

SATISFIED



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*Moving Deeper*

*Into the*

*Heart*

*of God*

STEPHEN DISHER

REDEMPTION  PRESS

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# INTRODUCTION



*O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly;  
My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You,  
In a dry and weary land where there is no water.*

—Psalm 63:1

**WE** LIVE IN a contradictory world—a world at odds with itself. We live in a world in which choice is touted as virtue but death is the consequence (as in abortion); where people prefer the false comfort of darkness rather than the promises of light; where pleasure is the ultimate pursuit, though it is an ever-cruel mirage. The world we live in is on a collision course with truth. All of the form, empty promises, and selfish pursuits will end, one day, in cold, hard reality.

The apostle Paul lived in a world that had many challenges as well—including unimaginable hardships and persecution. Yet in the midst of these difficulties, Paul could still boldly declare to the church in Philippi:

*More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I*

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*have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ.*

—Philippians 3:8

For Paul, everything of true, lasting, and incomparable worth was expressed in a Person: Jesus Christ. Knowing Him—that is, having a deeper, more mature understanding of Him—was everything.

Today is the day for you, as a Christian, to take stock of your life. Today is the day for you to consider who you are, Whose you are, and where your choices will take you. Today is the day for those in the Church to rise up and be the Church, the Body of Christ. In Matthew 5:14, Jesus said that you “*are the light of the world.*” Therefore, it is up to you to arise and shine.

Each generation lives in its own time slot. This is your time to love and serve Jesus, to give your all for Him, and to love and serve His people. The experiences of yesterday grow continually dim, and the dreams of tomorrow will never be reached without a change in your life today. So live today for Him. As the darkness enveloping the earth grows deeper, so must the light of Jesus Christ shining in the hearts and lives of His people, the Church, grow brighter, so that many will trust Christ and be saved.

This book is about your search for a deeper and more personal relationship with the God who loved you first—the God who loves you still. Take the plunge to get to know Him ... to *really* know Him.



## Chapter 1

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# A DIVINE RECLAMATION



*Jesus Christ became Incarnate for one purpose, to make a way  
back to God that man might stand before Him as he was  
created to do, the friend and lover of God Himself.*

—Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest*

ON A THIN lip of beach are scattered hundreds of people in their respective beachwear. From this sandy shore, the ocean stretches outward for miles until its blue-green features blur on the horizon. The waters are in constant motion as they incessantly move in their predetermined path. The sun reflects brightly on each wave, which moves as if knowing “this is the way to go; this is my destiny.”

The scene is so gentle and alluring, yet the untold, incalculable power that resides in such a beautiful expanse is staggering.

People on the shore watch, mesmerized, as waves cascade before them. Some fear the roll and tumble of the motion and the loud crashes. They run, and then chase the waters as they recede.

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Most are content to watch and listen, to play in the sand, and to soak up the sun's rays. They are merely observers of the display of raw power before them.

Only a few—a *very* few—adventurous souls advance into the water beyond the water's edge, beyond the fearful, fleeing fold of onlookers. There they swim and feel what it means to be surrounded and engulfed by the waves.

Each wave, moving ever onward, fulfills its God-given destiny as it intersects with humans who have chosen to substitute the good for the best, the dream for the experience.

Much like ocean waves, life moves in a predetermined path, fulfilling its destiny as orchestrated by a loving, purposeful God. However, in this life you can see the cause and effect on a grand scale—choice and consequence are played out before your very eyes with your own life. Your finite mind cannot grasp the tension between predetermination and choice, but you experience it in your brief existence on earth.

In moments that are sometimes obvious, sometimes imperceptible, the life-giving, light-wielding hand of God moves, transforming hearts and enlightening minds. God works in defiance of any and all obstacles, making any circumstance a personal challenge to display His power and glory.

One day when I visited a prison, I approached the cell of a young inmate and introduced myself as someone working with the prison chaplain. While I spoke to this young man through the bars, I noticed he had covered the walls of his cell with pornographic pictures, presumably torn from adult magazines. A single light bulb on the ceiling illuminated his cell which was controlled by a thin cord that hung down in the middle of the cell. At the end of this cord was tied a small cross.

After exchanging introductions and making some light conversation, I left, promising to return. A day or so later, I returned to visit. When I looked between the bars, I noticed a remarkable change in decoration had taken place. The man

## A DIVINE RECLAMATION

had removed every pornographic picture. In the center of the cell, still attached by a cord hanging from the only light, was the little cross.

I cannot judge this man's intentions, but what he had done spoke volumes of the One who had touched his heart, simply and with certainty.

Jesus Christ is about reclaiming hearts and souls to the glory of God the Father. He requires you to tear down every vestige of sin that surrounds you, for hindrances of darkness cannot stand before the Light of God that has been made accessible to you through the cross of Christ. This cross is the primary means to the only constant in your life: a personal relationship with God the Father. As you develop a relationship with Him, you become surrounded by His light, enveloped in His love, and engulfed by His presence. In Him, you “*live and move and exist*” (Acts 17:28).

You can choose to stand, ankle-deep, in the ebb and flow of life's tides and pretend you truly know God. You can choose to lounge in the dry, lifeless sand and watch the waves of life roll in from a distance. But if you do, you will never know what it is like to feel the true, unrelenting love and power emanating from the Spirit of God. You will never realize your true blessings and ultimate destiny in Christ. Only when you walk boldly in obedience in Him—only when you are engulfed by His presence—will you fully engage your faith and realize His call on your life.

The great reclamation project of the Lord your God is one of personal and historic proportions. The focus of this divine recovery is the human heart, and the incredible outcome is a moving, loving relationship between you and your heavenly Father. Your call—your destiny—is to yield to the tug of God on your heart, to say yes to Him, to love Him, and to walk with Him in faith. Your purposeful, faithful God will do the rest.

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**Thoughts to Ponder:** Where are you moving in your spiritual life? Are you becoming a more dedicated spectator? Are you continuing as a tentative experimenter? Or are you moving deeper in God's presence?

**Read:** Philippians 3:7–11.