Daily Devotion #61

Fix Your Eyes on Jesus

***Colossians 3:1-3 (NASB)*** *1  “Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2  Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. 3  For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”*

The more we hear and the more we read and see, the more we understand the frailty of this world. There is so much anger and frustration toward one another and it seems to be getting worse. Television is riddled with scenes of pain and hurt from people hating one another. Violence seems to take precedence everywhere.

 All of this is causing people to wonder if things will get better. Most every hard-working, decent human being is asking if life will always be this way and who is going to make the difference? When one man thinks he can dominate another for whatever reason, there is always going to be tragedy and heartache and pain. It is easy for all of us to focus on the terrible things we are hearing and seeing. It is easy to wonder what’s going to happen to us if all this hatred doesn’t stop.

 God reminds us through the Apostle Paul to change our focus. Even in the days of the Colossian church, the fleshliness of man was dominate. People were just as suppressed then as they are today, and there was just as much desire to live by the flesh as it is today. The human heart has not changed since the entrance of sin.

 Knowing all that, God says to look to Jesus. Don’t let your focus be on the things of this world or the people or the issues of this world. Look to Jesus. Keep your eyes on Him. Keep your eyes on what is coming and what He has in store for all who love Him.

 That reminds me of when I was learning to drive. I remember my dad and mom continually telling me to keep my eyes on the road and not the things around me. Each of us who drives can relate to the times when we are in heavy traffic and barreling down the road at high speeds. We know how critical it is to not be concerned with the cars and trucks on either side of us as much as we need to keep our eyes on the car in front of us.

 Similarly, we must be careful not to allow the traffic zooming around us and the wild and crazy drivers to get us distracted from the One who is in front of us. God says through Paul to keep your eyes on Me. Keep looking up and be reminded of all that is waiting for you in the life to come. Put your mind in the place of heaven.

 Our lives are not our own beloved. We surrendered our souls to the One who gave His life for us. Now, we are hidden in Him. We have died to ourselves but have our lives in Jesus. Don’t forget that. Don’t let your fleshly mind cause you to be caught up in what is happening in this life to the point where you spend your days in fear and dread and worry. Not that we are to be silent and forget our role while we are on the earth, but while we are doing all we know to love our neighbor, let’s make sure our hearts and minds are continually focused on Jesus.

 He is fully aware of what is happening. He knows how to handle all the violence and the hatred. It is through love. Love that was willing to give His Own life so that we, and all who put their trust in Him, can be rescued from these terrible challenges and live forever with Him in His beautiful Kingdom.

 Do all you can to love your neighbor; pray for them; do good things for them; share the love of Jesus with them.  But don’t get lost in looking around so much that you forget who is in front of you. Too many people have lost their focus – off of Jesus - and made terrible messes of their lives. When Jesus is the focus, our hearts stay at peace.

***2 Corinthians 1:5 (NASB)*** *5  “For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.”*