WAS FOUND BY THOSE WHO DID NOT SEEK ME, I BECAME MANIFEST TO THOSE WHO DID NOT ASK FOR ME."
- ▶ God was in Christ, seeking sinners.
 - ▶ Luke 19:10 - "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."