Daily Devotion #94

Only Jesus Romans 8:2 “Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.”

Some might ask why my devotionals keep bringing up Jesus. The answer is because He is all we have who can give us what we need in this life. If it weren’t for Jesus, we would be lost in eternal damnation. If it weren’t for Jesus, we would never have hope, real hope, not the hope the world has, but hope that will get us to heaven and the kind of hope that makes us people of courage and strength. If it weren’t for Jesus, we wouldn’t have the ability to continue on in this life when it is seemingly out of control. He is the author of control. Jesus is everything to those who understand that without Him our life is hopelessly lost and fruitless.

Some have said over the years, “You Christians only trust in your God because you are weak and can’t handle life”. It is very true. True Christians know they are weak and unable to handle this life alone without Jesus. We know that He is the source of our strength when it comes to meeting our needs and caring for our families or when we need work or when our health is not good. He is the One we trust to help us in the confusing times to get us to the other side. He is the one we trust to take care of our children when they are grown and not under our roof any longer. He is the one we rely on when our parents are getting close to death, and there is nothing anyone can do for them. He is our everything.

I’m reminded of an old hymn we sang in the little Methodist church in which I was raised. The title is, “Only Jesus”. I’ll recite a few of the lyrics for you. “*I’ve found a refuge from life’s care in Jesus, I am hiding in His love divine; He fully understands my soul’s deep longing, and He whispers softly, “Thou art Mine*.” And then the Chorus. “*Only Jesus! Only Jesus! Only He can satisfy; Every burden becomes a blessing, When I know my Lord is nigh*.”

The hymn writers of old understood what a life with Jesus is about. It is a life of fully embracing Him with our whole heart because He is God - the Creator of this earth and universe and life itself. Nothing happens without His permission. (Colossians 1:17) So the question is: why wouldn’t you put yourself fully in His arms?

The human heart is sick. It is sick with sin. (Romans 3:23) Sin so engulfs each soul that it stays confused about what is right and wrong and what has meaning and importance. It cannot discern how to truly love and be loved. It has no way of knowing which way to go in this life. And that is what we see so often in people. There are many fine people in this world who are kind and gracious but still sick with sin. (Romans 1)

Jesus is the master physician. He has all the ability necessary to give us a right-thinking mind and a truly loving heart. In fact, it is not possible to love with a godly love without Him. John makes that clear in his letter of 1 John. He writes, “God is love”. (1John 4:8) Therefore, if God is love, to think a person can really love, without God in them, is impossible.

Beloved, our world needs Jesus. The world needs Jesus to show them what real love is and what hope is and what genuine life is. The world needs Jesus to teach them that everything will be ok when they live their lives for God. The world needs Jesus, so they will know that their families can be at peace and live without fear of a virus when Jesus is on the throne of their souls. The world needs to know that without Jesus, there is no hope of anything.

The question is, do you have your heart set on Jesus. When you look at your life right now, is Jesus your first priority? Do you see Him as God? Is He the One who sustains you? Is He the One who you are teaching your children about and your grandchildren about? Is He the One you are trusting your aging parents to?

Only Jesus can be all you need in this life. Only Jesus!