Daily Devotion #69

Put Your Hope in the Right Person

***1 Corinthians 15:19 (NASB)*** *19  “If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.”*

The main goal of advertising is to make people believe they must have the product or vacation or house that is being sold or life will not be worth living. That may be a bit of an over exaggeration, but it is true that advertising is designed to make people believe they need something. And because we are easily convinced, we buy, we do, we go - whatever or wherever. And the reason for that is because most people live their best life now. They spend all their energy on the here and now.

When Jesus came, He had one goal. To do the will of the Father. (John 6:38) He was so centrally-focused on obeying the Father that everything He did was centered on obedience. As far as we know, He didn’t own a home, a car, or anything else. He didn’t put His money in the stock market or 401ks or even a savings account. He simply lived obediently to His Father and trusted that His Father would provide all His needs.

That lifestyle attracted many people. And the icing on the cake was that He also could do all kinds of miracles, setting Him apart from all the phony prophets. The problem for many was they never fully embraced Jesus for who He was. They never accepted that He was God in the flesh. They saw him as someone who could do something for them or give them something, something they believed they needed.

Sadly, their faith in Him and their willingness to follow Him only lasted long enough for them to get what they wanted. And when they learned that Jesus was calling them to complete and total surrender of all they owned, they just couldn’t go any further with Him. (Mark 10:21)

Others, however, believed who He said He was. They believed that He was truly God who had come to earth and took on flesh to show humanity that there was a better life, a better place, a better world. But, to get there they had to die first. Die to themselves and all they want in this life and then follow Him. (Matthew 16:24) Many believed and today live in His Kingdom. These people were sold out to Jesus. They not only bought the truth about who He was but were also willing to give themselves as The Father requires.

The truth is, beloved, we all belong to one of these two groups of people. We either are following Jesus because of what we can get from Him or we are following Him because we genuinely believe who He says He is.

When the Apostle Paul wrote this to the church in Corinth, he wanted the church to make sure that they understood who Jesus is and that His Resurrection is what gives people access to His Kingdom. They needed to know that it’s because of Christ’s Resurrection that we have the hope of eternal life. Jesus came to this earth to give His life as the payment for our sin, and He was Resurrected to prove to us that there is life beyond the grave.

Sadly, many live their lives as if there is no eternal tomorrow.

Who is Jesus to you? Is Jesus a genie in a bottle who will give you what you want and make you the most blessed person in this life? Or is Jesus the Lord of all Lords who came to save you from eternal damnation? Your life gives evidence of what you really believe. When you look into your heart, is your hope in Jesus for this life or for the life to come? If it is for this life only, you are to be most pitied.  If it is for the life to come, shouldn’t you be making your investments into that life?