

the Servant

newsletter

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Today

I see each day as a journey I shall take with God. I look forward to the opportunity to live through it, learn from it, love in it, and leave a legacy after it that brings the most glory to Him. I will align the inner compass of my convictions with the true "Moral North" of God's eternal word. Integrity shall be the needle that points the way. I will remember the cross of Christ, and that he who "gives" the most "lives" the most. Therefore, today I will try to give. I will look each day for the good in others and rejoice in what I find. I will not speak ill of any, and try to never be unkind. I will set my affections on things above, try to follow God's word and speak the truth in love. I will measure success, not in money, nor numbers, or in size, but in the trying, for life is something we do, and each one gains who tries. I will thank God for the chance to choose. Today I choose to kneel and know his grace, pray and seek his face, to serve Him and find my place in faith and obedience. I choose to try, and (fail or succeed) to grow from each experience. I choose to chance the open sea of today's possibilities, rather than remain safely moored to the docks of yesterday's triumphs or defeats. Today I choose to risk the ship, to deliver the goods, reach the goal, to help one person, to save one soul, and trust it all to providence. -id



Spiritual Leaders

When the student is ready, the teacher will come. Leadership stimulates followship*. This is true in marriages and in assemblies. There are three legs on this stool: leadership, followship, fellowship. Spiritual leadership is not the same as democracy or monarchy. Jesus said, "that which is flesh is flesh, and that which is spirit is spirit." Flesh is always a flash point of conflict in any relationship or assembly of people. When the student is ready, he is ready to follow (understand, agree and adhere to, as in "are you with me?"). Paul did not go to spiritual leadership school, or graduate from Toast Masters, rather, he was raised up by God on the Damascus Road to serve and suffer for Jesus' sake. He asked "What do you want me to do?" Serve and suffer for my sake, and oh how he suffered (2Cor. 11) like few others. And to all the suffering and hardship in service he said, "*None of these things move me. Neither count I my life dear unto myself, that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry I received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God*" (Acts 20:24). America cannot agree in the qualities they want in a leader. Sometimes a local church has the same problem. Politics and the flesh have no place in recognizing spiritual leaders. 1 Timothy lists various qualifications, but Acts 20:24 shows the watchworks of the Apostle's heart.

"None of these things move me..." That's Character
"Neither count I my life dear unto myself." That's Courage
"That I might finish my course with Joy" That's Commitment
"and the ministry I received of the Lord Jesus" That's Conviction
"to testify the Gospel of the Grace of God" That's Compassion

A spiritual Elder has character, courage, commitment, conviction, and compassion. Who leads our nation does not have as much importance as who leads our assemblies. When the student is ready, or when the heart is humbled, the teacher will come. Then in the assembly there will be leadership, followship, and fellowship.

*Followship is not a word but it should be.

And then the Judgement

"...but after that the judgement" (Heb. 9:27)

It seems that the worst sin in a godless and politically correct age is being judgmental. The Catholic Pope even said, "who am I to judge?" A whole generation of children were brought up without any idea or respect for authority or truth. Pilate asked Jesus, sarcastically, "What is truth?" A whole generation of children were brought up in day care centers by strangers, or in public schools by Philistines. They are ill equipped to navigate through the rocks and sandy shoals of life. Today it also seems, borders, boundaries, and beliefs are as fluid as the ocean and as unsettled as the weather. In many ways this is true, but it all depends on who drew them. In 1493 Pope Alexander VI drew the Line of Demarcation that divided the world in two, with one half belonging to the Portuguese and the other half to Spain. Today we know that it was not worth the paper it was written on. Contrary to what many say these days we need lines and agreed upon boundaries on earth and in our neighborhoods to keep some order and to keep us from killing ourselves. If we removed the lines for the 18 lanes near Spaghetti Junction entering Atlanta, there would be death and chaos on the roadway. Those who want to remove the lines from life in the name of Liberty saying "give

me Liberty or give me death,” will more than likely get death and destruction. Lines bring order to chaos. I am not as interested in the lines men draw as I am with those that God draws. Not only did God draw lines and lanes on the highways of life, we will one day have to answer to Him for our bad driving or bad living. “*but after this the Judgment.*” Removing the lines on the interstate is dangerous, but we have done worse than that. We have removed the median. Traffic is now going down the same road in different directions. In the “who am I to judge” philosophy of our day, we are cautioned not to judge if the child is a boy or a girl, a male is the husband, or the female is the wife. There are lines that America draws and lines that Mexico draws, there are lines that the Ukraine and Russia are fighting over and they may change tomorrow. But there are lines that God has drawn, rules that God has set, standards that God has raised which we change at our own peril. There is a line which God has drawn that you dare not cross. I didn’t draw the line, God did. Pilate asked “what is truth?” I want everyone to know that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life, no man cometh unto the Father but by Him. And one day everyone will have to give an account of himself to God. God will go over the books. God is all knowing, all seeing, and all together righteous. Psalm 1 said they shall not survive (stand) in the judgement nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. Christians and non-Christians, Jews and Gentiles, Greeks and Barbarians will all stand before the judgment dock. I will let theologians debate the Judgment Seat and the Great White Throne (there is a difference). I will simply say that “Pay day is coming.” You may reject this book (the Bible) and refuse to open it, but on Judgment day Revelation says that God will “open the

books.” (Rev.20:12)

What exactly will be judged? Life is something we “do.” The first two questions God asked were “Where are you?” and “what have you done.” Our life is what we do, and when it is over, it’s what we did. Once we die, there are no “do overs.” Romans 2:1-6 “*Who will render to every man according to his deeds.*” Pilate also asked a question, “What then shall I do with Jesus?” (Mt. 27:22) This is the question that decides heaven and hell. Reject Him (That may be what you did) Receive Him (That may be what you didn’t do). The question is “What did you do with Jesus?” and “What did you do for Jesus?”

I got a phone call the other day. It was a reminder from my dentist, that I had a dental appointment. Although I don’t particularly enjoy going to the dentist, I was grateful for the reminder. I would like to remind you that you have an appointment, not with the doctor, or with the dentist. You have an appointment with God. To the unbeliever He will ask you “What did you do?” “What did you do with Jesus?” For the believer the question will be “What did you do for Jesus?” or “what did you allow Jesus to do with you?” ☪

Po’ Folks

War and the hunger of poverty has the world on the move. Hunger drove Jacob’s sons to Egypt to seek food and it drove Elimelech, the husband of Naomi to the cursed land of Moab. From the potato famine in Ireland, to Dust Bowl of the Great Depression, hunger, and want have helped write history. While we must all protect our own, we should remember may entertain angels unawares.

You are Here

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1John 4:10

To put in modern English we could say “Here is love.” Everyone is looking for it. Most are looking in the wrong places so we wish we could put a billboard by the highway of life saying “Here is love.” As a matter a fact, Next to the sign outside our meeting places we should be able to declare “Here is love” and we would to God that anyone who stops to enter would not be disappointed. Our assemblies should be filled with it. But as much as we love the brethren and love each other, we are quick to point out to any seeker that it is upon the cross that we see it and above Pilate’s paltry inscription we would affix ours declaring “Here is love.” Yes, and not that we love (or loved) God (and we do) but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the payment, sacrifice, covering for our sin. ☪

Mother’s Day

Your mother was the first to show you how to pray, and to create in you a thirst to live the better way. She spoke to you of God above and wiped away your tears. She showed you what it was to love and helped calm all your fears. A mother’s work is never done; she works harder than all others. Her calling is the highest one Thank God for godly mothers. -id

On earth, the nearest thing to God love is Mother love.

