Daily Devotion #188

**Faithfulness Is What Matters**

**Colossians 1:10 (NASB)** *“Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects.”*

Many years ago, my uncle was the owner of a family store that his father, my grandfather, started. Today, my brother owns and runs that business. I remember many stories my mother told me of her father and how he was a great help and support to the small community as a business man. The store was never a large business, but something that helped sustain the people of the community, especially during the Great Depression. It was then that my grandfather helped people survive. He would give them various commodities and or allow them credit so they could keep their families together. When my uncle took over, he added a small rock quarry business on the side. The store helped the community, but the rock quarry gave my uncle the means to support himself since the store did not generate enough income to sustain him and his family.

I remember one conversation I had with my uncle during a time in my life when things were not going well for me. I was a young man and learning what adult life was like and failing miserably. In that conversation I remember asking him about success. As a young man that was important to me as I was looking to forge my way through life and become someone I defined as “successful”. His response often rings in my ears. He said, “Bruce, a man measures his success in different ways”. That may not sound profound, but to me at the time it was greatly profound because it helped me see that all the pushing by the world to be successful did not mean a man had to be what the world requires or says he should be. Most every young man is inundated with the belief that to be successful he must have lots of money, his own business, lots of stuff and power or at least influence over others. But my uncle’s statement helped me see that success is measured by the man, not what other think the man should be.

Too often, young men, and I’m sure young ladies, buy the lie that success is built upon what a person accomplishes in this life or by how well the financial portfolio looks or by the jobs held. These are the things that the world gets excited about. And that lie has caused the ruin of many people. If I had a nickle for every person who climbed the ladder of success only to find that the top is full of pressure to perform and lots of people looking to get something for themselves, I would be a rich man. But success is not that at all. True success has nothing to do with what others think of us or what we obtain in this life. True success is measured by what God thinks of us.

The truth is, we are only responsible to please God. He is our sole audience in life. To live pleasing others is a futile attempt. There are pockets of times when we please people but humanity is so broken from sin that there is never a completion to the needs of people and what pleases them. People are fickle. But God is different. As our Creator and sustainer of life, He is the One we are to focus our lives upon. He is the One who measures true success.

When Paul wrote to the church in Colossae, he emphasized this truth by saying in effect, your success in life is found in your faithfulness to God; that’s what matters. He was talking about spiritual fruit. That fruit is made up of your own spiritual growth so that you will know Him better but also it is made up of obedience and a faith that is growing and maturing and most importantly loving others. When we see ourselves developing into the person God wants us to be, then we can know our lives are successful. Our success is not measured by the size of a company or anything else. True success is found in our faithfulness to God and all He desires for us.

So, how successful are you? I’m talking about your spiritual fruit. The good news is, God is very patient and knows exactly how to help us be what He wants us to be. Just trust Him. He knows His plans for you. And His plans never stop producing real success.