

BEGINNING AT THE END OF OURSELVES

Chapter 3

What does it mean to fully rely upon God's presence in our lives?

Identifying areas in our lives where we are self-reliant can help us consider ways to be more reliant on God.

Biblical Passages for Discussion:

Exodus 33:1-18:

Matthew 11:28-30:

John 15:1-11:

John 15:12-17:

Colossians 1:24 – 2:5:

BIBLICAL TRUTH

There is no way to live in relationship with God apart from total dependence on His presence.



MEMORY VERSE:

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

John 15:5

CONTEXT SUMMARY

Underlying the American dream is a dangerous assumption; if we are not cautious we will unknowingly accept. The American dream also contains a deadly goal; if we are not careful we will ultimately achieve. The dangerous assumption we unknowingly accept is believing our greatest asset is our own ability. The American dream prizes what people can accomplish when they believe and trust in themselves, and we are drawn toward such thinking. But the gospel has different priorities. The gospel beckons us to die to ourselves, believe in God, and trust in His power. Even more important is the subtle fatal goal we will achieve when we pursue the American dream. As long as we achieve our desires in our own power, we will always attribute it to our own glory. But here the gospel and the American dream are clearly and ultimately antithetical to one another. While the goal of the American dream is to make much of us, the goal of the gospel is to make much of God.