Daily Devotion #96

Priorities

*Deuteronomy 6:5 – “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”*

We have been and are so blessed in this nation as a people and as a church. God has given and provided so much. If you look around your home, you will see that there isn’t much you need that you don’t already have. Certainly there are things that you would like and things that would make life more helpful, but when it comes to need, that is usually a different story.

The truth is God honors His servants. (1 Samuel 2:30) He honors them with joy in their hearts and simply blessing them with people and even things. He loves us, therefore, as a good father, He provides not only our needs but also He often provides the things we want.

Who would have believed that in the year 2020 we would have the ability to see each other through a computer screen? Some of you can remember the days before television and telephones that weren’t attached to party lines. For those of you who don’t know what a party line is, it is not a phone line where you join in on the coolest party, but a phone line that everyone in your neighborhood or area shared the same line. I remember picking up the phone to make a call and having to wait because someone in another house was using the phone line. Do you remember the days when you added air conditioning to your home for the first time? Many of us were overjoyed when our bedrooms finally where cool enough to get a decent night’s sleep. We also remember when air conditioning was added to automobiles, as an extra option of course. I remember when you had to get up to change the television channel. Things have come a long way. But, I wonder at what cost? I’m talking about spiritually. Our human flesh is so easily enticed to obtain things in this life. Stuff! More and more stuff. Oh, it’s not wrong to have stuff, as long as stuff doesn’t replace God.

When the Hebrews finally made it to the promised land, God warned them to be careful not to forget all He had done for them. He warned them that when they entered into the new land, not to forget the One who had provided for them all those years of wandering in the wilderness. (Deuteronomy 8) He even left them a warning: If they did forget Him, they would surely die. (Deuteronomy 8:19) Why? Because He is the One who was their provider. He was the One who gave them life and kept them safe. He is the One who made sure their needs were met. He was their God.

Beloved, it is becoming more and more apparent that the church of Jesus Christ is losing her focus on the One who saved her. As we gain more and more things and are a part of this land of America, it is apparent that God is often not the first love of His people. What we have and can potentially lose has, to a large degree, replaced God. We have been made to believe that what we have in this world is more important than our relationship and fellowship with the One who gave His life for us.

Could it be that the Lord has allowed Satan to spin His web of deceit through a virus and racial tension to cause His church to refocus? Could it be that the problems you are facing in your families and in your work life, if you are working because of the pandemic, are being used by God to turn our hearts back to Him? Could it be that all the confusion and distorted ways of people are being used of God to stir the hearts of His people so that they remember His Words, “You shall have no other gods before Me”? (Exodus 20:3) Could it be that God is allowing all that is happening to turn us away from what we can do for ourselves and turn to the One who holds our very lives in His hands? (John 1:4) Could it be that God is stripping away from us all that we hold dear to reorient our hearts to Him? The answer is resoundingly, “Yes!”. He is a jealous God. (Exodus 20:5) Jealous for you, His child. And He won’t let anything come between you and Himself.

Perhaps we should rethink our lives and make sure He is our priority.