Daily Devotion #137

**Our Great God**

*Isaiah 41:13 - “For I am the Lord your God, who upholds your right hand, Who says to you, ‘Do not fear, I will help you.’”*

We are living in a day when people need answers. No longer will a feel-good message suffice for people who are struggling and really wanting to know what life is about and what is their purpose. For many years the church has allowed, and even encouraged, the growth of emotion-based preaching and little to know teaching on the sovereignty of God. Many churches have prospered greatly on simplistic, watered-down messages that only arouse the emotions of people, leaving them helpless when life gets challenging and they need answers.

Over the last twenty years or so, more and more people have been taught that if you think happy thoughts, your life will be everything you want it to be. They’ve been taught that the power is all in them. And on top of that message, our culture, and world actually, have bought the lie from Satan that if you put enough trust in yourself you will be successful and even famous, making millions of dollars.

But what happens when life is not good? People look around and wonder why life isn’t turning out like they thought. They believed the feel-good messages. But these messages don’t explain why the number of teenage suicides is rising and the number of homes is breaking up more and more. They don’t explain the senseless murders by young people. They don’t explain why more and more young people are frustrated even though they have more and more material wealth.

The problem lies in the fact that our world doesn’t know God. To them God has been marketed as a genie in a bottle. Or as a god who is distant and really doesn’t care about anyone’s well-being. He’s been marketed as a god who wants to bop you on the head if you step out of line. In a nutshell, He has been taught as someone who only loves and helps certain people.

But none of that describes our God. What people fail to understand is that this world was created by God to put Himself on display. Some people will say that makes Him arrogant. No, that makes Him God! By the very definition of God, He is supreme over all things and all people and events. He is second to no one. He is the creator and sustainer of life and all that there is in life. (Colossians 1:15-20)

He is also perfect, without error. He does nothing by chance. He does not wonder or try to figure out what should happen in our lives. He is fully in control of all things and events. He keeps the universe in order.

But the most amazing thing about God is that He loves us, His creation. (Romans 5:5) He has planned to grow us to be the people He wants us to be and the people we want to be. (Jeremiah 29:11) He desires for us to never fear anyone or anything. (2 Timothy 1:7) He has promised to provide everything we need in this life. (Philippians 4:19) He has promised to take us to be with Him forever in His eternal paradise. (John 14:3)

Most amazingly of all, He gave His Son, Jesus Christ, to be the One who would pay the debt we owe Him for our sins against Him. He knew we could never pay for all we have done wrong against Him, so He paid **His** own debt by the sacrifice of **His** Son. (Romans 5:8) All that to satisfy His wrath against all who have sinned against Him.

Don’t accept a cheap version of God. He is the LORD! Holy. Just. Perfect. Compassionate. Full of love. Seek Him. Get to know Him. Believe that He is. (Hebrews 11:6) That’s the first step to having a true relationship with the true God.