Daily Devotion #62

For the Lord’s Sake

***1 Peter 2:13 (NASB)*** *13  “Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake”*

There are many things in this life we just don’t like to do. For years when I worked in the secular world many of the people I worked with felt the dread of having to be in that place day after day after day, doing the same thing over and over again. For them it would be such a drag at times. Often when I would ask people how they were doing after a nice weekend off they would say, “It’s Monday”. As if someone had just given them the most devastating news of the century. By Wednesday the response would be, “It’s hump day”. Meaning we have made it to the middle of the week. And by Friday the attitudes were like Christmas morning.

I can remember many days feeling the tug to come down that negative pipeline, so to speak, with those people. Don’t get me wrong, they were fine people, hardworking, dedicated for their own reasons but none-the-less, people who were caught up in the day-to-day routine of grumbling and complaining because they had to be somewhere they didn’t want to be but at the same time continuing to be there because of the reward of a paycheck.

I think many people live their spiritual lives the same as the people I’m describing. They live day after day doing the same thing over and over again, spiritually. They get up and have their coffee or whatever their favorite beverage is, read their devotions and say a quick prayer. But because they never really see anything great or elaborate from it, they find themselves in a routine of wondering what they are doing or why they continue to do the same thing day after day.

As Peter is writing this letter to Hebrew Christians, he reminds them that everything they are struggling with and all they are having to endure under the terrible and ferocious dictatorship of Nero, the Roman emperor, is for the Lord’s sake. Peter is challenging them to live holy lives, not for themselves and what they can get out of life, but to live for the Lord and His purposes.

The context is submitting to authority, all authority, even when that authority is ungodly and makes decisions that feed their own lusts. All people of God are to submit themselves to authority, not for themselves alone but for the Lord’s sake. But this can be applied to everything we do in this life. Our goal as believers should not be to get something out of life for ourselves, but all that we do should be done for the Lord’s sake.

After all, the Lord is the One who gave us life and sustains us. It is He who provides all things for us for our good and His glory. So, when we get our eyes off Him and on ourselves, life can become a drag. It can lose its meaning and purpose. If we are not careful, we, too, will find ourselves simply going through the motions of life for a paycheck or for that dream vacation or whatever else our sinful hearts fixate on. And spiritually we will be robotic, doing the same thing, offering up our simple, but dry, prayers that go no higher than the ceiling above us, simply because we forget that all we do should be done for the Lord’s sake.

Do you remember what the Apostle Paul said, [1Co 7:23](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=-101&sec=70125335) “*You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men*.” We become slaves to whatever has our attention at the time. Usually what has our attention is all the negativity of what we “have” to do in this life instead of “who we get to be” as a child of the King.

Because we are God’s people, isn’t it enough to endure the days and even better, rejoice in these days, because we are God’s people? Let us live this life for the Lord’s sake and see how much better it goes. Then the statement when someone asks how we are after the weekend will be more like, “Praise the Lord, its Monday, the first day of the new week to live for the Lord’s sake”.